BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

Private Session: 6:15 p.m. – 6:55 p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. – 7:46 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD

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

STUDENT TRUSTEES

Julianna Marcel, Audrey Akharoh, Nodin Buck

OFFICIALS

Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), Lora Courtois, Simon Hancox, Ann Gilmore, Kelly Pisek, Marian Reimer Friesen, Leanne Smith, Michael St. John, Darren VanHooydonk, Stacy Veld, Jennifer Feren, Milica Petkovic, Karen Bellamy, Cheryl Morgan

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer McGugan

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Nate Burns, Wendy Coit and Eleanor Novak

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 7:00 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 Deanne MacIntosh
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

"That the Board return to Open meeting."
CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:55 p.m.

C. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

The Board stood as '*O Canada*' was performed by Applewood Public School students, via video.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Lora Campbell 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 Nancy Beamer
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated June 20, 2023, 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 Susan Jovanovic

"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 – Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) Team

Director Hoshizaki recognized SWIS workers, Rohaina Saqib, Liudmyla Gryshyna, Rafael Argueta, Eduardo Avila, Nouha Asswad, Alicia Lee, Amal Abou-Kalam, Seunghee Ko, Farkhanda Khan, Meena Rattan, Nada Ibrahim, Pablo Rodriguez, for their work in assisting students and their families adjust in a new school system and community. Employed by the YMCA, this important team has welcomed hundreds of new students over the past months in Niagara Falls by helping navigate transportation from hotels to schools, distributing backpacks, assisting families with questions about school and liaising for school staff to help families in many ways. Their support in assisting families with the Online Registration process in collaboration with the DSBN Welcome Centre, including Registration Open Houses over the summer, has been invaluable. In addition to the SWIS workers, the support of newcomers could not have been a success without Minister Wally Hong and the Drummond Hill Church who have graciously offered the use of the church hall to be a gathering space for newcomers to get support and help.

b) Director's Report

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

- **Celebration of Nations**
- **Living Campus Updates**

- **Young Citizen Program Winner**
- **McKay Public School's South Campus**

c) Educational Showcases

a. Valley Way Public School Civic Engagement Initiative

Superintendent Vanhooydonk introduced staff and students from Valley Way Public School who shared their story of how a group of students had a concern with their community park and worked with their teacher to make a change. An incredible example of students being civically engaged.

b. Redefining Excellence, DSBN 2023-2028 Strategic Plan

Superintendent Vanhooydonk and Milica Petkovic, Acting Senior Manager of Communications and Public Relations, shared an update on the new Strategic Plan 2023-2028 for the District School Board of Niagara, "Redefining Excellence". The new mission, vision and 5 strategic priorities have been officially launched this September and are being shared with staff, school councils and the wider community. They introduced a video that has been shared on the DSBN website and with staff, students and School Councils.

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 Parent Involvement Committee

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Deanne MacIntosh

"That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated September 6, 2023, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee MacIntosh shared that the committee received updates on the DSBN's new Strategic Plan, the increased supports for students including additional Learning Resource Intervention Teachers in

elementary schools and De-streaming Coaches in secondary schools. The committee heard about the many projects, renovations, improvements, and new builds that the DSBN has been working on over the summer. The committee is hosting the PIC conference, which after a 3-year pause, is scheduled for November 1st at Eden High School. This event will feature over 30 presentation topics to choose from, a vendor showcase, food and childcare will be available.

2. Report of the Audit Committee

Moved by Jonathan Fast

Seconded by Kate Baggott

"That the report of the Audit Committee dated September 11, 2023, be received."

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

CARRIED

Superintendent Veld provided highlights from the meeting, which included the election of the 2023-24 Chair Yusuf Essop, a request for the completion of the committee member Declaration of Conflict of Interest and an annual self-assessment supported by Ontario Regulation 361/10, as well as a presentation from the Regional Internal Audit Team.

3. Report of the Program and Planning Committee

Moved by Shannon Mitchell

Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

"That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated September 12, 2023, be received."

CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell shared highlights on updates presented to the committee on summer learning, new expectations in the Social Studies curriculum, and remote learning. The committee learned that approximately 4800 DSBN students engaged in summer programming and that 44 elementary and 33 secondary remote learners are currently enrolled.

4. 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 14, 2023, be received."

CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell provided a summary of the meeting, which began with a student voice video of two summer school students who shared details about their experience participating in physical activities, robotics, and coding. Linda Morrice and Stephanie Sendzik-Sinclair were acclaimed into the SEAC Chair and Vice Chair positions again for the upcoming year. The committee received an orientation presentation on the Special Education Advisory Committee and updates on the Special Education Plan for 2023-24, and upcoming staff professional development. As a follow-up to a SEAC delegation in June, Ministry correspondence was shared that indicated that a student with ADD/ADHD may present learning needs in many ways in the school setting and, consistent with current practice in the DSBN and across the province, a student with ADD/ADHD may be identified as exceptional within one of the existing Ministry categories of exceptionality.

In response to a question, Superintendent St. John explained the process for supporting any student with ADD/ADHD experiencing learning challenges through the development of an IEP.

5. Report of the Student Trustee Senate

Moved by Julianna Marcel
Seconded by Audrey Akharoh and Nodin Buck

"That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated September 19, 2023, be received."
CARRIED

Student Trustee Akharoh shared that many students have experienced successful transitions into the school year and that the three Student Trustees are looking forward to working together this year. Student Trustee Buck shared the process for reviewing student senator applications for this year and reported on the first meeting where the Student Trustees explained to the Student Trustee Senate what Indigenous and Student Trustees are and what they do, and senators participated in a fun 'Ice Breaker'. Student Trustee Marcel reported that the 29 student senators from across the DSBN were eagerly sharing ideas, collaborating on solutions, and genuinely listening to one another.

6. Report of the Finance Committee

Moved by Nancy Beamer
Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

"That the report of the Finance Committee dated September 20, 2023, be received."
"That the Award of Contracts Summary Report for the period ended August 31, 2023, be received."
"That the Summary of Accounts paid for the month of June, July and August 2023, totaling $98,534,531, be received."
"That the Annual Report on DSBN Investments, as at August 31, 2023, be received."
"That Borrowing Resolution 2023-01 authorizing the Board to borrow up to $23,377,507 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 2023-02 authorizing the Board to borrow up to $309,455 for the short-term financing of Ministry funded capital projects, pursuant to the provisions of section 243(1) of the Education Act, be approved."

CARRIED

Superintendent Veld shared that the committee received presentations on the Award of Contracts Summary with respect to contracts awarded between June 2023 – August 2023, the Summary of Accounts report that summarizes the cash outflow of expenditures paid during the months of June to August 2023, and the Annual Report on DSBN investments. Also presented was the Short-Term Financing of Ministry Funded Capital Projects that include School Condition Improvement Funds and Child Care Capital Project funding.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

In response to a question, Director Hoshizaki noted that all school community communication is overseen by the school principal and further questions about school council communication may be addressed through the Parent Involvement Committee.

L. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. STAFF REPORTS

There were no staff reports.

2. TRUSTEE INFORMATION SESSION

Trustees received a presentation on Elementary Superintendent Priorities for the 2023-2024 school year.

3. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

There was no correspondence received.

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

Trustee Baggott noted the upcoming OPSBA meeting is this coming weekend.

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of October 2023 meetings was provided.
The October Days of Significance calendar was provided.

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on September 26, 2023, 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 8:10 p.m.

_____	_____
SUE BARNETT	**WARREN HOSHIZAKI**
Chair	Director of Education and Secretary