BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023

Private Session: 6:32 p.m. – 6:57 p.m. | Public Session: 7:05 p.m. – 8:35 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD

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

STUDENT TRUSTEES

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

REGRETS

Julianna Marcel

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 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 7:05 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 Kate Baggott
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the Board return to Open meeting."
CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:57 p.m.

C. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

The Board stood as '*O Canada*' was performed by the Kate S. Durdan Public School Choir, via video.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Helga 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 Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated October 24, 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 Shannon Mitchell
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 – Caleb Smith, Teacher/Coach/Flag Rugby Convenor, Martha Cullimore PS

Director Hoshizaki recognized Caleb Smith for his outstanding commitment to students both, in the classroom and on the rugby field and is known for the supportive relationships that he builds with his students and athletic colleagues. Caleb formed a committee with other like-minded staff and they established a set of flag rugby rules and OPHEA-inspired lesson plans. OPHEA took inspiration from these documents when formalizing and introducing flag rugby province wide. Over the last 20 years flag rugby has continued to grow, in no small part due to Caleb's continued effort to build the infrastructure to support it as a convener, a coach and through training officials in his own time to ensure games could be properly officiated.

b) Director's Report

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

- **Take Me Outside Day 2023**
- **Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Conference**
- **Family Mental Health Literacy and Awareness**
- **DELF Success**
- **Governor Simcoe SS Synthetic Field (video)**
- **Thorold SS Craft Sale**
  Thorold Secondary School held their 38th Annual Craft Show this past weekend and welcomed 3,000 visitors. Teachers, secretaries, EAs, and students volunteered to support this great community event that raised funds to eliminate costs for students attending extra-curricular (trips/teams/clubs) and for student awards & scholarships.

In response to a question, Superintendent St. John confirmed that the Family Mental Health and Literacy sessions are available for viewing on the board website.

2. Educational Showcases

a) **Multi Faith Spaces in DSBN Schools**

Human Rights Advisor, Maryam Safdar Ali, shared that for the past two years, the DSBN has been establishing quiet meditation/multi-faith spaces across various schools. The purpose of this space is to provide a comfortable and quiet space for everyone to reflect, meditate, worship, and/or pray. Milica Petkovic, Acting Senior Manager of Communications and Public Relations introduced a video with students and staff who have personally been impacted by the creation of a multi-faith/quiet meditation space in their schools. Maryam introduced the students who participated in the video.

In response to a question, Maryam Safdar Ali shared that the implementation of quiet meditation/multi-faith spaces began with student requests and continued with a survey of all schools to determine space availability.

b) **Governor Simcoe Secondary School Grade 8 Day**
Superintendent Gilmore shared that many activities to support the transition to secondary schools have been happening in November. She introduced Terri Thompson, principal of Governor Simcoe, who shared details about their Grade 8 Day. They welcomed 280 grade 8 students who then were divided into groups and connected to LINK crew leaders. Cara Stewart, Student Services Program Leader, noted that the student groups participated in six classroom sessions specific to the grade 8 elective options so they could learn more about secondary school learning opportunities.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

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 Program and Planning Committee

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated November 7, 2023, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell shared highlights on reports and updates that were presented, which included the DSBN's 2022/2023 EQAO and OSSLT Results, the DSBN Math Achievement Action Plan for 2023/2024, and the Online Learning credit requirements that are a prerequisite for students to receive their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. DSBN's partnership with the Ontario eLearning Consortium and the commitment to providing eLearning supports for students and training for teachers was noted.

2. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

"That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated November 8, 2023, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Helga Campbell reported that at the November SAL Committee meeting, 15 new cases were brought forward. Of the 15 new cases reviewed, 14 were approved for SAL and 1 case will be brought forward to the December meeting. The Committee also reviewed the progress of 23 current SAL plans. Twenty-one students are currently active and compliant with their SAL plans. Two cases are being discontinued due to non-compliance with the SAL agreement.

