BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024

Private Session: 6:15 p.m. – 6:26 p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. – 8:31 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD

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

STUDENT TRUSTEES

Audrey Akharoh, Julianna Marcel, Nodin Buck

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

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

Chair Barnett 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 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 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 6:26 p.m.

C. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

The Board stood as '*O Canada*' was performed by the Richmond Street 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 Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the Agenda be adopted."
CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Moved by Deanne MacIntosh
Seconded by Lora Campbell

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated March 26, 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 Nancy Beamer
Seconded by Kate Baggott

"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 – Julianna Marcel, Grade 12 student, Greater Fort Erie SS, and Student Trustee

Director Pisek recognized Julianna for her exceptional leadership and commitment to amplifying student voice. As Student Trustee, Julianna's focus on addressing important student needs played a role in the menu changes implemented across our Chartwell cafeteria locations and the decision to allocate funds for culinary program expansions at E.L. Crossley. She has dedicated many hours working with the Ontario Minister of Education to infuse student perspectives into educational policy-making to better meet the needs of secondary students within the province. She is a published author of the article "Classrooms of Acceptance: Upholding Inclusivity in the Face of Change", which focuses on creating safer and more accepting schools. Julianna made the Principal's Honour Roll throughout high school and has been an active member of many teams including the Student Council where she holds the role of Prime Minister. She is a confident and caring collaborator who helps others to feel valued. Director Pisek congratulated Julianna on receiving the Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions Award!

Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions – Zachery Harrietha, DSBN Graduate/Brock University Teacher Candidate

Director Pisek recognized Zachery for his kind hardworking and humble approach throughout his time at the DSBN. Zachery was a highly involved and engaged student always celebrating the accomplishments of those around him. He became an Ambassador for the DSBN Academy and was a pillar of support, encouragement and compassion for his peers and teachers. After graduating, Zach received notable awards and scholarships from Brock University, where he completed a Bachelor of Science degree before enrolling in the Bachelor of Education program. In his final year of this program, he is back in classes at the DSBN as a teacher instead of a student. Zach has shown his unwavering commitment and passion and DSBN students and schools have benefited from his many contributions. Director Pisek congratulated Zach on receiving the Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions Award!

b) Director's Highlights

Director Pisek provided recent highlights from across the system with a focus on the strategic priority of spaces, which included information about:

- **West Niagara Grand Opening**
- **Exciting Move for Central French Immersion Public School**
- **Perfect Junior Boys Basketball Season for Park Public School**
- **Autism Awareness in April**
- **Niagara Regional Science Fair – Success for DSBN Students**
- **Progress at Marshville Public School**

2. Educational Showcases

There were no educational showcases.

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 Jonathan Fast

"That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated April 2, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Shannon Mitchell shared that reports were presented to the committee on Safe and Accepting Schools, the DSBN Student Achievement Plan and Summer Learning.

2. Report of the Parent Involvement Committee

Moved by Susan Jovanovic
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated April 3, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Jovanovic reported that the committee received a presentation from Amanda Sherman, DSBN Mental Health Lead, and Sarah Richter, DSBN Parent Engagement Social Worker on the Mental Health and Addictions Strategic Plan and were given an opportunity to provide feedback. Also presented was the DSBN Student Achievement Plan and the DSBN website public feedback process. Also, available on the DSBN website is the 2024-2025 School Year calendar and the anonymous digital bullying reporting tool on the Safe and Accepting Schools page, as demonstrated by Superintendent Gage. Committee members were reminded of the current board policies up for review and the feedback process.

3. 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 April 10, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Helga Campbell shared that at the April SAL Committee, six new cases were brought forward and one was deferred to the May SAL meeting. The Committee reviewed the progress of forty-five current SAL plans. Forty-four students are currently active and compliant with their SAL plans. One case is being discontinued because the student registered in another school board.

4. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Deanne MacIntosh

"That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated April 11, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell reported that the meeting began with a student voice profile from a student at Thorold Secondary School who created Autism Care Kits as a way to help people who do not have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) understand what it is like to live with ASD. The DSBN acknowledged World Autism Day on April 2 with a flag raising at the Education Centre and schools were provided resources. The committee received a presentation on the DSBN Student Achievement Plan and the DSBN website public feedback process. SEAC members learned of I-Social programs for students with ASD and that 45 teachers are completing the DSBN course for Additional Qualification for Special Education Part 1. Also, noted was that over 200 students are participating in Pre-School Transitions.

