BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024

Private Session: 6:15 p.m. – 6:44 p.m. | Public Session: 7:01 p.m. – 8:31 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD

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

STUDENT TRUSTEES

Audrey Akharoh, Julianna Marcel

OFFICIALS

Kelly Pisek (Director of Education), Lora Courtois, Mary Anne Gage, Simon Hancox, Marian Reimer Friesen, Melanie Sendzik, Neil Sheard, Leanne Smith, Michael St. John, Darren Vanhooydonk, Stacy Veld, Jennifer Feren, Milica Petkovic, Karen Bellamy, Cheryl Morgan

REGRETS

Nodin Buck

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer McGugan

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Nate Burns, Ann Hamm, Andrew Latham, Wendy Coit

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

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

Chair Barnett acknowledged that this is the final board meeting for Wendy Coit before she retires and Chair Barnett thanked Wendy for her technological service in the IT department, as well as at the Board meetings.

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.

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Deanne MacIntosh

"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 6:44 p.m.

C. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

The Board stood as '*O Canada*' was performed by the Stevensville Public School Choir, via video.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

There was no reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Deanne MacIntosh
Seconded by Lora Campbell

"That the Agenda be adopted."
CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Moved by Nancy Beamer
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated January 23, 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 Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

"That the business transacted in Committee of the Whole on February 27, 2024, 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 – Tammy Abernathy and Maria Passero, Community Outreach, Community Use of Schools Department, Education Centre
Director Pisek recognized Tammy and Maria for their long-standing, dedication as employees of the DSBN. Both Tammy and Maria are well known for their approachability and the exceptional service they provide to community partners, schools, and colleagues. They are adaptable, enthusiastic, listen closely and think creatively to support the community and the DSBN. Their commitment to building community is reflected in the strong professional relationships they foster and maintain with the DSBN's many childcare partners and community organizations. They adeptly manage complex schedules that balance the needs of school programs with the requests of hundreds of user groups. Their work ensures that the DSBN can welcome as many groups and individuals as possible to support the Ministry of Education's focus on fostering schools as community hubs through broad and fair access to facilities. They represent the DSBN with respect, integrity, and commitment to our community. Director Pisek thanked Tammy and Maria for their incredible contributions to the DSBN.

b) Director's Highlights
Director Pisek provided recent highlights from across the system with a focus on the strategic priority of belonging, which included information about:

- **Kindergarten Open Houses**
- **Ferndale Public School's First Science Fair**
- **Niagara Children's Honour Choir Event**
- **School Secretary Linda McQuade Celebrating 50 years with the DSBN**
- **Greater Fort Erie Secondary School students share resources to help schools extend learning beyond Black History Month**

2. Educational Showcases

a) Inspiring Hope and Belonging, James Morden Public School

Superintendent Vanhooydonk introduced Amy Morocco, principal of James Morden Public School, who introduced her staff. They shared how they inspire hope and belonging through inclusive strategies that celebrate the multiple languages and cultures represented at James Morden. They have welcomed over 200 new students this year to James Morden. Students created visual representations of their identities. Amy introduced a video highlighting what staff hope for students, what students hope for and what parents hope for at James Morden.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

There were no student achievement reports.

H. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

I. BOARD RECESS

There was no Board recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

"That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated January 24, 2024, be received."

"That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated February 21, 2024, be received."

CARRIED

Trustee Helga Campbell reported that four cases were brought forward for review at the January meeting. Of the cases presented, two were deferred to the February meeting and two were approved for SAL. The Committee reviewed forty-five current students participating in SAL. Of the forty-five cases heard, three are being discontinued. At the February meeting, eight cases were presented to the Committee. Of the eight cases heard, all eight were approved for SAL. The Committee reviewed the cases of forty-four students participating in SAL. Of the forty-four cases heard, twelve cases have been discontinued.

2. Report of the Program and Planning Committee

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated February 6, 2024, be received."

"That the School Boundary Change: Quaker Road PS and Princess Elizabeth PS / Welland Centennial SS and Eastdale SS report be received and approved; and, that the boundary change to transfer the area shown as Zone A on Appendix A from Quaker Road PS to Princess Elizabeth PS be approved; and, that the boundary change to transfer the area shown as Zone A on Appendix B from Welland Centennial SS to Eastdale SS be approved."

"That the School Boundary Change for New Welland/Thorold Elementary School Holding report be received and approved; and, that the new boundary for the Welland-Thorold elementary school and Quaker Road PS as shown on Appendix C be approved; and, that Glendale PS be designated the holding school for the Welland-Thorold elementary school boundary area."

"That the Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars 2024/25 be received and approved for submission to the Ministry of Education."
CARRIED

Trustee Bradnam shared that two proposed boundary changes for the Welland area to address enrolment pressures and anticipated growth based on residential development projections were presented. The proposed 2024/2025 school year calendar drafted in consultation with stakeholders and in collaboration with the coterminous board was shared. The Ministry Gr. 7 and 8 Mental Health Modules and implementation plan designed to help students develop skills and learn about positive mental health was outlined for the committee.

