MINUTES

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025

Private Session: 6:15 p.m. – 6:24 p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. – 8:18 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD

Kate Baggott, Sue Barnett (Chair), Nancy Beamer, Mike Brousseau, Helga Campbell, Lora Campbell (virtual), Jonathan Fast, Susan Jovanovic, Elizabeth Klassen (Vice Chair), Deanne MacIntosh (virtual)

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

Clayton Mishibinijima, Shannon Mitchell

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 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 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 Kate Baggott
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"That the Board return to Open meeting."
CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:24 p.m.

C. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

The Board stood as '*O Canada*' was performed by Governor Simcoe Secondary School choir via video.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

There was no reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Trustee Appointment

Moved by Susan Jovanovic
Seconded by Kate Baggott

"That Michael Brousseau, having provided the required proof of eligibility, be appointed by the Board to fill the current vacancy on the Board of Trustees, effective immediately, and serve for the remainder of the term ending November 14, 2026."
CARRIED

Director Pisek introduced Mike Brousseau who read the Declaration of Office.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"That the Agenda be adopted."

CARRIED

3. Approval of Board Minutes

Moved by Kate Baggott
Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated May 27, 2025, be confirmed as submitted."
CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. Ratification Of Business Conducted in Committee of The Whole (Private Session)

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

"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 Bryn Keyes for his extraordinary teaching career with the DSBN, building a legacy rooted in connection, inclusion, and a deep sense of belonging both in the gym and the classroom. He has made significant contributions to physical education and athletics, as co-founding of the DSBN Special Olympics. As he retires, Bryn is celebrated for his kindness, patience, and dedication, which have touched countless lives and created environments where every student feels seen and valued.

Director Pisek recognized student Amairah Gayle, an inspiring student-athlete who balances high-level competition with academic success, exemplifying focus, discipline, and drive. Her recent accomplishment of earning two gold medals at OFSAA is a testament to her hard work and dedication. Amairah's leadership, humility, and sportsmanship make her an extraordinary role model, inspiring those around her.

Director Pisek recognized student Autumn Wartman for her dedication, enthusiasm and growth that led her to remarkable success in winning the gold medal at the prestigious Skills Canada National Competition in Saskatchewan for her crepe-making. Autumn stood out among hundreds of

competitors, earning her the only gold medal brought back to the Niagara Region from this year's national competition adding to her impressive collection of medals, including two DSBN Gold medals, two Skills Ontario Gold medals and a Skills Canada National Bronze. Autumn is an inspiration for future technological education students.

b) Director's Highlights

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

- Pride Month in Action
- Honouring Indigenous Voices
- Car Show at Martha Cullimore
- 20 Years of DSBN's Special Olympics

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 Board recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Program and Planning Committee

Moved by Susan Jovanovic
Seconded by Kate Baggott

"That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated June 3, 2025, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Jovanovic shared that reports were presented on data from the Fall 2024 DSBN Student Census and an overview of DSBN's Education and Community Partnerships Programs (ECPP). The new 2025-2026 elementary Curriculum Support Services team structure and strategic priorities for supporting elementary schools were outlined and feedback on the new Kindergarten registration campaign was provided.

2. Report of the Audit Committee

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Kate Baggott

"That the report of the Audit Committee dated June 9, 2025, be received."

"That the Regional Internal Audit Status Report be received."

"That the 7-month Specified Procedures Report for the period ending March 31, 2025, be received."

"That KPMG LLP be appointed as DSBN external auditors for a one-year term commencing September 1, 2025."
CARRIED

Associate Director Veld reported that the committee was presented with the Internal Audit Status report, the proposed Audit Plan for 2025-2026, and the seven-month audit procedures report that is based on the Ministry of Education reporting period ending March 31, 2025. Committee members completed the evaluation of external auditors form as per Ontario Regulation 361/10, and KMPG will continue as the external auditors for 2026.

3. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

"That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated June 12, 2025, be received."
CARRIED

Vice Chair Klassen shared that the committee received information about the role of an Adaptive Learning Consultant, and the Special Education budget that will include increased Educational Assistant support, three specialized programs, increased Specialized School to Community classes, and a new Secondary Student Achievement Leader. A video was presented about a grade eight student from Diamond Trail and their positive contribution to the school culture.

4. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Kate Baggott

"That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated June 11, 2025, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Helga Campbell reported that 38 student cases were reviewed that were brought forward previously. Of the cases reviewed, 16 cases were renewed, and 22 cases were discounted. Of the 22

discontinued cases, five students are returning to school full time, four students graduated, eight students will be connected to Adult and Community Education, one student will participate in an Education and Community Partnership Program, and three were non-compliant.

5. Report of the Finance Committee

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

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

"That the Award of Contracts Summary Report for the period ending May 31, 2025, be received."

"That the Summary of Accounts paid for the month of April and May 2025, totaling $67,892,662 be received."

"That the 2024-25 Interim Financial Report for the period ending April 30, 2025, and the corresponding changes in revenues and expenditures, be received."

"That the 2025-26 Revenue and Expenditure Budget in the amount of $666,751,504 be approved and the estimate forms be submitted to the Ministry of Education."

"That the updated list of eligible schools for the Rural and Northern Education Allocation be approved."
CARRIED

Associate Director Veld reported that the committee was presented with the Award of Contracts Summary Report that included multi-year contracts for mobile devices and software licenses. The Summary of Accounts for April and May, and the third interim report for the 2024-2025 fiscal year with the updated financials were also provided. The proposed 2025-2026 budget was presented which highlighted an increase in enrolment from last year and is balanced without using any accumulated surplus. An updated list of eligible schools for rural and Northern education allocation was also presented to the committee.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

In response to a question regarding extreme heat, Director Pisek shared that schools have strategies in place and that communication is sent to families.

L. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. Staff Reports

There was no staff report.

2. Trustee Information Session

There was no trustee information session.

3. Correspondence And Communication

There was no correspondence or communication.

4. Student Trustee, Indigenous Student Trustee, Trustee Communications and School Liaison

Student Trustees shared that the "Pass It On" meeting took place where current student trustees and incoming student trustees discussed the importance of continuity and shared their experiences. Student Trustee Akharoh and Indigenous Student Trustee Mishibinijima were invited to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Annual General Meeting to participate on a panel to share their experience as student trustees and discuss the importance of student voice. Student Trustee Akharoh expressed her sincere gratitude to the Board and System Leadership Team for the opportunity to serve as a student trustee and for allowing her to find her voice to advocate for fellow students.

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

Trustee Baggott reported on the most recent OPSBA AGM meeting and shared that Chair Barnett, Trustee Beamer, and Trustee Helga Campbell attended. Chair Barnett added that DSBN System Leadership Team members along with herself, Student Trustee Akharoh and Indigenous Student Trustee Mishibinijima presented at the AGM on *Governing for Student Success* and highlighted the importance of student voice. It was noted that the information on how the Indigenous Student Trustee is selected is valuable and should continue to be part of the process. Chair Barnett noted that Trustee Beamer accepted membership on the OPSBA Educational Planning Group.

6. Ontario Student Trustees' Association Report

There was no report.

7. Future Meetings

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

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Mike Brousseau
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

"That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on June 23, 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 8:18 p.m.

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