MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025

Private Session: 6:15 p.m. – 6:19 p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. –8:23 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD

Kate Baggott, Sue Barnett (Chair), Nancy Beamer (virtual), Helga Campbell, Lora Campbell (virtual), Jonathan Fast, Susan Jovanovic, Elizabeth Klassen (acting Vice-Chair), Deanne MacIntosh (virtual), Shannon Mitchell

STUDENT TRUSTEES

Audrey Akharoh

INDIGENOUS STUDENT TRUSTEE

Clayton Mishibinijima

OFFICIALS

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

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer Reid

REGRETS

Alex Bradnam, Jacklyn Saddler

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Nate Burns, Ann Hamm

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 Vice-Chair Bradnam sent his regrets, Trustee Klassen was sitting as Acting Vice-Chair, and that Trustee Lora Campbell, Trustee Beamer and Trustee MacIntosh were attending virtually.

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Kate Baggott

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

Moved by Kate Baggott
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the Board return to Open meeting."
CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:19 p.m.

C. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

The Board stood as '*O Canada*' was performed by E.L. Crossley Secondary School choir via video.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Deanne MacIntosh shared a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Kate Baggott
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"That the Agenda be adopted."
CARRIED

2. Approval Of Board Minutes

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated January 28, 2025, 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 Elizabeth Klassen
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 four DSBN staff members for their devotion to technological education in DSBN secondary schools. Their dedication to teaching students hands-on learning allows students to develop problem-solving abilities, creativity and technical expertise to help prepare for success in a rapidly evolving job market. The impact that all four teachers have made extends beyond the classroom, their ability to connect to, motivate and inspire students make them ideal role models.

- **Shawn Harper, Transportation Teacher (Dual Credit with Niagara College), Eastdale**
- **Kelly Plato, Hospitality Teacher and Technology Program Leader, Stamford Collegiate**
- **Jason Sider, Communication Technology Teacher, Greater Fort Erie**
- **Calli Zwierschke, Electrical Technology Teacher, E.L. Crossley**

b) Director's Highlights
Director Pisek along with members of the senior team provided recent highlights from across the system which included information about:

- Elementary Teacher Book Club
- RISE UP Equity Conference Unites DSBN Students
- Denim, Diamonds and Diplomas
- Black History Month
- Collegiate Students Set Up Co-Lab Makerspace
- National Sweater Day at Pine Grove Led by Eco Team

2. Educational Showcase

Superintendent Sheard introduced Tyler Graham, Principal of Westlane Secondary School, to speak

about a collaborative project between students in grade ten from Ms. Marshall's Introduction to Fashion Design class and Greendale students from Ms. Rindfleisch's grade two class.

Principal Tyler Graham explained that Ms. Rindfleisch's students first created and sketched characters from their imaginations. The sketches were then taken by Ms. Marshall and her grade ten class to transform into handcrafted, custom-made stuffed toys.

Ms. Marshall shared details about the project and added that it was a true collaboration of creativity, skill-building and sustainability between both grade two and grade ten students that not only connected to multiple strands of the Grade 10 curriculum but also gave students real-world experience in product design. The finished product was then presented by the grade ten students to the grade two students. Students from Ms. Rindfleisch's grade two class presented their custom-made stuffed toys.

The Board recessed from 7:47 to 7:49

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 Program and Planning Committee

Moved by Susan Jovanovic
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated February 4, 2025, be received."

"That the Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars – 2025-2026 be approved for submission to the Ministry of Education."
CARRIED

Trustee Jovanovic reported that the committee was provided with an update on the Artificial Intelligence (AI) guidelines that are being developed by DSBN for staff and students and on the key changes to the Leadership Development programs in DSBN. In addition, the proposed elementary and secondary school year calendars for the 2025-2026 school year were presented.

2. Report of the Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism Trustee Advisory Committee

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Kate Baggott

"That the report of the Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism Trustee Advisory Committee dated February 4, 2025, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell shared that the committee received an update about the last Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Community Advisory committee meeting, and Student Achievement Leaders, Pratima Burton and Zakia Hamdani presented two reports: the Impact of Language and two community partners supporting Black History Month.