3. Report of the Parent Involvement Committee

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Deanne MacIntosh

"That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated February 7, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee MacIntosh shared that the new Safe and Accepting Schools website was introduced and the key components that outline DSBN's commitment to positive school climate and student well-being were presented. The committee heard about parent engagement event initiatives that a few Niagara Falls schools are exploring in support of newcomer DSBN families to the area and the Ministry of Education's changes to the 2025 kindergarten program and the Provincial Report Card were shared. Director Pisek discussed the recent reversal of secondary school graduation dates. Finally, a motion made to support the Niagara Falls schools' newcomer events with PIC funds was affirmed by the committee.

4. 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 February 8, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell shared that SEAC welcomed a new member, Brianne Friewat, representing Bethesda. The meeting began with a student voice from a grade 5 student at Diamond Trail Public School who shared some strategies she has learned to help her integrate into her grade 5 classroom. She shared how much she enjoys math games and making new friends. The committee received an overview of Behaviour Management Systems; the behavioural intervention program used by DSBN staff. An update was shared on the DSBN partnership with Bethesda and Pathstone to support students with extensive needs and the DSBN Special Education Review. Finally, members were reminded of the DSBN Special Olympics scheduled for June 11, 2024.

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

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"That the report of the Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Trustee Advisory Committee dated February 14, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell reported that Trustees were provided with a verbal update from the Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Community Advisory Committee meetings. The DSBN Equity team presented about the Community Partnerships that the DSBN has formed to help support our students. These include Niagara Region Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Community of Practice, Future Black Female, Next Gen Men and Brock University Level Up Black Youth Symposium. A presentation on the DSBN initiative called Equity Cafés was presented and recently a session related to the days of significance and how staff in elementary and secondary panels can apply this knowledge in their classrooms was offered.

6. Report of the Finance Committee

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

"That the report of the Finance Committee dated February 20, 2024, be received."
"That the Education Development Charges report be received."
"That the Transportation Policy Standardization Review report be received, and that Policy J-01: Transportation Eligibility and Service be approved as amended and adopted on condition of Niagara Catholic District School Board aligning their policy distances to maintain harmonization."
CARRIED

Superintendent Veld shared that the Education Development Charges (EDC) report was presented. Watson & Associates Economists Ltd, retained by the DSBN, recommended that the DSBN consider delaying the implementation of EDCs until the 2025-26 school year to strengthen eligibility, save time at

the Ministry of Education review and approval part of the process and provide an opportunity to maximize efficiencies in the process and costs by aligning our EDC process with the Niagara Catholic District School Board (NCDSB) renewal process. Also, the Transportation Policy Standardization Review report was presented. It was confirmed that the change of eligibility distance from 2.5km to 3.2km is required to align with the funding model standards set by the Auditor General. The additional changes to the policy include using the term verified address rather than residence to calculate the walking distance to provide clarity on child-care or a shared custody arrangement. Both boards will need to approve the policy for efficiencies and harmonization. The policy change if approved by both boards will be communicated by Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) to families after Board approval and be implemented for the 2024-25 school year.

In response to a question, Superintendent Veld confirmed that access to public transportation does not play a role in determining eligibility distance.

7. Report of the Policy Committee

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

"That the report of the Policy Committee dated February 20, 2024, be received."
"That Policy A-17: Advertising and Expenditures for Public Information and Awareness be revoked."
"That Policy D-08: Co-operative Education / Experiential Learning be approved as amended and adopted."
"That Policy A-13: DSBN Board Logo, School Logos and Mascot be approved as amended and adopted."
CARRIED

Vice-chair Bradnam shared that four policies were reviewed with Policy A-17 being revoked due to the content being more operational and Policies D-08 and A-13 being amended to remove procedural content and ensure consistency and alignment with practice. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, 2024. Policies being presented will be open for vetting on the DSBN website from March 8 to May 2, 2024.

8. Student Trustee Update

Student Trustee Marcel provided updates on the Student Senate Retreat and attendance at the OSTA AECO Board Council Conference in Ottawa. Student Trustee Akharoh spoke about the upcoming Student Trustee election in April. Each secondary school will put forward a candidate. The election is then held among Senate members who cast one vote per school for the future Student Trustee. This successful student will join the other Student Trustees to represent the DSBN student voice. Each new Student Trustee receives an orientation when their term begins to ensure a smooth transition to the role. The Student Trustees have worked with Communications on an outreach video to raise awareness of the role of Student Trustee. Finally, the Indigenous student leadership circle will once again this year attend an overnight retreat in April to collectively decide on the next Indigenous Student Trustee.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no questions.

L. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Barnett called for an Ad Hoc Governance Committee and requested that interested trustees email her by the end of the week. A recommendation for the mandate will be brought back to the March board meeting for approval.

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 or communication.

4. Trustee Communications And School Liaison

Trustees shared updates and information on a variety of community and school events, recognitions, meetings, and celebrations.

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

Trustee Baggott noted the OPSBA meeting is later this week.

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of March 2024 meetings was provided.
The March Days of Significance calendar was provided.

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Deanne MacIntosh
Seconded by Lora Campbell

"That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on February 27, 2024, 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 8:31 p.m.

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