# MINUTES

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024

Private Session: 6:21 p.m. – 6:24 p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. – 8:10 p.m.

### ATTENDANCE

#### BOARD

Kate Baggott, Alex Bradnam (Vice Chair), Sue Barnett (Chair), Nancy Beamer, 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, Michael St. John, Darren VanHooydonk, Jennifer Feren, Milica Petkovic, Karen Bellamy

#### RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer Reid

#### REGRETS

Helga Campbell

#### TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Nate Burns, Ann Hamm, 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 Helga Campbell sent her regrets.

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

## B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

**Moved by Alex Bradnam**
**Seconded by Deanne MacIntosh**

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

**Moved by Shannon Mitchell**
**Seconded by Deanne MacIntosh**

"That the Board return to Open meeting."
**CARRIED**

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:24 p.m.

## C. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

The Board stood as '*O Canada*' was performed by Ferndale Public School.

## D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Susan Jovanovic 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 Jonathan Fast**

"That the Minutes of the Organization Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated November 19, 2024, be confirmed as submitted."

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated November 19, 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 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**
Director Pisek recognized Karen Bellamy, Executive Assistant to the Director of Education for her 25 years of dedication and commitment to the DSBN. Karen is known and respected for her reliability, attentive listening, insightful guidance, and expertise, creating a positive and supportive working environment.

**b) Director's Highlights**

Director Pisek along with Superintendent Smith, Superintendent Gage and Superintendent Reimer-Friesen provided recent highlights from across the system which included information about:

- Outdoor Learning and Teaching PD Sessions
- DSBN Hosts OFSAA Boys AA Volleyball Championship
- Memories & Milestones

### 2. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASE

**a) 2024 Young Citizens Video Competition Winner** – Tomas Lambert, Ferndale Public School
Tomas Lambert, a grade 8 student at Ferndale, was introduced as the 2024 Young Citizens Video Competition Winner and presented his project on the history of the Transcontinental Railway.

The board took a short recess.

## 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 Policy Committee

**Moved by Deanne MacIntosh**
**Seconded by Kate Baggott**

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

"That Policy E-03: Health and Safety be received and adopted."

"That Policy E-05: Digital Technology Use by Staff be approved as amended and adopted."

"That Policy E-15: Workplace Violence and Harassment Prevention be approved as received and adopted."

"That Policy A-05: Director's Performance Appraisal be approved as received and adopted."

"That Policy A-01: Student Trustees & Indigenous Student Trustee on Boards be approved as received and adopted."

"That Policy G-08: DSBN Code of Conduct be approved as received and adopted."

"That Policy G-02: Safe Schools be approved as received and adopted."

"That Policy G-12: Alcohol, Drug and Substance Use and Abuse be approved as received and adopted."

"That Policy G-28: Student Discipline be approved as received and adopted."

"That the new merged Policy D-01: Use of Digital Technology by Students, combining D-01 Digital Technology Use by Students and G-26: Use of Mobile Devices by Students be approved as received and adopted."

"That Policy G-26: Use of Mobile Devices by Students be revoked."
**CARRIED**

Trustee MacIntosh reported that a total of 11 policies were reviewed with most of the changes made to align with the Ontario Ministry of Education's Policy and Program Memorandum 128 (June 2024) including restrictions on cell phone use, guidelines for social media use and vaping policies. As well, policies related to restorative practices and equity, inclusion and anti-racism were updated to reflect current practice. Policy G-26: Use of Mobile Devices by Students was revoked as its content was merged with Policy D-01: Digital Technology Use by Students and a newly developed policy, A-05: Director of Education Performance Appraisal was introduced to outline the director's performance appraisal process. Policy A-01: Student Trustees and Indigenous Student Trustee on Boards was updated to reflect the current election process and both policy E-03: Health and Safety and E-15: Workplace Violence and Harassment Prevention were presented for annual review with no changes.

### 2. 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 14, 2024, be received."
**CARRIED**

Trustee Klassen reported that the IPRC process, DSBN and EQAO Special Education data and how the DSBN commemorated the Nation Day for Truth and Reconciliation were shared. The committee received a presentation on the role of occupational therapists and the collaborative work between DSBN and third-party service providers. In December the committee will start looking at policies related to special education that are up for review this school year beginning with policy D-09: Framework for the Provision of Special Education Services. A video was presented celebrating a student from Wellington Heights who has impacted her school in a meaningful way.

## K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no questions asked of and by board members.

## L. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Board By-laws and Rules of Order

**Moved by Kate Baggott**
**Seconded by Shannon Mitchell**

"That the amendments to the Board By-Laws and Rules of Order that follow in the table below be approved, and;

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

(ii) 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:<br>M. Information and Proposals<br>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<br>(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<br>(Reg 374/10)</td><td>• Supervised Alternative Learning Committee (SAL).....</td><td>1 Board Member</td></tr>
<tr><td>Statutory<br>(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>
</table></td><td>Commencement of 2025-26 school year</td></tr>
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|---|---|---|
| Standing | • Finance Committee..... | 4 Board Members |
| ~~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. | |
| | • Student Trustee Senate..... | 3 Student Trustees (one of |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | (s. 55 & Reg. 7/07) | | which shall be an Indigenous Student Trustee) | | |

**CARRIED**

## M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

### 1. STAFF REPORTS

There were no staff reports.

### 2. TRUSTEE INFORMATION SESSION

There was no trustee information session.

### 3. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

There was no correspondence received.

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

Trustees shared information on a variety of school and community events, fundraisers, and celebrations. Trustee Mitchell congratulated student trustee Saddler for earning the Youth Volunteer of the Year Award for the City of Niagara Falls.

Student Trustee Akharoh and Student Trustee Saddler shared information about the Student Senate meeting on November 26th where resources from School Mental Health Ontario and school-specific information about Social Workers and Youth Counsellors were provided. As well, the senate's first subcommittee, Equity and Inclusion, brainstormed initiatives for the school year and shared ongoing projects from individual schools. A key priority of the senate's subcommittee is to ensure the work of the committee is impactful, accessible, and visible to as many students as possible with the goal of fostering a sense of community and inclusivity for all students.

Indigenous Student Trustee Mishibinijima added that Marianne Groat, Student Achievement Leader of Indigenous Education delivered a presentation on supporting Indigenous students within the DSBN and introduced members of the Indigenous Education Team who help students navigate through school, offering both mental health support and academic support.

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

Trustee Baggott reported on the recent OPSBA meeting.

### 6. Ontario Student Trustees' Association Report

Student Trustee Akharoh and Student Trustee Saddler provided updates on the recent OSTA-AECO Leadership Team Retreat.

### 7. Future Meetings

a) The January 2025 meeting calendar was provided.
b) The January Days of Significance calendar was provided.

## N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

**Moved by Elizabeth Klassen**
**Seconded by Shannon Mitchell**

"That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on December 3, 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 8:10 p.m.

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