MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025

Private Session: 6:18 p.m. – 6:23p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. – 7:31 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD

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

STUDENT TRUSTEES

Audrey Akharoh
Jacklyn Saddler

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

Susan Jovanovic

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.

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 Jovanovic sent her regrets, Trustee Lora Campbell 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 Nancy Beamer
Seconded by Kate Baggott

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

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Kate Baggott

"That the Board return to Open meeting."
CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:23 p.m.

C. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

The Board stood as '*O Canada*' was performed by Jacob Beam Public School students via video and took a moment of silence to honor Vice-Chair Alex Bradnam.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Chair Barnett shared a reflective reading in memory of the Late Vice-Chair Alex Bradnam.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"That the Agenda be adopted."
CARRIED

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated March 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 Kate Baggott
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

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

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS

1. Director's Recognition and Highlights

a) Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions

There was no Director's Recognition.

b) Director's Highlights

There were no Director's highlights.

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

There was no recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Program and Planning Committee

Moved by Nancy Beamer
Seconded by Lora Campbell

"That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated April 1, 2025, be received."
CARRIED

Superintendent Reimer Friesen shared that the committee received several reports including, community building strategies for two new elementary schools; Thundering Heights in Niagara Falls and Bridgeview in Welland, a few areas of the Special Education review that was conducted this year, Secondary Summer Learning for 2025, the restructuring of secondary superintendent portfolios and Ministry reporting.

2. Report of the Finance Committee

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"That the report of the Finance Committee dated April 9, 2025, be received."

"That the 2024-25 Interim Financial Report for the period ending February 28, 2025, and the corresponding changes in revenues and expenditures, be received."

"That the Summary of Accounts paid for the months of January, February and March 2025, totaling $102,133,036 be received."

"That the Award of Contracts Summary Report for the period ending February 28, 2025, be received."

"That the Niagara Student Transportation Services 2024-25 Annual Plan be received."
CARRIED

Associate Director Veld reported that the committee was presented with the 2024-25 Interim Financial Report for the period ending February 28, 2025, the Summary of Accounts Report and the Award of Contracts Summary for the period of December 1, 2024, to February 28,2025. In addition, the Niagara Student Transportation Services 2024-25 Annual Plan was shared with the committee.

3. Report of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee

Moved by Deanne MacIntosh
Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

"That the report of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee dated April 9, 2025, be received."

"That the draft District School Board of Niagara Trustee Code of Conduct – 2022-2026 (Amended January 2025 per Regulation 312/24) as presented be approved and become effective forthwith."

"That Policy A-02 be approved as amended and adopted."

"That General Counsel be directed, in accordance with the Board By-laws and Rules of Order, By-Law Q-2, to deliver Notice of Recommended Motion at the Board Meeting to be held on April 22, 2025, for the consideration of this Committee's recommended amendments to the Board By-Laws and Rules of Order."
CARRIED

Trustee Beamer reported that the committee approved revisions to the Trustee Code of Conduct and Policy A-02: Attendance at Board and Committee meetings to comply with legislative changes. In addition, the committee approved changes to the Board By-Laws and Rules of Order on the following topics: scrutineers, committee selection, Director's performance appraisal committee and order of business. The committee discussed streamlining committee meetings dates for the 2025-26 school year to be more time efficient. The Notice of Motion for the changes to the Board By-Laws and Rules of Order are included in this agenda and the vote on the motion will be held during the May Board meeting.

4. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated April 10, 2025, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Klassen reported that the committee received presentations from Autism Ontario and Community Living- St. Catharines. Student Achievement Leader, Terri Beck presented a video about the successful mid-year integration of a student into grade one at Princess Elizabeth Public School. Superintendent Hancox provided updates on the Special Education budget, noted the date of the DSBN Special Olympics and shared that the updated Student Achievement Plan will be posted on the DSBN website by April 30th.

5. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

"That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated April 16, 2025, be received."
CARRIED

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

6. Report of the Parent Involvement Committee

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Deanne MacIntosh

"That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated April 16, 2025, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell shared that the meeting was hosted at Marshville Public School. Committee members discussed ongoing recruitment strategies and progress on a promotional video for PIC. The Student Achievement Plan was shared and committee members participated in further planning for the PIC speaker series with Dr. Greg Wells and a School Council Chair event in the fall.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

L. NEW BUSINESS

1. Notice of Recommended Motions:

"Take Notice that in accordance with the Board By-laws and Rules of Order section Q-2;

(i) the recommendations from the Ad Hoc Governance Committee that follow in the table below shall come forward for consideration at the Board meeting scheduled for May 27, 2025; and

(ii) such amendments to the Board By-laws and Rules of Order to take effect on September 1, 2025."

