BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2023

Private Session: 6:20 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. – 8:03 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD

Kate Baggott, Alex Bradnam (Vice Chair), Sue Barnett (Chair), Nancy Beamer, Helga Campbell (virtual), 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, Ann Gilmore, Kelly Pisek, Marian Reimer Friesen, Neil Sheard, Michael St. John, Stacy Veld, Jennifer Feren, Maryam Safdar Ali, 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 Deanne MacIntosh

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

Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

"That the Board return to Open meeting."
CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:30 p.m.

C. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

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

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Vice Chair Bradnam shared a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Kate Baggott

"That the Agenda be adopted."
CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated September 26, 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 Susan Jovanovic
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

"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 – Patty Moss, Volunteer, DeWitt Carter Public School

Director Hoshizaki recognized Patty Moss, who has volunteered for DeWitt Carter Public School since her children attended more than 10 years ago. Patty leads the breakfast club and regularly connects with students and others in the community. Patty planted a pollinator garden and takes impeccable care of it with help from students. Without hesitation, Patty took over the Grass Be Gone Project when the classroom teacher, Stephanie Minor was away from her class. She spent time educating the grade 7 and 8 students, putting the grant together for the city, calling city counselors, meeting with community members, and working on the web page for the Grass Be Gone Project. Patti knows the importance of belonging and Dewitt Carter is fortunate to have her on their team.

Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions – Melissa Bigford-Lofquist, Parent Representative for Port Colborne Elementary Schools on the Parent Involvement Committee, DeWitt Carter Public School

Director Hoshizaki recognized Melissa Bigford-Lofquist who started volunteering when her child began kindergarten six years ago. She immediately joined the school council and is now the school council chair. Melissa always goes above and beyond to support students. Her dedication and passion for the school council have resulted in community events such as community dances and the school Fun Fair. She is always looking for ways to be inclusive and welcoming to all families and ensure that students feel a sense of belonging and pride in their school. Melissa is also an active member of the DSBN Parent Involvement Committee providing support on system-wide initiatives and bringing questions and feedback from her community to the committee. Finally, she led the Port Colborne High School 100th anniversary celebration. Her leadership and tenacity quickly brought together alumni from across many different decades and helped to generate excitement across the City of Port Colborne and around the globe to its many loyal Blue Bear alumni.

b) Director's Report

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

- **DSBN Educator Honoured for Teaching Excellence**
- **Welland Centennial Secondary School at the Performing Arts Centre (PAC)**
- **Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund Calendar**
- **After School Elementary PD Excitement**

c) Educational Showcases

There were no educational showcases.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

1. **2022-23 EQAO and OSSLT Results**

Moved by Deanne MacIntosh
Seconded by Lora Campbell

"That the 2022-23 EQAO and OSSLT Results report dated October 24, 2023, be received."

CARRIED

Superintendents Reimer Friesen and Gilmore shared highlights of the DSBN 2022-23 EQAO and OSSLT Results. EQAO results in elementary were positive, with DSBN improving upon already solid achievement in 2021/2022 while also scoring above the province in Reading, Writing and Math in both grades 3 & 6. Students with Special Education Needs also achieved beyond provincial averages and DSBN's results in the Grade 10 OSSLT overall have increased. These successes affirm the impact of work centered around meeting the individual needs of students. Grade 9 Math results are slightly below the province and staff have taken steps to understand the results and are currently implementing strategies to improve.

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 Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

"That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated October 3, 2023, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell shared highlights on updates presented to the committee on the Welcome Centre, the Walking Together: Teacher Navigator Program, and the key changes to the Ministry of Education's New 2023 Elementary Language Curriculum.

2. Report of the Parent Involvement Committee

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Deanne MacIntosh

"That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated October 4, 2023, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee MacIntosh shared that the committee received a presentation from CSS on an overview of the new Language Curriculum and the DSBN Math Action Plan, as well as updates about the PIC webpage and upcoming Mental Health and Well-Being Parent Workshops. The committee is looking forward to the 16th annual PIC Conference on November 1st at Eden High School from 4:30 to 8:30 pm. Over 400 parents are registered for over 35 workshops hosted by both Board staff and our community partners, with childcare being provided for over 150 children.

3. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

"That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated October 4, 2023, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell reported that at the October SAL Committee meeting, seven cases were brought forward for consideration, and all were approved for SAL. The Committee reviewed the progress of twenty-eight current SAL plans. Sixteen students are active and compliant with their plans. Twelve cases are being discontinued because the students have returned to in-person learning.

4. Report of the Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Trustee Advisory Committee

Moved by Kate Baggott
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the report of the Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Trustee Advisory Committee dated October 11, 2023, be received."

CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell shared that the committee was provided with a verbal update from the Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Community Advisory Committee. The committee discussed membership considerations for the Community committee and learned that the DSBN Equity Action Plan aligns with the DSBN Strategic Plan. Staff professional development opportunities were highlighted which included two new offerings for administrators, a pilot of an Administrator Equity Network and resources related to Building Belonging. It was shared that the DSBN Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Alliance of Students (IDEAS) had their first meeting where the poster that the group worked on displaying what all students need to create a safe space was revealed.

5. 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 12, 2023, be received."

CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell shared that the meeting began with a student voice video from a grade 7 Ferndale Public School student who shared his love for cooking and that his computer, Google Read and Write, the Learning Resource room, and his friends and teachers support his learning. It was reported that Curriculum and Special Education teams have been working together on the development of resources to support the new language curriculum. The central special education staff continues to promote the In-School Team and offer professional development. The committee learned that the new social worker delivery model that allows for differentiation in support and increased capacity to provide clinical interventions to students and families has been positively received. Committee members were invited to participate in the educational showcase at the upcoming PIC conference on November 1st.

6. Report of the Finance Committee

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

"That the report of the Finance Committee dated October 23, 2023, be received."

"That the DSBN Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2023-2028 be received."

"That the Capital Priorities Program 2023-24 be approved."

CARRIED

Superintendent Veld shared that the committee received a presentation on the DSBN Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2023-2028. The Capital Priorities Program 2023-24 was presented, and the committee

learned that updated projections informed the annual Capital Priority Submission Program. Also, future capital requirements to meet the municipal growth plans have been submitted to the Ministry.

In response to a question, Superintendent Veld noted that the Ministry has not committed a firm timeline to support the requests to address growth.

7. Report of the Student Trustee Senate

Student Trustee Buck shared highlights about the Student Trustee Retreat. Student Trustee Marcel gave details about the links between the Bridge to Excellence Activity at the retreat and its connection to DSBN's Strategic Plan Redefining Excellence. She noted the opportunities for senators to connect through different activities. Student Trustee Akharoh shared highlights from the OSTA -AECO Fall general meeting that hosts student trustees from all over Ontario.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no questions.

L. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. STAFF REPORTS

a) Request to Begin School Naming Process

Moved by Deanne MacIntosh
Seconded by Lora Campbell

"That the Board initiate the formation of an Ad Hoc Naming Committee and begin the process for naming the new Wainfleet Elementary School, as per policy A-09: Naming/Renaming of Schools."
CARRIED

Superintendent Pisek shared an update on the status of the new Wainfleet School and the readiness to begin the school naming process.

In response to a question, the joining of the DSBN and the Niagara Catholic District School Board will result in two separate school names.

2. TRUSTEE INFORMATION SESSION

Trustees received a presentation on 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 shared that she forwarded a proposed policy that OPSBA is seeking input on.

6. Future Meetings

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

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Nancy Beamer
Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

"That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on October 24, 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 8:03 p.m.

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SUE BARNETT
Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI
Director of Education and Secretary