BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024

Private Session: 6:22 p.m. – 6:45 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, Elizabeth Klassen (virtual) Deanne MacIntosh (virtual)

STUDENT TRUSTEES

Audrey Akharoh, Julianna Marcel

OFFICIALS

Kelly Pisek (Director of Education), Lora Courtois, Mary Anne Gage, Simon Hancox, Marian Reimer Friesen, Melanie Sendzik, Neil Sheard, Michael St. John, Darren Vanhooydonk, Stacy Veld (Associate Director of Education), Jennifer Feren, Milica Petkovic, Karen Bellamy

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer McGugan

REGRETS

Susan Jovanovic, Shannon Mitchell, Nodin Buck

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 6:45 p.m.

C. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

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

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Julianna Marcel shared a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Deanne MacIntosh

"That the Agenda be adopted."
CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Kate Baggott

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated May 28, 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 Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"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 – Georgie Groat, Student Achievement Leader, Indigenous Education

Director Pisek recognized Georgie for the extraordinary ways she has supported students, staff and communities. Her unwavering support and investment in her students have been above and beyond, regardless of the challenges. Also, her approachability, discretion and clarity have provided the opportunity for discussion and questions from colleagues to support their learning. Georgie has been vital in the development and execution of the DSBN's strategic priority Walking Together, creating new and impactful initiatives to support students and educators on their learning journeys. She also played a key role in developing and supporting the Indigenous Education Team through her ability to listen to the needs of the Indigenous Ed Team, students, and staff, and then use her voice in a supportive way, creating incredible growth. Director Pisek thanked Georgie for all her hard work and efforts in ensuring that the team, staff, and students in the DSBN are set up successfully with a foundation in place to continue the walking together journey and congratulated her 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:

- **Indigenous Focused Symposium at Niagara College**
- **2nd Annual Lacrosse Festival at Greater Fort Erie Secondary School Rooted in Indigenous Culture**
- **Indigenous Film Festival**
- **Closing Ceremonies of William E. Brown and Winger Public Schools**
- **Pride Month**
- **Graduation Celebrations**
- **DSBN Special Olympics**

2. Educational Showcases

a) Walking Together

Superintendent Reimer Friesen introduced the Indigenous Education Team who shared their experiences and learning from the Teacher Navigator Program. Student Achievement Leader,

Indigenous Education, Marianne Groat introduced a video showcasing the team's work with elementary and secondary teachers this past year. Student Achievement Leader, Indigenous Education Georgie Groat introduced the Indigenous student representatives who were part of the Indigenous Student Leadership group. Rayna Bristow from St. Catharines Collegiate and Dale McIntee from Governor Simcoe, the 2024-25 co-chairs of the group, and Clayton Mishibinijima incoming Indigenous Student Trustee all shared their experiences.

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 Audit Committee

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Kate Baggott

"That the report of the Audit Committee dated June 10, 2024, be received."

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

"That the 7-month Specified Procedures Report for the period ending March 31, 2024 be received".

"That KPMG LLP be appointed as DSBN external auditors for a one-year term commencing September 1, 2024."
CARRIED

Associate Director of Education, Corporate Services, Stacy Veld, shared the committee met a new member, Aung Oo. The seven-month audit procedures report was presented and is required by the Ministry of Education to validate the March 31 reporting requirements. No audit findings or issues were reported. KMPG was appointed as external auditors for the fiscal year starting September 1, 2024.

2. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Lora Campbell

"That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated June 12, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Helga Campbell shared that at the June SAL Committee sixty-three students were reviewed. Of the students reviewed, thirty-seven were renewed for September 2024. Twenty-six cases were discontinued and these students have transition plans in place.

3. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Deanne MacIntosh

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

Trustee Klassen reported that a student voice video from a grade 3 student in the communication class at Senator Gibson Public School began the meeting. Many successes have been observed by staff since the student joined the school community and they proudly celebrated the student being named a t-shirt design winner for the 2024 DSBN Special Olympics. The committee received a presentation on the DSBN Student Census 2024 and was asked to provide input on the questions related to disability. They were also consulted for feedback in the Special Education Review process. The committee learned that the DSBN Special Olympics event was a great success with over 1000 student athletes participating. The committee meeting format for 2024-25 was discussed with the first meeting scheduled for September in person at the DSBN Education Centre. The hybrid model for the meetings will continue to be the primary meeting format with a few in person meetings to be determined collectively. Professional development opportunities and summer learning information and program details were shared. The DSBN is partnering with Bethesda and the Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara to offer summer programming for students with special learning needs.

4. Report of the Finance Committee

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

"That the report of the Finance Committee dated June 19, 2024, be received."

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

"That the Summary of Accounts paid for the month of April and May 2024, totaling $67,898,539 be received."

"That the 2023-24 Interim Financial Report for the period ending April 30, 2024, and the corresponding changes in revenues and expenditures, be received."