5. Report of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

"That the report of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee dated April 15, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Beamer noted that the committee considered student voice on two issues. First, the Committee accepted the request of the Student Trustees to include a report about the work of OSTA-AECO in the Order of Business and endorsed a recommendation to permit the Student Trustees to lead the Student Trustee Senate independently by removing Board Trustee roles. Also, two other amendments were considered to align the Board's By-Laws with practice and a variety of changes to the Board's By-Laws and Rules of Order were reviewed and considered. There is a Notice under New Business reflecting the

new wording for all By-Laws and Rules of Order based on the recommendations. These changes will be included in a recommended motion at the May Board meeting.

In response to a question, Jennifer Feren, General Counsel, noted that the policy on Student Trustees will be referred to the Policy Committee for review.

6. Report of the Finance Committee

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the report of the Finance Committee dated April 17, 2024, be received."

"That the 2023-24 Interim Financial Report for the period ending February 29, 2024, and the corresponding changes in revenues and expenditures, be received."

"That the Summary of Accounts paid for the months of January, February and March 2024, totaling $87,414,264 be received."

"That Borrowing Resolution 2023-03 authorizing the Board to borrow up to $4,617,150 for the short-term financing of Ministry funded capital projects, pursuant to the provisions of section 243(1) of the Education Act, be approved; and
That Borrowing Resolution 2023-04 authorizing the Board to borrow up to $12,855,622 for the short-term financing of Ministry funded capital projects, pursuant to the provisions of section 243(1) of the Education Act, be approved."

"That the Niagara Student Transportation Services 2023-24 Annual Plan be received for information."
CARRIED

Superintendent Veld reported that the Committee received the Second Interim Financial Report for the period ending February 29, 2024, and the Summary of Accounts report for January, February and March 2024. Superintendent Veld shared that the Ministry of Education (MOE) approved short-term financing to support the addition of classrooms and a childcare centre at Quaker Road School and the new South Niagara Falls school with a childcare centre under the Capital Priorities Grants program. Also, the Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) 2023-24 Annual Plan was presented.

7. Student Trustee Update

Student Trustee Buck shared that various Indigenous students were nominated this past month and will get the chance to be elected as Indigenous Student Trustee on April 26th. Student Trustee Marcel shared that before the student trustee elections, the student trustees held one-on-one meetings with each candidate upon request, to address questions and provide support for the election. The student trustee elections were held on April 16 and the student trustees led with an icebreaker activity that allowed the student senators and trustee candidates to get to know each other and ease into the atmosphere before

the candidates were asked to present speeches. Student Trustee Akharoh noted that each student senator had one vote per school. The student trustee elected for the 2024–2026 school year is Jacklyn Saddler from A.N.Myer. Jacklyn will be formally introduced in May when the Indigenous Student Trustee will also be announced.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no questions.

L. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Ad Hoc Performance Appraisal Committee**

In accordance with the Ministry of Education's new performance appraisal process for the Director of Education, the Board needs to establish a Performance Appraisal Committee (PAC) by May 15. The committee will be made up of a minimum of 3, to a maximum of 5, trustees. The Ad Hoc Performance Appraisal Committee term is July 1 to June 30. Trustees are asked to express interest in sitting on the committee to Chair Barnett by April 30, 2024.

2. **Notice of Recommended Motion**

"Take Notice that in accordance with the Board By-laws and Rules of Order section Q-2, the recommended amendments to the Board By-Laws and Rules of Order that follow in the table below, shall come forward for consideration at the Board meeting scheduled for May 28, 2024; and such amendments are to take effect upon the passing of the recommendations contained therein."

		Ad Hoc Governance Committee Mandate Topic Reference
F-4	When a new Board has been elected, the Secretary shall first read the returns of the elections of the members of the Board, as supplied by the clerk of the municipality. The Secretary shall further read a statement certifying that the newly elected members of the Board have filed their Declaration of Office with the Secretary.	**C. Oath/Affirmation of Allegiance**
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. Committee of the Whole 1. Motion to Move to Committee of the Whole (Private Session) 2. Motion to Return to Open board (Public Meeting) C. Singing of "O Canada" D. Opening Prayer or Reflective Reading	**D. OSTA-AECO Report**

	E. Business of the Board 1. Adoption of Agenda 2. Approval of Board Minutes 3. Business Arising from the Minutes 4. Ratification of Business Conducted in Committee of the Whole F. Educational Showcasing or Presentations G. Student Achievement Reports H. Delegations I. Board Recess (Optional) J. Old Business K. Questions Asked of and by Board Members L. New Business M. Information and Proposals 1. Staff Reports 2. Trustee Information Sessions 3. Correspondence and Communications 4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison 5. OPSBA Reports 6. OSTA-AECO Report 7. Future Meetings N. Ratification of Business Conducted in this Regular Meeting O. Adjournment	
L-2	Statutory Committees are committees prescribed by provincial legislation and include: Audit Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee, Supervised Alternative Learning Committee, and Parent Involvement Committee.	**A. Student Trustee Senate**
L-6		**A. Student Trustee Senate** **AND** **B. Ad Hoc Negotiations Committee** **AND** **E. Housekeeping**