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 November 9, 2023, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell shared that the meeting began with a student voice video of a student from Prince of Wales Public School in St. Catharines that focused on a JK student who successfully transitioned from preschool into kindergarten with the support of visuals, hand-over-hand prompting and modeling. The committee was introduced to members of the central special education staff who shared a presentation with the committee on the In-School Team Process. The committee also learned about the upcoming staff special education professional development opportunities. The interest from community organizations wishing to join SEAC was shared with the committee, and they were asked for input regarding the consideration of new members.

4. Report of the Audit Committee

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

"That the report of the Audit Committee dated November 13, 2023, be received."
"That the 2022-23 Annual Report of the Audit Committee be approved for submission to the Ministry of Education."
CARRIED

Superintendent Veld shared that the committee received a presentation on the annual report to the Ministry of Education. The Electronic Records Management audit was in progress in 2022-23 and will continue in 2023-24, and the Custodial Services Staffing and IT Systems Controls Part 2 audits in

progress in 2022-23 were completed as at August 31, 2023. Audit Committee member, Lons Kushner, attended his last meeting and was thanked for his service. There will be a posting for a new external audit committee member.

In response to a question, Director Hoshizaki reported that Lons Kushner will receive recognition for his service by the Board and Trustees.

5. Report of the Finance Committee

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the report of the Finance Committee dated November 15, 2023, be received."
"That Policy B-03: Financial Accountability of School Based Funds be approved."
"That the Summary of Accounts paid for the months of September and October 2023, totaling $60,553,469 be received."
"That the Schedule of Accumulated Surplus for the year ended August 31, 2023, be approved."
CARRIED

Superintendent Veld shared that the committee received a presentation on Policy B-03: Financial Accountability of School Based Funds. The policy has been updated to reflect that all school funds are maintained in one bank account. The committee also received presentations on the Summary of Accounts for the months of September and October 2023, and the Schedule of Accumulated Surplus report for the year ended August 31, 2023.

6. Report of the Student Trustee Senate

Student Trustee Buck reported that discussions at the most recent Student Trustee Senate meeting were about secondary school graduations. Also, senators were divided into three groups to join their first subcommittee breakout discussion. The three subcommittees held were: Student Success, Equity and Inclusions, and Connections & Engagement. Senators chose the subcommittee that best aligned with their passions and interests. The Student Success Subcommittee discussed open opportunities and ways to get mental health needs met. Student Trustee Akharoh shared that the Connections and Engagement subcommittee is working on a unique slogan for the Student Trustee Senate and planning a 'Day-in-the-Life' feature during exam days, to offer a glimpse into the lives of hardworking students. The Equity and Inclusions Subcommittee focused on fostering a diverse and inclusive environment within the students of DSBN. She noted the Senate's ongoing commitment to creating a supportive and vibrant community for all students.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

In response to a question, Director Hoshizaki noted that families should be directed to notify the Superintendent's office to address school concerns.

In response to a question, Director Hoshizaki stated that staff will consult with the Indigenous Education Advisory Council (IEAC) about standing for the Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory.

In response to questions, Superintendent St. John shared that Dr. Sherman, DSBN Mental Health Lead, recently spoke to the Niagara Council of Women on the supports and services available to DSBN students.

L. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. Staff Reports

a) Naming of the New Elementary Public School in Wainfleet
Moved by Deanne MacIntosh
Seconded by Lora Campbell

"That the amalgamated Winger and William E. Brown new school opening in September 2024 be named Marshville Public School, effective November 22, 2023."
CARRIED

Trustee MacIntosh shared details about the November 13th Naming Committee meeting for the new Wainfleet school. Names submitted by William E. Brown and Winger school community members were reviewed. After voting and discussion, the committee selected Marshville Public School as the preferred name. The schools are looking forward to moving on to the next phase of engaging the students by determining the mascot for Marshville Public School.

2. Trustee Information Session

There was no trustee information session.

3. Correspondence And Communication

In response to a question, Director Hoshizaki shared that there is a process outlined in administrative procedures where a team is assembled to support and advise school administrators to ensure that where students participate in walkouts on school property, it is done safely.

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 Beamer shared details about the OPSBA Fall Regional Council Meeting that was held on November 4, 2023.

6. Future Meetings

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

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on November 21, 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 8:35 p.m.

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