"That the 2024-25 Revenue and Expenditure Budget in the amount of $631,962,665 be approved

and the estimate forms be submitted to the Ministry of Education."

"That the Deficit Elimination Plan for 2024-25 Budget be approved."
CARRIED

Associate Director of Education, Corporate Services, Stacy Veld, shared that the committee was presented with the quarterly reports for April and May 2024. A presentation of the Third Interim Report provided year-to-date financial information and enrolment projections for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Less of the accumulated surplus is needed due to an in-year surplus. The remainder of the meeting focused on the 2024-25 Budget which includes an increase of over sixty-one full-time staff, additional investments for facility operating needs for safe schools, student mental health and well-being and twelve full-time itinerant elementary reading intervention teachers. Local flexibility in special education funding resulted in three elementary communication classes, seven secondary sections and more educational assistants being added. The use of less than one percent of the accumulated surplus for next year will support data centre replacement, furniture and equipment, and the unfunded portable requirements to support our growing school populations.

5. Student Trustee Update

Student Trustee Akharoh shared that Jaclyn Saddler from A.N. Myer Secondary School and Clayton Mishibinijima from St. Catharines Collegiate Secondary School are the incoming Student Trustee and Indigenous Student Trustee, respectively. Student Trustee Marcel shared the learning and experiences she gained serving as a Student Trustee and thanked everyone for their support.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no questions.

L. NEW BUSINESS

1. Statutory and Standing Committee Responsibilities

Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

"That the Statutory and Standing Trustee Committee Responsibilities that follow in the table below be approved, effective September 1, 2024."

Statutory Committees

Committee	Meeting Date	Membership
Audit Committee	Meets on 2nd Mon of the month, minimum of 3 times per fiscal year (Sept, Nov, June) at 5:30 pm	Sue Barnett Alex Bradnam Jonathan Fast Lora Campbell (Alt)
Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)	Meets on the 2nd Thurs of each month at 5:30 pm	Elizabeth Klassen Shannon Mitchell

***Trustees serve a 4-year term**		Alex Bradnam (Alt) Helga Campbell (Alt)
Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Committee	Meets on minimum, once per month, usually on the 1st Wed of each month (except Sept) at 1:00 pm	Helga Campbell Lora Campbell (Alt)
Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)	Meets 6 times per school year on the 3rd Wed of the month at 5:30 pm - Sept, Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr, May	Susan Jovanovic Shannon Mitchell Deanne MacIntosh (Alt)

Standing and Ad Hoc Committees

Committee	Meeting Date	Membership
Policy Committee	Meets on the 2nd Wed of the month, 3 times per year (Nov, Feb, May), or as required, at 6:30 pm	Kate Baggott Sue Barnett Helga Campbell Lora Campbell Deanne MacIntosh Alex Bradnam (Alt)
Finance Committee	Meets on the 2nd Wed of each month at 5:30 pm, with additional meetings as required	Sue Barnett Alex Bradnam Helga Campbell Lora Campbell Jonathan Fast (Alt)
Program and Planning Committee (P&P)	Meets on the 1st Tues of each month (except Sept and Jan) at 5:30 pm	Nancy Beamer Alex Bradnam Jonathan Fast Susan Jovanovic Deanne MacIntosh Elizabeth Klassen (Alt)
Equity, Inclusions and Anti-Racism Trustee Advisory Committee (EIART)	Meets on the 1st Tues of each month, 3 times per year (Nov, Feb, May) at 6:00 pm	Kate Baggott Nancy Beamer Susan Jovanovic Elizabeth Klassen Shannon Mitchell Audrey Akharoh
Ad Hoc Code of Conduct Investigation Committee (COCI) ***Trustees serve a 4-year term**	Meets as required at the call of the Chair	Sue Barnett (Chair) Alex Bradnam (Vice) Nancy Beamer Helga Campbell
Ad Hoc Student Discipline Committee	Meets during the daytime on an as needed basis	Nancy Beamer Helga Campbell Lora Campbell Sue Barnett (Alt) Susan Jovanovic (Alt) Shannon Mitchell (Alt)
Ad Hoc Director Performance Appraisal Committee (DPAC)	Meeting requirements as set out in O. Reg. 83/24	Kate Baggott Sue Barnett

		Nancy Beamer Alex Bradnam Susan Jovanovic
Student Trustee Senate	Meets on the 3rd Tues usually in Sept, Nov, Dec, Apr, and May at 4:00 pm – day determined by the Senate	Audrey Akharoh Jacklyn Saddler Clayton Mishibinijima

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

There was no correspondence or communication.

4. Trustee Communications And School Liaison

There were no trustee communications.

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

Trustee Baggott shared that there is an OPSBA Board of Directors Meeting on July 2. She noted that an update will be shared at the September board meeting.

6. OSTA AECO

The elections for the OSTA AECO Leadership Team will be taking place in early July. Student Truste Akharoh is a candidate and has submitted a video with voting being online.

7. Future Meetings

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

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Kate Baggott
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on June 25, 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