		Ad Hoc Governance Committee Mandate Topic Reference
F – 5	The Secretary shall name two scrutineers appointed for the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair. At the request of a Trustee, or in response to a public invitation to apply, the Board may by majority vote, also approve the appointment of a disinterested external community member to serve as a third scrutineer for the election of Chair and/or Vice-Chair. Where more than one external community member candidate submits or is submitted for the position of the third scrutineer, a candidate for third scrutineer will be chosen by lot. All scrutineers must confirm that they will maintain the secrecy of the vote.	**(f) Scrutineers**
L – 4 and L – 5	**L – 1** Trustees are elected to a four (4) year term of office on the Board. At the start of the term and approximately two (2) years into the term of office there will be opportunities to change Trustee membership on Standing and	**(g) Committee Selection**

	Statutory Committees, save and except for the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) ~~and the **Ad Hoc** Code of Conduct Investigation Committee~~, which ~~both~~ requires a four (4) year term commitment. (a) At the Organization Meeting in an election year the Trustees will submit their committee preferences to the Director's Office and, thereafter, the Director-**and the Nominating Committee (as set out in By-Law L-4)** of the Board will meet to consider the preferences submitted and then to assign Trustees to serve on Standing and Statutory and **Ad Hoc** Committees. The selection of Committee Chairs will occur in accordance with By-Laws O - 23 and O - 24. (b) Nineteen (19) months after the newly elected Trustees take office, the Trustees shall again submit their committee preferences to the Director's Office by the first Board meeting in June and, thereafter, the Director **and the Nominating Committee (as set out in By-Law L-4)** of the Board will meet to consider the preferences submitted and then to assign, in draft, the Trustees to serve on Standing and Statutory and **Ad Hoc** Committees effective September 1st of that same year. The Nominating Committee shall circulate a draft of the Committee assignments prior to Nominating Committee's final approval of committee assignments. The selection of Committee Chairs will occur in accordance with By-Laws O-23 and O - 24. (c) All Trustees will be notified of the date and time of and are invited to attend the meeting of the Nominating Committee. **L - 4** The membership of the Nominating Committee shall be comprised of the Chair, the Vice-Chair and two Board members selected at large by the Chair. The mandate of the Nominating Committee is to receive each Board member's preference for committees, preferably electronically, and subsequently **assign the Trustees to committees as set out in By-Law L-1**. **L - 5** In assigning Board members to committees, the Nominating Committee shall have due regard for such things as: • the need for continuity of representation from year to year; • the legal requirements for Statutory Committees; • the balance of workload and time commitments; and • the experience and preferences of the Board members.	
L – 2 and L – 6	L – 2 Statutory Committees are committees prescribed by provincial legislation and include: Audit Committee, Director's Performance Appraisal Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee, Supervised Alternative Learning Committee, and Parent Involvement Committee. L – 6 There shall be the following committees of the Board with each Board member required to sit on two (2) Standing or Statutory Committees. Statutory | • Audit Committee..... | 3 Board Members	**Director's Performance Appraisal Committee**

(s. 253.1 & Reg. 361/10)	……. ……. ……	
Statutory (Reg 83/24)	• Director's Performance Appraisal Committee (DPAC)	5 Board Members
Statutory (s. & Reg. 464/97)	• Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)…….	2 Board Members plus 2 appointed Board Member Alternates (this is a legislated four (4) year term)
Statutory (Reg 374/10)	• Supervised Alternative Learning Committee (SAL)…….	1 Board Member
Statutory (Reg. 674/20)	• Parent Involvement Committee….. ……. …….	2 Board Members
Standing	• Policy Advisory Committee….. ……. ……	5 Board Members
Standing	• Program and Planning Committee….. ……. ..	5 Board Members
Standing	• Finance Committee….. …….	4 Board Members

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~~Standing~~	~~• Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Trustee Advisory Committee..... ....~~	~~5 Board Members~~
~~Ad Hoc~~	~~• Ad Hoc Code of Conduct Investigation Committee....~~	~~4 Board Members (Chair, Vice-Chair plus 3 appointed Board Member Alternates) - this is a four (4) year term~~
Ad Hoc	• Ad Hoc Student Discipline Committee.....	3 Board Members (legislated minimum)
Ad Hoc	• Ad Hoc Properties Disposal Committee.....	3 Board Members (Chair of Program and Planning Committee, Chair of Finance Committee, and Chair of the Board, or designate)
	Other Ad Hoc Committees will be established as required.	
~~(s. 55 & Reg. 7/07)~~	• Student Trustee Senate.....	3 Student Trustees (one of which shall be an Indigenous Student Trustee)

