BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024

Private Session: 6:15 p.m. – 6:31 p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. – 8:31 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD

Kate Baggott, Alex Bradnam (Acting Chair), Sue Barnett (virtual), Nancy Beamer, Lora Campbell, Jonathan Fast (Acting Vice Chair), 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, Ann Gilmore, 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

Helga Campbell, Nodin Buck

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer McGugan

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Nate Burns, Ann Hamm, Andrew Latham

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

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

2. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTING OF MEMBERS ABSENT

Chair Bradnam 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 Deanne MacIntosh
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

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

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Deanne MacIntosh

"That the Board return to Open meeting."
CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:31 p.m.

C. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

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

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Deanne MacIntosh 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 Lora Campbell
Seconded by Deanne MacIntosh

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated February 27, 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 Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

"That the business transacted in Committee of the Whole on March 26, 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 – Joanne Mammoliti, Administrative Secretary, Eastdale Secondary School
Director Pisek recognized Joanne for her dedication and commitment to creating a warm and welcoming environment. Joanne mentors and supports various office staff, volunteers her time to extracurricular activities, has great knowledge of the Welland community, and is always willing to help anyone in need of support. She is an exemplary staff member who cares for the well-being of the Eastdale community. Director Pisek thanked Joanne for her incredible contributions.

Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions – Nicki Sullivan, Attendance Secretary, E. L. Crossley Secondary School
Director Pisek recognized Nicki for her compassion and dedication to cultivating a positive environment for students, parents and the broader community. Nicki builds connections, through encouragement and accountability and she knows each student at E.L. Crossley by name. Director Pisek thanked Nicki for her extraordinary work.

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

- **Students Taking a Stand Against Bullying on Wear Anything Pink Day**
- **Secondary Students Showing Off Tech Skills at the 26th Annual Competition**
- **Athletics at DSBN Back in Full Swing**
- **DSBN Special Olympics – June 11, 2024**
- **Students Shining on Stage at DramaFest**
- **Eden Student Selected as a Finalist for the 2024 Loran Award**

2. Educational Showcases

a) DSBN Stem Expo
Superintendent Reimer Friesen introduced Student Achievement Leader, Brad Digweed, who along with a team, created 8 unique STEM challenges ranging from building wind turbines and picnic tables to creating videos and presenting science fair projects. The team hosted after-school professional development and CSS Consultants went from school to school, working with teachers and students

through a lesson sequence that honed STEM skills. This work was celebrated through a culminating event - the DSBN STEM Expo. Event Coordinator and Science and Technology Consultant, Kyle Kitchen shared that over 350 students from 49 schools showcased their passion for STEM skills. Paul Ferrara, a teacher at Pine Grove and a lead teacher in the construction challenge, introduced students from Power Glen, Lockview and St. Davids who shared details about each of their experiences. The St. David's Video Editing Team introduced the video they created at the DSBN STEM Expo.

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 Program and Planning Committee

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Deanne MacIntosh

"That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated March 5, 2024, be received."

"That the Central French Immersion Public School Site Location Change report be received and approved; and, That the students be redirected to the former Grimsby SS building for September 2024."
CARRIED

Trustee Shannon Mitchell shared that reports were presented on the plan to rehouse Central within the Grimsby Secondary School building, the progress toward goals in the Math Achievement Action Plan, the early reading enhancements and the pilot of the screening tool, Acadience.

2. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Kate Baggott
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated March 7, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Shannon Mitchell reported that the meeting began with a grade 8 student voice from the Fundamental Skills Program at Lockview Public School. The school shared how they planned to celebrate

World Down Syndrome Day on March 21 and outlined how the student uses technology to support their learning. Superintendent St. John and Amanda Sherman, DSBN Mental Health Lead, shared a presentation with the committee on the DSBN Mental Health and Addictions Strategy.

3. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Moved by Kate Baggott
Seconded by Deanne MacIntosh

"That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated March 19, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Superintendent Gilmore shared that six new cases were brought forward for review and approved. The Committee also reviewed the progress of thirty-eight current SAL cases that are active and compliant with their SAL plans. DSBN continues to utilize both school and community to create support plans to meet the needs of students struggling with attendance. Schools also continue to reach out to students in the SAL program, connecting them to caring adults and maintaining their sense of belonging.

4. Report of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee

Moved by Kate Baggott
Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

"That the report of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee dated March 20, 2024, be received."

"That Trustee Nancy Beamer be appointed Chair of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee."

"That the Agenda of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee as amended is approved."

"That the mandate of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee shall be to review the following and to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees, including recommendations for amendments to the Board's By-Laws and Rules of Order, where required, on the following issues:

A. Student Trustee Senate
B. Ad Hoc Negotiations Committee
C. Oath/Affirmation of Allegiance
D. OSTA-AECO Report
E. Housekeeping Amendments to the Board's By-Laws and Rules of Order
    a. Equity and Inclusion modifications
    b. Committees:
        i. Identifying Statutory and Standing Committees
        ii. Housekeeping updates to Committee references
        iii. Updating list of Committees that meet in closed session
    c. Updating Terminology

F. Review of the decision of the Governance Committee in 2022 regarding changes to the By-Laws and procedures to ensure compliance with the Education Act and Standard Democratic Practice, including specifically review of By-law F-5 Scrutineers
G. Amendments to the By-laws to review and consider different models of Committee Selection, including specifically review of By-laws L-4 and L-5."
CARRIED

Trustee Beamer noted that at the first meeting, she was confirmed as Chair. The only order of business at the meeting was to review and consider the mandate of the committee and then present the recommendations at the Board meeting tonight.

5. Student Trustee Update

Student Trustee Akharoh reported that the Equity and Inclusion subcommittee met to discuss how to further their impact through "Project Empathy." They shared the video they created to show the power of empathy and how it contributes to more equitable and inclusive spaces within school environments. It was shared on Instagram and student senators shared it with their principals for wider circulation. Student Trustee Marcel provided an update on the Connections and Engagement subcommittee that has been working on the launch of a new Instagram Series, "Empowering Education." This series aims to provide DSBN students with practical advice, support, and insights on various aspects crucial to their academic and personal development. She noted that Student Trustees have been working on spreading the word about the upcoming DSBN Student Trustee elections on April 16.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

In response to questions, Director Pisek noted that senior staff members are examining strategies for equitably distributing school fundraising contributions between schools.

In response to questions, Superintendent Reimer Friesen noted that student participation in extracurricular activities requires parental permission and does not occur during instructional time. All volunteers supporting these activities are required to have a vulnerable sector police check.

L. NEW BUSINESS

There was no 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 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 shared updates from the March OPSBA meeting.

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 Nancy Beamer
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on March 26, 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 8:13 p.m.

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SUE BARNETT
Chair

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KELLY PISEK
Director of Education and Secretary