BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2024

Private Session: 6:16 p.m. – 6:48 p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. – 8:33 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD

Kate Baggott, Alex Bradnam (Vice Chair), Sue Barnett (Chair), Nancy Beamer, Helga Campbell, Lora Campbell, Jonathan Fast, Susan Jovanovic, 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 Kate Baggott
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

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

Moved by Kate Baggott
Seconded Helga Campbell

"That the Board return to Open meeting."
CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:48 p.m.

C. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

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

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Shannon Mitchell shared a 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 Kate Baggott
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated April 23, 2024, be confirmed as submitted."
CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Ad Hoc Performance Appraisal Committee

The committee membership is as follows:
Kate Baggott, Sue Barnett, Nancy Beamer, Alex Bradnam, Susan Jovanovic

Chair Barnett noted that the committee will gather to elect a committee chair and set meeting times.

4. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"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 – Sheila Jones, Volunteer and Lunchroom Supervisor, Lockview Public School

Director Pisek recognized Sheila for her extraordinary contributions to our students as a Former lunchroom supervisor and now volunteer for over 25 years. She is an incredibly reliable and caring member of the Lockview community who is eager and happy to help support students. When working one-on-one with students, she intentionally focuses on specific reading strategies that enhance their learning and seeks out resources that could create engaging student experiences. Sheila's ability to develop personal and meaningful relationships and her presence and participation in students' lives makes a difference every day. Director Pisek congratulated Sheila on receiving the Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions Award!

Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions – Kim Barton and Magen Hallet, Learning Resource Teachers for Intervention (LRTi), Lincoln Centennial Public School and River View Public School

Director Pisek recognized Kim and Magen for going above and beyond in their work. Kim is constantly re-creating her schedule to allow as many students as possible to have access to her small group support. Teachers go to Kim for advice, and she often uses her own prep time to co-teach with her colleagues. One of the most incredible things about Kim is the connection she makes with students and the confidence they gain. Magen's enthusiasm for empowering students to read is infectious. She is committed to making every single minute of her time count, helping students "crack the code" and become confident readers. She builds capacity at River View by ensuring that both the most recent professional development she has received and the professional reading she has done is shared with her peers. Director Pisek congratulated Kim and Magen on receiving the Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions Award!

Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions – Nodin Buck, Grade 12 Student, Governor Simcoe Secondary School, and Indigenous Student Trustee

Director Pisek recognized Nodin for his work as an Indigenous Student Trustee. As part of the Ontario Student Trustees' Association, OSTA/AECO, Nodin advocates for Indigenous student voices as part of the Indigenous Student Trustees' Council with the goal of enhancing First Nations, Metis, and Inuit student achievement and well-being across the entire education system. Nodin's peaceful approach and empathy towards others allow him to interact with all groups of people seamlessly and

effortlessly. Director Pisek congratulated Nodin 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:

- **Students Celebrate Culmination of DSBN Writes/Écrit**
- **DSBN Drama Student Productions**
- **DSBN Elementary and Secondary Students at Skills Ontario**
- **LEAD Program Fosters Leadership in Teachers at DSBN**
- **'In the Round' Event a Repeat Success for EFN**
- **DSBN Schools Welcome Newcomers to Niagara**
- **RISE Up Student Equity Conference Unites DSBN Students**

2. Educational Showcases

There were no educational showcases.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

There were no student achievement reports.

H. DELEGATIONS

1. J. Hay shared her concerns about the secondary school bell time changes for the 2024-2025 school year.

I. BOARD RECESS

There was no Board recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Parent Involvement Committee

Moved by Susan Jovanovic
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated May 1, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Jovanovic shared that reports and updates on the Student Census, the PIC sponsored Niagara Falls school's newcomer events, Ministry of Education release of funding to school boards, and the "Rise Up, Students Leading the Change" Equity Conference were presented. The committee discussed planning for the Parent Involvement Conference and Trustees shared highlights for the April board meeting.

2. 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 May 1, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Helga Campbell shared that at the May SAL Committee fourteen new cases were presented for review. Of the fourteen cases, thirteen were approved and one plan was withdrawn. The Committee reviewed the progress of fifty current SAL plans. All fifty students are currently active and compliant.

