MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025

Private Session: 6:24 p.m. – 6:42 p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. – 8:06 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD

Kate Baggott, Alex Bradnam (Vice Chair), Sue Barnett (Chair), Nancy Beamer, Helga Campbell, Jonathan Fast, Susan Jovanovic, Elizabeth Klassen, Deanne MacIntosh, Shannon Mitchell

STUDENT TRUSTEES

Audrey Akharoh, Jacklyn Saddler

INDIGENOUS STUDENT TRUSTEE

Clayton Mishibinijima

OFFICIALS

Kelly Pisek (Director of Education), Stacy Veld (Associate Director) Simon Hancox, Mary Anne Gage, Marian Reimer Friesen, Melanie Sendzik, Neil Sheard, Michael St. John, Darren VanHooydonk, Jennifer Feren, Milica Petkovic, Karen Bellamy

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer Reid

REGRETS

Lora Campbell

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Nate Burns

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Chair Barnett opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of the Traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples and welcomed guests.

2. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTING OF MEMBERS ABSENT

Chair Barnett called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 7:00 p.m. and noted that trustee Lora Campbell sent her regrets.

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Deanne MacIntosh
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

"That the Board do now enter Committee of the Whole."
CARRIED

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the Board return to Open meeting."
CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:42 p.m.

C. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

The Board stood as '*O Canada*' was performed by John Brant Public School choir via video and took a moment of silence to honour members of the DSBN community.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Elizabeth Klassen shared a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Deanne MacIntosh
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

"That the Agenda be adopted."
CARRIED

2. Approval Of Board Minutes

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated December 3, 2024, be confirmed as submitted."

CARRIED

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Ratification Of Business Conducted in Committee of The Whole (Private Session)

Moved by Susan Jovanovic
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"That the business transacted in Committee of the Whole be now ratified by the Board."
CARRIED

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS

1. Director's Report and Recognition

a) Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions
Director Pisek recognized Sean Medeiros, System Athletics Program Supervisor for being an exceptional leader in the development and success of DSBN athletics. Sean is known for his empathy, integrity, collaboration and problem-solving approach as well as being receptive to input from colleagues, students and caregivers to help refine and enhance athletic programming across the system. His dedication to inclusion and leadership focuses on expanding athletic opportunities to ensure maximum student participation, ensuring students have the best possible experience.

b) Director's Highlights
Director Pisek provided recent highlights from across the system which included information about:

- DSBN Writes Hosts Successful Second Year
- Early Learning Teams Recognized for Excellence
- Elementary Robotics Final at Jeanne Sauvé
- High School Open House

2. Educational Showcase

There was no educational showcase.

The Board recessed for 5 minutes.

Trustee MacIntosh left the meeting at 7:28.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

There were no student achievement reports.

H. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

I. BOARD RECESS

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

"That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated December 4, 2024, be received."

"That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated January 15, 2025, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Helga Campbell reported that at the December meeting, four cases were presented and approved for SAL, and thirty-five student cases were reviewed that were brought forward previously. Of the cases reviewed, four cases were discontinued due to non-compliance.

Trustee Helga Campbell shared that during the January meeting, one case was presented and approved for SAL, and thirty-five student cases were reviewed that were brought forward previously. Of the cases reviewed, two cases were discontinued in January due to non-compliance.

2. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated December 5, 2024, be received."

"That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated January 9, 2025, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Klassen reported that at the December meeting, Student Achievement Leader, Terri Beck delivered a presentation about Specialized Low Enrolment programs provided within DSBN and shared that the team dedicated to supporting these programs includes a consultant, a central educational assistant, an applied behaviour analysist professional and a speech and language pathologist.

Trustee Mitchell reported that during the January meeting, the Specialized Low Enrolment team highlighted their roles in supporting specialized programs throughout the DSBN and shared that during both the December and January meetings, policies that are in queue for review this year were reviewed and discussed. A video was presented highlighting the successful transition into high school for a Thorold Secondary School student.

