MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

Private Session: 6:17 p.m. – 7:09 p.m. | Public Session: 7:16 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD

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

STUDENT TRUSTEES

Audrey Akharoh, Jaclyn Saddler

INDIGENOUS STUDENT TRUSTEE

Clayton Mishibinijima

OFFICIALS

Kelly Pisek (Director of Education), Stacy Veld (Associate Director) Simon Hancox, Mary Anne Gage, Ann Gilmore, Marian Reimer Friesen, Melanie Sendzik, Neil Sheard, Leanne Smith, Michael St. John, Darren VanHooydonk, Jennifer Feren, Milica Petkovic, Karen Bellamy, Jennifer Reid

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer McGugan

REGRETS

Lora Campbell

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Nate Burns, Andrew Latham

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 7:16 p.m., noted that Trustee Lora Campbell was absent and welcomed new Student Trustee, Jacklyn Saddler and Clayton Mishibinijima, new Indigenous Student Trustee.

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 Deanne MacIntosh
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

"That the Board return to Open meeting."
CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 7:16 p.m.

C. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

The Board stood as '*O Canada*' was performed by Laura Secord Secondary School students, via video.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Nancy Beamer shared a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Deanne MacIntosh
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

"That the Agenda be adopted."
CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated June 25, 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 Alex Bradnam
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 – Linda Morrice, Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

Director Pisek recognized Linda Morrice, Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee, for her commitment to supporting the mental health of DSBN students and children within the wider community. Over the past 16 years, Linda, a highly respected community partner known for her dedication to Niagara's children and families has held multiple positions with Pathstone Mental Health and is considered a foundational pillar.

Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions – Katherine Ditto and David Khan, Learning Resource Teachers, Richmond Street Public School

Director Pisek recognized Katherine Ditto and David Khan, two exemplary Learning Resource Teachers at Richmond Street Public School, for going above and beyond in their work. Kathy is known for her boundless energy and positive attitude, consistently advocating for students and working hard to ensure students are put first and their needs are met in the classroom and beyond. Families have expressed their gratitude for her direction, active listening skills and strategizing along with her warm and welcoming manner. Among Dave's many strengths are his creativity, emotional intelligence, adaptability, patience and teamwork and he is known for being a true team player. Families shared how helpful, compassionate and positive Dave is noting his ability to see beyond a label of diagnosis, tailor support to each student and build trusting relationships.

b) Director's Report

Director Pisek provided recent highlights from across the system which included information about:

- **Marshville Public School Opening**
- **Central French Immersion Public School New Environment**
- **Inspiring Young Readers**
- **International Education and DSBN Welcome Centre**

- **Grade 9 Welcome Events**

c) Educational Showcases

There were no educational showcases.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

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 Susan Jovanovic

"That the report of the Audit Committee dated September 9, 2024, be received."
"That the Regional Internal Audit Status Report be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Fast reported on the meeting, which included the resignation of outside committee member, Yussuf Essop. As a result, staff will post and conduct interviews for a new committee member to be in place for June. In addition, the Regional Internal Audit Manager, Andrea Etherington, presented the audit team's training plan that was completed over the past year.

2. Report of the Finance Committee

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

"That the report of the Finance Committee dated September 11, 2024, be received."

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

"That the Summary of Accounts paid for the month of June, July and August 2024, totaling $132,813,114 be received."

"That the Annual Report on DSBN Investments, as of August 31, 2024, be received."

"That the Borrowing Resolution 2024-05 authorizing the Board to borrow up to $22,573,601 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 2024-06 authorizing the Board to borrow up to $12,738,136 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 Capital Priorities Program 2024-25 report be approved."
CARRIED

Superintendent Veld shared that the committee received presentations on the quarterly reports for Awards of Contracts and Summary of Accounts which covered activity up to August 31st, 2024, and the annual report on short term investments for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. In addition, capital borrowing resolutions for past capital priorities and the 2024-2025 Capital priority plan were presented to the committee which included the request to the Ministry of Education for funding and approval for four new elementary schools identified in future growth areas.

3. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

"That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated September 12, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Klassen shared that the committee met in person for the first time since before Covid. The meeting began with the founders of DSBN Special Olympics, Andy Dermatas and Bryn Keyes, who spoke about its origins and they shared a video from the DSBN Special Olympics last spring.

Trustee Shannon Mitchell added that superintendent Simon Hancox was introduced and that the committee heard from the Special Education Leadership Team who described their new roles, responsibility and vision of sharing through authentic collaboration, transparent communication and innovative processes. The committee was asked to provide feedback about SEAC that will be reviewed at the next committee meeting.

4. Report of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee

Moved by Nancy Beamer
Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

"That the report of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee dated September 16, 2024, be received."

"That the draft District School Board of Niagara Trustee Code of Conduct – 2022-2026 (Amended August 2024 per Regulation 312/24) as presented be approved and become effective forthwith."
CARRIED

Trustee Beamer shared that the only order of business was to review the Ministry-compliant amendments to the DSBN Trustee Code of Conduct.

5. **Report of the Parent Involvement Committee**
Moved by Susan Jovanovic
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated September 18, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell Shannon shared that the committee acclaimed co-chairs Amber Hughes and Melissa Lofquist for the 2024-2025 school year and received updates about PPM 128 and the DSBN student census. The committee discussed a process for setting goals and recruitment for the annual PIC conference scheduled for November 6, 2024, and Chair Hughes engaged the committee in planning.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

In response to a question, Director Pisek noted that any future transportation updates will be brought to the Program and Planning Committee or Finance Committee.

L. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Request to Begin School Naming Process**

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"That the Board initiate the formation of an Ad Hoc Naming Committee and begin the process for naming the new Niagara Falls Elementary School as referenced in Policy A-09: Naming/Renaming of Schools."
CARRIED

Superintendent VanHooydonk shared an update on the status of the new Niagara Falls Elementary School and the readiness to begin the school naming process.

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. STAFF REPORTS

There were no staff reports.

2. TRUSTEE INFORMATION SESSION

Trustees received a presentation on the Special Education and Mental Health & Well-Being Teams.

3. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

There was no correspondence received.

4. TRUSTEE COMMUNICATIONS AND SCHOOL LIAISON

The Student Trustees and Indigenous Student Trustee provided an update on the work and initiatives of Student Senate.

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

Trustee Baggott shared that the first OPSBA meeting is this weekend and that Trustee Beamer will be attending.

6. Ontario Student Trustees' Association Report

Student Trustee Saddler shared that the focus of the OSTA-AECO group is on developing the OSTA-AECO Vision document, a project aimed at providing recommendations for the Ontario Ministry of Education to help education best meet the evolving needs of students across Ontario. Student Trustee Akharoh announced her new position as the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advocacy Interest Group Chair on the Ontario Student Trustees' Association and shared that the Fall General Meeting Conference will be held in Toronto from November 7 to 10.

7. Future Meetings

The calendar of October 2024 meetings was provided.
The October 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 September 24, 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 8:30 p.m.

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