MINUTES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024

Private Session: 6:34 p.m. – 6:42 p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD

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

STUDENT TRUSTEES

Audrey Akharoh, Jacklyn 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, Darren VanHooydonk, Jennifer Feren, Milica Petkovic, Karen Bellamy

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer Reid

REGRETS

Nancy Beamer

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 and welcomed guests.

2. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTING OF MEMBERS ABSENT

Chair Barnett called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 7:00 p.m. and noted that Trustee Beamer sent her regrets, and that Superintendent St. John was also absent.

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 Helga Campbell

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

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Deanne MacIntosh

"That the Board return to Open meeting."
CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:42 p.m.

C. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

The Board stood as '*O Canada*' was performed by Jacob Beam Public School via video.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Jonathan Fast 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 Kate Baggott
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated October 22, 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 Jonathan Fast

"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 three DSBN staff members for their contributions to the arts within the DSBN and shared the importance of the arts, which include enhancing academic performance, social skills, and emotional well-being for students, as well as inspiring confidence and fostering creativity. In addition, she noted that the three staff members were nominated for the St. Catharines Arts in Education Award and congratulated Brenna McAllister for winning the award.

- **Steven Azzopardi, Teacher, Eden High School**
- **Brenna McAllister, Teacher, St. Catharines Collegiate SS**
- **Vanessa Parson-Robbs, Visual Communications Designer, Education Centre**

b) Director's Highlights

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

- Treaties Recognition Week
- Prince of Wales Thorold 100th Anniversary
- Welland Centennial Performance at the PAC
- Annual Parent Involvement Committee Conference
- Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week

The board recessed for 5 min.

2. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASE

There were no educational showcases.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

There were no student achievement reports.

H. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

I. BOARD RECESS

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Program and Planning Committee

Moved by Susan Jovanovic
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated November 5, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Jovanovic shared the following highlights from the November 5th meeting which included the presentation of a plan to re-image the Indigenous Education Council (IEC) structure, guidelines for out-of-school programs and events was shared, information on the DSBN Math Achievement Action Plan (MAAP) and Early Reading Screening was shared.

2. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

"That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated November 6, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Helga Campbell reported that eight cases were presented and approved for SAL, thirty (30) student cases that had been brought forward previously were reviewed. Of the cases reviewed, three (3) cases were discontinued, two (2) cases were due to non-compliance and one (1) case the student is accessing support through a community partnership learning program.

3. Report of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee

Moved by Kate Baggott
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the report of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee dated November 11, 2024, be received."

"That the mandate of the Governance Committee be expanded to include consideration of the elimination of the Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Trustee Advisory Committee and an amendment to By-Law G-10 – Order of Business."

"That General Counsel be directed, in accordance with the Board By-Law and Rules of Order, Section Q-2, to deliver Notice of Recommended Motion at the Board Meeting to be held on November 19, 2024, for the consideration of this Committee's recommended amendments to the Board By-Laws and Rules of Order."

CARRIED

General Counsel Jennifer Feren reported that the committee considered changes to the Board By-Laws related to scrutineers and the process of committee membership selection and shared that a report will be brought forward to the next meeting. Two additional changes to the By-Laws and Rules of order were discussed and supported which included the elimination of the Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Trustee Advisory Committee as a stand-alone committee; the reports of the DSBN Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Team will be submitted to the Program and Planning Committee starting in the new year and the title change within the Order of Business to include the Student Trustees and Indigenous Student Trustee. The Notice of Motion for these two recommendations are included in this agenda and the vote on the motion will be held during the December Board meeting.

4. Report of the Finance Committee

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"That the report of the Finance Committee dated November 13, 2024, be received."

"That the Summary of Accounts paid for the month of September and October 2024, totaling $64,580,654 be received."

"That the 2023-24 Year End Financial Report be received."

"That the Education Development Charges Report be received."

CARRIED

Associate Director Veld shared that the quarterly Summary of Accounts representing spending for September and October as well as the 2023–2024 year end financial report was presented to the committee. In addition, the committee was presented with an explanation of Education Development Charges (EDC), the impact on school boards financial statements and next steps for the upcoming year by Jack Ammendolia from Watson and Associates Economists Ltd., the organization retained to assist the DSBN through the EDC process.

5. Report of the Audit Committee

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Kate Baggott

"That the report of the Audit Committee dated November 18, 2024, be received and the recommendations adopted."

"That the 2023-24 Annual Report of the Audit Committee be approved for submission to the Ministry of Education"

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

Associate Director Veld reported that the annual report to the Ministry of the committee's activities from the past fiscal year was approved and that the updated mandate was presented and an update on the staffing of the regional internal audit team was provided.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no questions asked of and by board members.

L. NEW BUSINESS

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

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Kate Baggott

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

Superintendent Hancox presented the board with a request to initiate the naming process for a new single track French immersion school in Welland that is scheduled to open in September 2025.