3. Report of the Program and Planning Committee

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Kate Baggott

"That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated May 7, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Shannon Mitchell shared that reports were presented to the committee on the DSBN Special Education Review, the DSBN RISE Program, and the Secondary Hall Mentors Pilot.

In response to a question, Superintendent Gilmore shared that the hall mentor is the paid position.

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

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

"That the report of the Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Trustee Advisory Committee dated May 8, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell reported that the committee was provided with a verbal update from the Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Community Advisory committee on Indigenous Education and the Grade 7 & 8 Symposium at Niagara College for self-identified First Nations, Inuit and Metis students. The committee also received presentations at the meeting about the student equity Rise Up! Conference and the Inclusive Classroom poster that was created by the student group DSBN IDEAS.

5. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated May 9, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell reported that a student voice video from a grade 7 student with low vision at Winger Public School was shared. The student shared how technology has helped him navigate the classroom and feels like he is part of the learning community. Update on the Special Education Review process, the Director's Highlights, and the 2024-25 Budget were shared. Feedback on the 2024-25 Budget was sought from committee members and a link to the DSBN Budget Book was shared. SEAC members learned that DSBN staff continue to participate in professional learning opportunities regularly, that are offered both internally and externally.

6. Report of the Finance Committee

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Lora Campbell

"That the report of the Finance Committee dated May 15, 2024, be received."

"That the Policy B-02 Mileage Reimbursement Rate be approved as amended."

"That the Summary of Award of Contracts Report for the period ending March 31, 2024, be received."

"That the Community Partnership for Transportation be received."

"That the Multi-Year Capital Plan be received, and staff be authorized to proceed with all identified projects up to and including the 2024-25 year, subject to confirmation of necessary Ministry of Education approvals."

"That the 2024-25 Budget Update report be received."
CARRIED

Superintendent Veld reported that the Committee received a presentation on Policy B-02: Mileage Reimbursement Rate and the proposed change to update the rates to reflect January to December instead of September to August to align with Canada Revenue Agency. Also shared were the Award of Contracts Summary Report and details on the partnership between Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) and Niagara Children's Centre School Authority (NCCSA). The Multi-Year Capital Plan (MYCP) was presented which includes school renovations and improvements to support Accessibility, Mechanical Upgrades, Roofing Replacements and Security and Intrusion Systems.

Superintendent Veld presented the 2024-25 Budget Update. An increase in elementary and secondary staff is projected due to the projected increase in enrolment. The Ministry of Education released a new format to the school board's funding that ensures that the majority of expenditures are focused on classroom and learning resource supports and continues to include the past priority areas such as

Special Education, Indigenous Education, Mental Health and Wellness and Student Safety and Well-Being.

In response to a question, Superintendent Veld noted that new schools will include air conditioning due to increased Ministry benchmark funding and the larger size school builds.

7. Report of the Policy Committee

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

"That the report of the Policy Committee dated May 21, 2024, be received."

"That Policy D-01: Digital Technology Use by Students and Policy E-05: Digital Technology Use by Staff be deferred until 2024-25."

"That Policy C-03: Accessibility Standards for Ontarians with Disabilities be approved as submitted and adopted."
CARRIED

Vice Chair Bradnam shared that at the final meeting of the 2023-2024 school year Policies D-01: Digital Technology Use by Students and Policy E-05: Digital Technology Use by Staff were recommended for deferral until the 2024-2025 school year due to the recent Ministry announcement regarding cellphone use within schools. Policy C-03: Accessibility Standards for Ontarians with Disabilities was presented as a new policy that has merged A-19: Accessibility Standards – Policy Statement, C-03 Service Accessibility Standards for Ontarians with Disabilities, E-18: Accessibility Standards for Employment, G-34: Accessibility Standards for Information, and J-02: Accessibility Standards for School Transportation to consolidate and streamline access to the information and align with the new Accessibility Plan 2023-2028.