3. Report of the Finance Committee

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Kate Baggott

"That the report of the Finance Committee dated January 15, 2025, be received."

"That the 2024-25 Interim Financial Report be received."

"That the Summary of Accounts paid for the month of November and December 2024, totaling $70,920,497 be received."

"That the Annual Trustee Expense Reports be received."
CARRIED

Associate Director Veld shared that Nicky Westlake, Controller of Finance, presented the 2024-2025 First Interim Financial Report and the Summary of Accounts Report to the committee. The Annual Trustee Expense Report summarizing the annual expenses for Trustees for the 2022-2023 Term and 2023-2024 Term was provided to the committee. The report summary will be posted annually when the Financial Statements are complete.

In response to a question, Associate Director Veld stated that a verbal report with information regarding core education funding and areas where there are financial pressures will be brought to a future committee meeting.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

In response to a question, Associate Director Veld shared that DSBN have dedicated Information Technology staff who actively monitor, detect and respond to cyber security threats across the Board. She added that all school boards are at risk, however, DSBN has strategies in place to mitigate the risk, and actively engaged with regional auditors with respect to security best practices. In addition, DSBN has backup and recovery plans in place, and continues to work with vendors to ensure private and sensitive information is secured.

L. NEW BUSINESS

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. Staff Reports

a) Naming of the New Single Track French Immersion Public School in Welland

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

"That the new Single Track French Immersion Public School in Welland, opening in September 2025 be named Bridgeview French Immersion Public School, effective January 29, 2025."

CARRIED

Superintendent Hancox shared details about the work of the naming committee at the January 16 meeting. A total of 112 names were submitted by the community. The Naming Committee reviewed and discussed all submitted names and after voting, the preferred name is Bridgeview French Immersion Public School. Both Princess Elizabeth Public School and Gordon Public School shared the selected name with their school communities and informed them the name would be presented to trustees at the January Board meeting.

2. Trustee Information Session

There was no trustee information session.

3. Correspondence And Communication

There was no correspondence received.

4. Student Trustee, Indigenous Student Trustee, Trustee Communications and School Liaison

Student Trustee Akharoh and Student Trustee Saddler presented highlights from the December Senate meeting. Senators shared how they promoted mental health resources that were presented at a previous Senate meeting which included Instagram posts, and student council channels, displaying posters and QR codes around the school and through school and classroom announcements, a new initiative was introduced to provide a platform for Senators to spotlight initiatives that they are leading within their own schools called Senate Talks and the Senate's subcommittee, Connections and Engagement, worked on creating impactful social media posts to increase awareness of the Student Senate and Student Trustees as well as to encourage greater engagement.

Indigenous Student Trustee Mishibinijima reported that on December 20th, the Indigenous student reps met with the Indigenous Education Team to share stories, engage in team bonding activities, and celebrate the winter solstice.

Trustees shared information about celebrations and events, including the opening of E.L. Crossley's state of the art and inclusive culinary program.

5. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Report

Trustee Baggott shared that the annual Public Education Symposium was held this past weekend and noted that Trustee Beamer, Trustee Jovanovic and Chair Barnett attended. The next OPSBA meeting is in February.

6. Ontario Student Trustees' Association Report

There was no Ontario Student Trustee Association report. The next meeting is scheduled for February 13.

7. Future Meetings

Chair Barnett noted that the Policy Committee meeting has been changed to February 11 and that the February Finance Committee meeting is cancelled.

a) The February 2025 meeting calendar was provided.
b) The February Days of Significance calendar was provided.

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on January 28, 2025, be now ratified by the Board."

"That the Chair and proper officials of the District School Board of Niagara are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to the business as decided by the Board of Trustees this day."
CARRIED

O. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

_____	_____
SUE BARNETT	**KELLY PISEK**
Chair	Director of Education and Secretary