2. **Notice of Recommended Motion**

"Take Notice that in accordance with the Board By-laws and Rules of Order section Q-2;

(i) the recommendations from the Ad Hoc Governance Committee that follow in the table below shall come forward for consideration at the Board meeting scheduled for December 3, 2024;

(ii) such amendment to By-Law G-10 – Order of Business to take effect upon the passing of the recommendations contained therein;

(iii) Such amendment to By-Law L-6 take effect at the commencement of the 2025-26 school term."

<table>
<tr><th></th><th></th><th>Effective Date</th></tr>
<tr><td>G-10</td><td>The order of business for regular meetings of the Board shall be:
M. Information and Proposals
4. Trustee, Student Trustee and Indigenous Student Trustee Communications and School Liaison</td><td>Upon the passing of the recommendation (December 3, 2024 Board Meeting)</td></tr>
<tr><td>L-6</td><td>There shall be the following committees of the Board with each Board member required to sit on two (2) Standing or Statutory Committees.
<table>
<tr><td>Statutory (s. 253.1 & Reg. 361/10)</td><td>• Audit Committee.....</td><td>3 Board Members</td></tr>
<tr><td>Statutory
(s. 57.1 & Reg. 464/97)</td><td>• Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).....</td><td>2 Board Members plus 2 appointed Board Member Alternates (this is a legislated four (4) year term)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Statutory
(Reg 374/10)</td><td>• Supervised Alternative Learning Committee (SAL).....</td><td>1 Board Member</td></tr>
<tr><td>Statutory
(Reg. 674/20)</td><td>• Parent Involvement Committee.....</td><td>2 Board Members</td></tr>
<tr><td>Standing</td><td>• Policy Advisory Committee.....</td><td>5 Board Members</td></tr>
<tr><td>Standing</td><td>• Program and Planning Committee.....</td><td>5 Board Members</td></tr>
<tr><td>Standing</td><td>• Finance Committee.....</td><td>4 Board Members</td></tr>
</table></td><td>Commencement of 2025-26 school year</td></tr>
</table>

~~Standing~~	~~• Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Trustee Advisory Committee……~~	~~5 Board Members~~
Ad Hoc	• Ad Hoc Code of Conduct Investigation Committee….	4 Board Members (Chair, Vice-Chair plus 3 appointed Board Member Alternates) - this is a four (4) year term
Ad Hoc	• Ad Hoc Student Discipline Committee……	3 Board Members (legislated minimum)
Ad Hoc	• Ad Hoc Properties Disposal Committee……	3 Board Members (Chair of Program and Planning Committee, Chair of Finance Committee, and Chair of the Board, or designate)
	Other Ad Hoc Committees will be established as required.	
(s. 55 & Reg. 7/07)	• Student Trustee Senate……	3 Student Trustees (one of which shall be an Indigenous

				Student Trustee)		

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. STAFF REPORTS

a) Naming of the New Elementary Public School in Niagara Falls Report

Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the new elementary public school in Niagara Falls, opening in September 2025 be named Thundering Heights Public School, effective November 20, 2024."

CARRIED

Superintendent VanHooydonk shared details about the November 12 Naming Committee meeting for the new Niagara Falls school. Names submitted by the community were reviewed and discussed. The committee voted and selected Thundering Heights Public School as the preferred name.

b) 2023-2024 Director's Annual Report

Director Pisek confirmed that in compliance with the Education Act, the 2023-2024 Director's Annual Report is available on the Board's website. The interactive online report is an interactive online resource, showcasing accomplishments, student and staff successes and the DSBN's commitment to student achievement.

2. TRUSTEE INFORMATION SESSION

There was no trustee information session.

3. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

There was no correspondence received.

4. TRUSTEE, STUDENT TRUSTEE AND INDIGENOUS STUDENT TRUSTEE COMMUNICATIONS AND SCHOOL LIAISON

Indigenous Student Trustee Mishibinijima shared that on November 15th, Indigenous student reps attended a retreat with workshops on community building and storytelling, led by Anthony Gladue from the Kehewin Cree Nation. The day before, on November 14th, Indigenous student representative members participated in the Indigenous Education Council meeting. The council aims to include Indigenous student voices in decision-making. The meeting saw active participation and positive feedback, reflecting the students' enthusiasm and optimism about the council's role in advancing Indigenous education.

Trustee Mitchell provided updates from the EIARCAC, which included member introductions and sharing their reasons for joining the committee, an update on Indigenous Education and highlights from the first DSBN IDEAS committee meeting. The committee brainstormed ideas to encourage more family involvement and discussed how to make schools more welcoming for families and how to create a more inclusive environment.

Information was shared by trustees on a variety of school and community fundraisers, events and celebrations including Remembrance Day Celebrations across Niagara.

In response to a question by Trustee MacIntosh, Chair Barnett stated that Associate Director Veld will report back on the timelines of the new gymnasium at Gainsborough Public School.

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

Trustee Baggott shared that the next OPSBA meeting is scheduled for the end of November.

6. Ontario Student Trustees' Association Report

Student Trustee Akharoh and Student Trustee Saddler provided an update on the recent OSTA-AECO Fall General meeting that occurred from November 7-10.

7. Future Meetings

a) The December 2024 meeting calendar was provided.
b) The December Days of Significance calendar was provided.

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

"That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on November 19, 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 8:15 p.m.

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