8. Student Trustee Update

Student Trustee Buck shared that he attended a trip to Camp Olympia with the Indigenous Student Representatives where they enjoyed outdoor activities based on team building and leadership skills. Student Trustee Akharoh shared that the final Senate meeting of the academic year was held in May and focused on reflection and future planning. Senators shared how the DSBN Student Senate has helped them grow as leaders and work toward creating more inclusive environments within their schools. Also, she noted the many positive initiatives that the Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee at the Senate accomplished this year including the EMpathy video project now featured on the DSBN website. Student Trustee Marcel shared details about the OSTA-AECO Conference that offered many professional development sessions designed for both incoming and outgoing student trustees. One of the highlights of the AGM was the 'Changemakers' session, which featured 25 distinguished speakers and provided a unique platform for student trustees to connect with these leaders. Student Trustee Marcel introduced incoming Student Trustee, Jaclyn Saddler from A.N. Myer Secondary School and incoming Indigenous

Student Trustee, Clayton Mishibinijima from St. Catharines Collegiate Secondary School. Short videos from each of them, expressing their visions and aspirations were shared.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no questions.

L. NEW BUSINESS

1. Board By-laws and Rules of Order

Moved by Kate Baggott
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"That the recommended amendments to the Board By-Laws and Rules of Order that follow in the table below be approved, 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 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	**D. OSTA-AECO Report**

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>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</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>L-2</td><td>Statutory Committees are committees prescribed by provincial legislation and include: Audit Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee, Supervised Alternative Learning Committee, and Parent Involvement Committee.</td><td>A. Student Trustee Senate</td></tr>
<tr><td>L-6</td><td>
<table>
<tr><td>Statutory (s. 253.1 & Reg. 361/10)</td><td>• Audit Committee.....</td><td>3 Board Members</td></tr>
<tr><td>Statutory

(s. 57.1 & Reg. 464/97)</td><td>• Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).....</td><td>2 Board Members plus 2 appointed Board Member Alternates (this is a legislated four (4) year term)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Statutory

(Reg 374/10)</td><td>• Supervised Alternative Learning Committee (SAL).....</td><td>1 Board Member</td></tr>
<tr><td>Statutory</td><td>• Parent Involvement Committee.....</td><td>2 Board Members</td></tr>
</table>
</td><td>A. Student Trustee Senate

AND

B. Ad Hoc Negotiations Committee

AND

E. Housekeeping - b. Committees – i. Identifying Statutory and</td></tr>
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	(Reg. 674/20)			**Standing Committees**
	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.		
		• Student Trustee Senate.....	3 Student Trustees (one of	

	(s. 55 & Reg. 7/07)		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; (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.			**E. Housekeeping a. Equity and Inclusion Modifications**

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**

CARRIED

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

a) Correspondence re: Bill 185

Superintendent Veld provided a brief summary of the correspondence related to Bill 185 which aims to reduce barriers and remove costly burdens related to government services and municipal approvals for those that are building in Ontario.

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

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Kate Baggott

"That Trustee Kate Baggot hold the position of Voting Delegate for OPSBA's Annual General Meeting in July 2024."

"That Trustee Susan Jovanovic hold the position of Alternate Voting Delegate for OPSBA's Annual General Meeting in July 2024."
CARRIED

Trustees were asked to confirm DSBN representatives for Voting Delegate and Alternate Voting Delegate for the Ontario Public School Boards' Association Annual General Meeting in July 2024.

Moved by Kate Baggott
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That Trustee Kate Baggott will serve as Director on OPSBA's Board of Directors for 2024-2025."

"That Trustees Nancy Beamer or Susan Jovanovic serve as Alternate Director on OPSBA's Board of Directors for 2024-2025."
CARRIED

Trustees were asked to confirm DSBN representatives who will serve as Director and Alternate Director for the Ontario Public School Boards' Association Board of Directors for 2024-2025.

6. Future Meetings

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

The June Program and Planning meeting has been cancelled.

In response to a question, Superintendent St. John noted that DSBN Special Olympics will be held on June 11, 2024, with the opening ceremony beginning at 10 am.

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Deanne MacIntosh

"That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on May 28, 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 8:33 p.m.

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