G – 1 **G – 3** **J – 1** **and** **G- 10**	**G - 1** The regular meetings of the Board shall be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month between September and June, save and except for: • the month of November when the regular Board meeting will be held on the third Tuesday of the month; and • the month of December when the regular Board meeting will be held on the first Tuesday of the month. Should any Tuesday fall on a statutory or civic holiday, the Board shall meet on the evening of the following day at the same hour, or as otherwise decided by the Board. The regular Board meeting, public session, shall commence at 6:00 p.m. and where Committee of the Whole, private session is required, it shall commence immediately after the conclusion of the business of the regular Board meeting. **G - 3** In the event of weather conditions which, in the judgment of the Chair, preclude the regular meeting of the Board, the meeting will be held on the next following Tuesday, with the regular Board meeting, public session, commencing at 6:00 p.m. and where Committee of the Whole, private session is required, it shall commence immediately after the conclusion of the business of the regular Board meeting. **J - 1** In each municipal election year, at the November Board meeting, the following meetings will be held: (i) **Organization Meeting** at 6:00 p.m. – for order of business as set out in By-Law F-1 and the Declaration of Office (ii) **Inaugural Meeting of the Board** at 6:30 p.m. – for the regular Board meeting, public session, (iii) **Committee of the Whole**, private session, where required, will commence immediately after the conclusion o the business of the regular Board meeting unless otherwise determined by Board motion. **[New Order of Business Follows Replacing Current Order of Business]** **G - 10** The order of business for regular meetings of the Board shall be: A. Commencement of the Meeting of the Board 1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory 2. Call to Order and Noting of Members Absent 3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest B. Singing of "O Canada" C. Opening Prayer or Reflective Reading D. Business of the Board 1. Adoption of Agenda 2. Approval of Board Minutes 3. Business Arising from the Minutes E. Educational Showcasing or Presentations F. Student Achievement Reports G. Delegations H. Board Recess (Optional) I. Old Business J. Questions Asked of and by Board Members K. New Business L. Information and Proposals 1. Staff Reports	

	2. Trustee Information Sessions 3. Correspondence and Communications 4. Trustee, Student Trustee and Indigenous Student Trustee Communications and School Liaison 5. OPSBA Reports 6. OSTA-AECO Report 7. Future Meetings M. Committee of the Whole (only where required) 1. Motion to Move to Committee of the Whole (Private Session) 2. Motion to Return to Open board (Public Meeting) N. Ratification of Business Conducted in Committee of the Whole (only where Committee of the Whole met) O. Ratification of Business Conducted in this Regular Meeting P. Adjournment	

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

Student Trustees Akharoh and Saddler provided updates from the April Student Senate meeting, where Senators heard keynote speaker Sam Demma and discussed supports for mental health and AI in education. In addition, Senators participated in two challenges that encouraged creative thinking, collaboration, non-verbal communication, and bold thinking. As well, William Connor from Greater Fort Erie Secondary School was elected as the new incoming student trustee.

Indigenous Student Trustee Mishibinijima shared highlights from the Indigenous Education Council meetings in April as well as events hosted by Indigenous Student Representatives. Highlights include a discussion on parent involvement and engagement, Indigenous Alternative Education and the concept of an Indigenous Youth group. The Indigenous Student Rep from Greater Fort Erie Secondary School hosted two assemblies for staff and students to learn about Indigenous culture and Indigenous Author, Angeline Boulley was invited to Laura Secord Secondary School for a community book talk where students, parents, teachers, and community members gained a deeper understanding of Indigenous writing and

literature. Barrett Dockstator from West Niagara Secondary School was elected as the new Indigenous Student Trustee.

Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Report

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

a) Trustees were asked to approve appointments to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association for the 2025-2026 Term of Office.

1. "That Trustee Kate Baggott be appointed to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association Board of Directors for the 2025-2026 Term of Office."
2. "That Trustee Nancy Beamer be appointed as the (Voting) Delegate and Trustee Susan Jovanovic as the Alternate (Voting) Delegate for the Term beginning at the 2025 Annual Meeting and ending immediately prior to the 2026 Annual Meeting."

CARRIED

5. Ontario Student Trustees' Association Report

There was no OSTA-AECO report.

7. Future Meetings

Chair Barnett noted that the next Policy Committee meeting will start at 5:30, followed by the Finance Committee meeting starting at 6:30.

a) The May 2025 meeting calendar was provided.
b) The May 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 April 22, 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 7:31 p.m.

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