Statutory (s. 253.1 & Reg. 361/10)	• Audit Committee.....	3 Board Members
Statutory (s. 57.1 & 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	• Supervised Alternative Learning Committee (SAL)…….	1 Board Member

	(Reg 374/10)			**- b. Committees – i. Identifying Statutory and Standing Committees**
	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	
	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)
L-7	The committee responsibilities of the incoming Chair shall be assumed by the outgoing Chair, save and except if the incoming Chair was the Board member assigned to serve on the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) or the Ad Hoc Code of Conduct Investigation (COCI) Committee, then the incoming Chair will remain on the SEAC or Ad Hoc COCI Committee for the balance of the Board's four (4) year term.		**E. Housekeeping - b. Committees – ii. Updates to Committee References**
L-8	The Education Foundation of Niagara (EFN) is a separate incorporated charitable organization and not a committee of the Board. The DSBN will appoint up to three (3) Trustees of the Board to sit as non-voting members of the EFN Board with the understanding such service is over and above a Trustee's obligation for involvement in Board committee work.		**E. Housekeeping - b. Committees – ii. Updates to Committee References**
M-2	Only Board members, Student Trustees, requested administration officials and invited guests shall be in attendance at the private sessions of Board meetings and the private sessions of Board committee meetings. A Student Trustee is not entitled to be present at a meeting that is closed to the public under subsection 207(2)(b) of the *Education Act* which states that, A meeting of a committee of a Board, including a Committee of the Whole Board, may be closed to the public when the subject matter under consideration involves the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the Board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the Board or a pupil or their parent or guardian.		**E. Housekeeping a. Equity and Inclusion Modifications**
M-3	The following matters shall not be raised in a regular open meeting of the Board and in committee may be considered in private session: (a) The security of the property of the Board; (b) The disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the Board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the Board or a pupil or their parent or guardian; (c) The acquisition or disposal of a school site;		**E. Housekeeping a. Equity and Inclusion Modifications**

	(d) Decisions in respect of negotiations with employees of the Board; or (e) Litigation affecting the Board; or (f) Where the subject-matter under consideration involves an ongoing investigation under the *Ombudsman Act* respecting the Board.	
O-9	It is the policy of the Board that meetings of the committees of the Board shall be open to the public except: (a) Committee of the Whole Board (b) Finance Committee when it is considering the lease or acquisition of property (c) Ad Hoc Properties Disposal Committee (d) Ad Hoc Student Discipline Committee (e) Audit Committee when it is considering a matter permitted under section 207 of the *Education Act* (f) Ad Hoc Code of Conduct Investigation Committee until it is before the Board of Trustees for a decision as to whether or not the Trustee has breached the School Board Trustee Code of Conduct (g) Other committees as designated from time to time by the Board.	**E. Housekeeping - b. Committees – iii. Updating List of Committees that Meet in Closed Session**
R-40	The motion to call the question shall preclude all further amendment or debate, and shall be submitted by the Chair in this form: "SHALL I CALL THE QUESTION?" If adopted, the Chair shall at once proceed to call the question, first calling any amendments pending, to the vote of the Board	**E. Housekeeping – c. Updating Terminology**
R-59	All rules of the Board shall be observed in Committee of the Whole so far as applicable, except that no motion shall be required to be seconded; no motion for the previous question or for adjournment shall be allowed (excepting as under the Rule establishing a time limit for meetings), the Trustees voting "in favour" or "opposed" shall not be recorded, and the number of times of speaking on any question shall not be limited.	**E. Housekeeping – c. Updating Terminology**

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. Staff Reports

There were no staff reports.

2. Trustee Information Session

There was a trustee information session where trustees received an update from Director Pisek.

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.

In response to a question, Superintendent St. John noted that the Mental Health and Well-Being (MHWB) team is working with DSBN IT Services to post a banner/button on school web pages to faciliate parent access to the supports available on the DSBN MHWB webpage.

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

Trustee Baggott shared that the next OPSBA meeting is this coming weekend.

6. Future Meetings

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

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Kate Baggott
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on April 23, 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 8:20 p.m.

_____
SUE BARNETT
Chair

_____
KELLY PISEK
Director of Education and Secretary