3. Report of the Policy Committee

Moved by Deanne MacIntosh
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

"That the report of the Policy Committee dated February 11, 2025, be received."
"That Policy G-14: Out of School Programs/Events be received and adopted."
"That Policy D-06: Electronic Learning be approved as received and adopted."
"That Policy A-08: Parent Involvement Committee be approved as received and adopted."
"That Policy E-16: Social Media Use by DSBN Staff be approved as received and adopted."
"That Policy G-01: School Volunteers be approved as received and adopted."
"That Policy D-03: Approval and Conduct of Research be approved as amended and adopted."
"That Policy D-15: Health and Physical Education Curriculum – Elementary be approved as received and adopted."
"That Policy G-13: Use of Physical Intervention with Students be revoked as recommended."
"That Policy G-02: Safe Schools be approved as received and adopted."
"That Policy E-15: Workplace Violence and Harassment Prevention be approved as received and adopted."
"That Policy D-09: Framework for the Provision of Special Education Services be approved as received and adopted."
"That Policy G-17: Provision of Health Support Services be approved as amended and adopted."
"That Policy G-07: Vandalism be revoked as recommended."
"That Policy B-08: Records Management be approved as received and adopted."
"That Policy G-04: Trespass be approved as received and adopted."
CARRIED

Trustee MacIntosh reported that a total of fifteen policies were reviewed. Of the fifteen policies reviewed two policies were revoked as the content is included in other policies, other policies were revised to provide clarity, align with current practice and/or legislative guidelines as well as provide inclusive language.

4. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Lora Campbell

"That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated February 12, 2025, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Helga Campbell reported that eight new cases were presented and approved for SAL and 34 student cases were reviewed that were brought forward previously. Of the cases reviewed, six cases were discontinued, one due to non-compliance and five returned to school full-time.

5. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

"That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated February 13, 2025, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Klassen shared that the DSBN special education support staff presented information about supporting early literacy instruction and Chair Linda Morrice, the representative for Pathstone Mental Health, presented on Pathstone's services, the history of the foundation and the programs available for students and families. The Community Partners portion of the DSBN Special Education Parent/Guardian Guide was reviewed and Superintendent Hancox invited committee members to provide input on how to further strengthen the partnership between community agencies and the DSBN. A video was presented highlighting a student's successful transition from the Entry to School Program, a program for students with autism spectrum disorder into kindergarten at Smith Public School.

6. Report of the Parent Involvement Committee

Moved by Susan Jovanovic
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated February 19, 2025, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Jovanovic reported that the committee met at West Niagara Secondary School and toured the new facility. The committee reviewed the budget and provided input for allocating the remaining funds and discussed current membership and ongoing recruitment. Superintendent VanHooydonk shared that the revisions to the parent involvement policy were approved by the Policy Committee. Chair Hughes and Chair Lofquist shared that all School Council Chairs will be provided with a DSBN email account to facilitate better communication between PIC and School Councils and highlighted the Director's Appraisal input process.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

L. NEW BUSINESS

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. Staff Reports

There were no staff reports.

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

Indigenous Student Trustee Mishibinijima and Trustee Akharoh shared highlights from the February 18 Student Senate meeting, where senators met Director Pisek, discussed a potential Student Senator Handbook, and addressed unfamiliarity with the senator role. The Student Success subcommittee shared school initiatives and the Equity and Inclusion Senate subcommittee filmed a video that features senators sharing what equity means to them and the importance of equity in schools. Student Trustees and Indigenous Student Trustee were invited to the student equity conference, RISE UP to speak on a panel about the experiences of Indigenous students in education and the importance of student voice and leadership.

Trustees shared information about celebrations and events within the DSBN.

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

Trustee Baggott reported on a recent OPSBA meeting.

6. Ontario Student Trustees' Association Report

Student Trustees and Indigenous Student Trustee provided highlights from the OSTA-AECO Education in Action conference in February.

7. Future Meetings

Chair Barnett noted that the Finance meeting is scheduled on March 5 due to the March Break.

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

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on February 25, 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 8:23 p.m.

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