MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

Private Session: 6:15 p.m. – 6:51p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. – 8:23 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD

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

STUDENT TRUSTEES

Audrey Akharoh
Jacklyn Saddler

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, Lora Campbell, Deanne MacIntosh, Clayton Mishibinijima

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Nate Burns, Andrew Latham

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 acting Vice-Chair, Trustee Lora Campbell, Trustee MacIntosh and Student Trustee Mishibinijima also sent regrets and Trustee Baggott was 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 Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

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

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"That the Board return to Open meeting."
CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:51 p.m.

C. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

The Board stood as '*O Canada*' was performed by Lockview and Edith Cavell Public School students via video.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Shannon Mitchell shared a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Kate Baggott
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

"That the Agenda be adopted."
CARRIED

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated February 25, 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 Helga Campbell

"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 Aubrey Foley, the founder of The Broken Spoke Program for his passion and dedication to making a difference and serving the community by transforming broken and discarded bicycles into functional bikes for those in need. In 2015, Aubrey's hobby was adopted by Port Colborne High School, and since then The Broken Spoke Program has been offered to students, teaching students valuable lessons beyond bicycle repairs including teamwork, organization and most of all, kindness and generosity.

- **Aubrey Foley, Founder, *The Broken Spoke* Program**

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

- Kindness Week/ Wear Anything Pink Day
- DramaFest
- DSBN Sings
- Technological Skills 27th Annual Competition

2. Educational Showcase

There was no educational showcase.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

There were no student achievement reports.

H. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

I. BOARD RECESS

The Board took a short recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Finance Committee

Moved by Susan Jovanovic
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"That the report of the Finance Committee dated March 5, 2025, be received."

"That the boundary change to transfer the area shown as Zone A on Appendix A from a shared boundary to Welland Centennial SS be approved."

"That the Culinary Program Expansion Report be received."

"That the DSBN Administrative Building Report be received."

"That Borrowing Resolution 2025-01 authorizing the Board to borrow up to $42,115,567 for the short-term financing of Ministry funded capital projects be approved."

"That Borrowing Resolution 2025-02 authorizing the Board to borrow up to $43,497,716 for the short-term financing of Ministry funded capital projects be approved."

"That Borrowing Resolution 2025-03 authorizing the Board to borrow up to $28,883,063 for the short-term financing of Ministry funded capital projects be approved."
CARRIED

Associated Director Veld shared that the committee received reports on a school boundary change for Welland Centennial and E.L. Crossley Secondary Schools to eliminate a shared boundary in a substantial housing development area and the expansion of the Hospitality & Tourism (culinary) program to Eastdale and Thorold Secondary School. In addition, the committee was updated on a project to build a new DSBN Administrative Building. Lastly the committee was presented with the Short-Term Financing of Ministry Funded Capital Projects report which was approved by the MOE to support Capital Priorities for three new schools that include Child Care.

2. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated March 19, 2025, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Helga Campbell reported that four new cases were presented and approved for SAL and 36 student cases were reviewed that were brought forward previously. Of the cases reviewed, six cases were discontinued, one student went to Edvance, three due to non-compliance and two were over the two-year program timeline.

In response to a question, Superintendent Sheard explained that Edvance is part of the adult education program which allows students to work during the day while earning credits towards a high school diploma.

3. 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 March 20, 2025, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell reported that the committee received a presentation from committee member Brianne Freiwat on services offered by Bethesda and from DSBN Special Education Supervisor, Darlene Duncan, on Specialized Equipment Allocation, highlighting changes to the referral process, best practices and new technology. Superintendent Simon Hancox provided the committee with information about gifted education and the revisions being made to streamline the assessment process. The committee approved a letter composed on behalf of DSBN SEAC that was introduced by Chair Morrice to support other SEACs in the province in their appeal to the Ontario College of Teachers to provide more special education opportunities for student teachers. A video was presented about a grade one student who is thriving at Lockview Public School.

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

On behalf of Indigenous Student Trustee Mishibinijima, Student Trustee Akharoh provided an update from the Indigenous Student Rep meeting. She reported that representatives connected with members of the Fort Erie and Niagara Falls Native Friendship Centres to understand the roles of Indigenous Leaders in the community and provide networking opportunities. The representatives also discussed initiatives within schools and began the nomination process for next year's Indigenous Student Trustee, who will be elected at the next Indigenous Student Rep meeting on April 25th.

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

There was no OPSBA report.

6. Ontario Student Trustees' Association Report

There was no OSTA-AECO report.

7. Future Meetings

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

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on March 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 7:52 p.m.

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