MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024

Private Session: 6:15 p.m. – 6:18 p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. – 8:12 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, Lora Campbell

STUDENT TRUSTEES

Audrey Akharoh

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, Michael St. John, Darren VanHooydonk, Jennifer Feren, Milica Petkovic, Karen Bellamy

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer Reid

REGRETS

Jacklyn Saddler

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 7:01 p.m. and noted that Student Trustee Saddler sent regrets.

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Helga Campbell

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

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"That the Board return to Open meeting."
CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 7:01 p.m.

C. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

The Board stood as '*O Canada*' was performed by Heximer Public School Kindergarten Class via video.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Helga Campbell shared a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

"That the Agenda be adopted."
CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated September 24, 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 Deanna MacIntosh
Seconded by Lora 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

Director Pisek recognized four DSBN Staff whose dedication to equity, inclusion and anti-racism work fosters a culture of belonging throughout our school communities. Together, they help ensure learners from all social realities and lived experiences are valued and have what they need to learn, grow and thrive.

- **Essra Abdelsamed, Multi-Language Resource Coach, Curriculum Support Services**
- **Karen Chcoski, Guidance Program Leader, Eden High School**
- **Paul Ferrara, Teacher, Pine Grove Public School**
- **Shanta Tayab-Bashar, Teacher, Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School**

b) Director's Highlights

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

- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Mini Math Conference at West Niagara Secondary School
- Peruvian Education Leaders Visit DSBN
- First DSBN IDEAS Meeting

c) Educational Showcases

There were no educational showcases.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

There were no student achievement reports.

H. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

I. BOARD RECESS

Board recessed at 7:30 p.m. and returned at 7:35 p.m.

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Program and Planning Committee

Moved by Susan Jovanovic
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated October 1, 2024, be received."

"That the School Boundary Change for Thorold East development report be received and approved; and that the new boundary for the Thorold East development and Ontario PS as shown on Appendix B be approved."

"That the New Single Track French Immersion Program report be received and approved; and that the boundary changes as shown on Appendix B to establish a new single track French Immersion school be approved."
CARRIED

Trustee Jovanovic shared that reports were presented on Mental Health and Well-Being supports for the system and in priority schools, the 2023-2024 EQAO and OSSLT results, a proposal of a boundary change for a new elementary school in Thorold, a boundary change for a single-track French Immersion Program in Welland and information regarding the Student Census Survey.

In response to a question, Superintendent Gilmore explained that the Mental Health and Well-Being supports in schools include modules taught as a unit of study.

2. 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 October 2, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Helga Campbell reported that two cases were presented and approved for SAL. The Committee reviewed thirty-seven SAL plans from the 2023-2024 school year. Twenty-eight of these students were active and compliant and therefore renewed for the 2024-2025 school year. Nine students were discontinued with seven of these students successfully returning to full-time learning. Two students will be referred to their home school for re-engagement.

3. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated October 10, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Klassen reported that feedback was shared from an activity committee members participated in September and as a result the Special Education Team and other DSBN staff will be invited to present at future meetings to clarify their roles and answer questions and participating community agencies will be given the opportunity to present at SEAC throughout the year.

Trustee Mitchell shared that the committee was introduced to one of the Elementary Intensive Support Schools Teams who outlined their roles and explained that the revised process of reviewing the DSBN Special Education Plan will take place at the November meeting as suggested by the committee. A video celebrating a seventh-grade student who is flourishing at Oakwood Public School was presented.

4. Report of the Parent Involvement Committee

Moved by Susan Jovanovic
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated October 16, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Jovanovic shared that the committee received a presentation about parent involvement and parent engagement from CSS, updates were shared about the use of social media and the recent PD Day. Co-Chairs Hughes and Lofquist engaged the committee in planning for the annual PIC conference scheduled for November 6th.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

In response to a question, General Counsel Jennifer Feren, explained that there is a process for decommissioning of schools that involves Legal Services/Records management.

In response to a question regarding field trips, Director Pisek noted that a report on Out of School Programs/Events will be presented at the Program and Planning Committee meeting on November 5th and explained that if any necessary revisions are required to the policy, it will be done through the Policy Committee.

L. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. STAFF REPORTS

a) DSBN Staffing 2024-2025

Moved by Nancy Beamer
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"That the DSBN Staffing 2024-2025 report dated October 22, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Superintendent St. John reported that DSBN increased the complement of teachers and educational services staff to accommodate student enrolment for the 2024-2025 school year and stated that recruitment efforts for occasional and supply staff will continue to maintain strong staffing levels for this current school year.

2. TRUSTEE INFORMATION SESSION

Trustees received a presentation on Media Mentorship: Working together to promote the DSBN.

3. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

There was no correspondence received.

4. TRUSTEE COMMUNICATIONS AND SCHOOL LIAISON

Updates and information were shared on a variety of school and community events, meetings and celebrations.

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

Trustee Beamer provided an update on the recent OPSBA meeting.

6. Ontario Student Trustees' Association Report

Student Trustee Akharoh provided an update on the recent OSTA-AECO meeting.

7. Future Meetings

a) The calendar of November 2024 meetings was provided.
b) The November Days of Significance calendar was provided.

Director Pisek noted that on November 19, there will be three meetings: The Organization meeting, Committee of the Whole and Public Session. More information will be emailed.

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Lora Campbell

"That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on October 22, 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 8:12 p.m.

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