TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026

Public Session: 5:30 p.m.

AGENDA

A. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY
S. Barnett

B. CALL TO ORDER/NOTING OF MEMBERS ABSENT
S. Barnett

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
S. Barnett

D. 2025-26 FIRST INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT
S. Veld/N. Westlake

E. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS
N. Westlake

F. AWARD OF CONTRACTS SUMMARY REPORT
S. Veld

G. ANNUAL TRUSTEE EXPENSE REPORT
S. Veld

H. DSBN SCHOOLS AS HUBS OF THE COMMUNITY
S. Veld

I. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

2025-26 Interim Financial Report

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

BACKGROUND

Annually, school boards are required to submit revised budget estimates to the Ministry of Education. The revised estimates update the annual projected enrolment to reflect preliminary actual October 31st enrolment and the corresponding changes to provincial grants and updates for other significant changes in revenues and expenditures. The first interim financial report for 2025-26 is based on the revised estimates submitted to the Ministry.

The DSBN uses the Ministry of Education's prescribed format for interim financial reporting. The report format provides a comparison of year-to-date actual revenue and expenditures to the prior year, explains key variances from budget, and forms a conclusion as to the projected surplus or deficit for the year.

Consistent with the prior year a capital spending summary (appendix C) has been included in this report. This report is intended to provide updates of capital spending and projected spending to the capital plan approved in May. The columns under the Planned Capital Projects reflect what was approved in the DSBN's Multi-Year Capital Plan and by the Ministry of Education. The schedule provides updated project costs from approval and includes any expected potential changes.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO BUDGET

The significant changes reflected in the attached Interim Financial Report are as follows:

1. Based on preliminary October 31, 2025 actual enrolment, the DSBN enrolment has increased by 444 average daily enrolment (ADE) from last year actual enrolment. Our first interim report indicates a decrease from our projection of 0.5%. This reduction in enrolment is primarily as a result of asylum seeker students that left DSBN during the summer of 2025 and an over projection in junior kindergarten as some development timelines have been slowed due to economic conditions.
2. As a result of the decrease in students, staffing has been reduced by 26.6 FTE for an expense reduction of $3.2M. During the budgeting process, these positions were held pending confirmation of enrolment. As the anticipated enrolment did not materialize, the positions held have now been removed from budget.
3. After the approval of the budget, the Ministry of Education announced additional funds for Responsive Education Programs (REP) grants. Revised estimates include an increase in revenue and expenditures of $449,175. The funding details are included in Appendix B.
4. The first Interim Financial Report projects a balanced budget with no use of accumulated surplus. This preliminary projection is based on actual spending to October 31, 2025, which represents only two months of our fiscal year. Updated projections of the 2025-26 activity will be provided at both the April and June 2026 Finance Committee meetings.

APPENDED DATA

1. 2025-26 Interim Financial Report for the Period Ending October 31, 2025.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

"That the 2025-26 Interim Financial Report be received."

Respectfully submitted by:

Stacy Veld, Associate Director of Education, Corporate Services and Board Treasurer
Nicky Westlake, Controller of Finance

January 13, 2026

For further information, please contact Stacy Veld, Associate Director of Education, Corporate Services and Board Treasurer.

District School Board of Niagara
2025-26 Interim Financial Report - Summary
For the Period Ending October 31, 2025

Summary of Financial Results (in thousands)

	Budget	Projection	In-Year Change	
	$	$	$	%
Grants and Other Revenue				
Core Education Funding	644,955	632,526	(12,429)	(1.9)
Other	10,572	10,653	81	0.8
Total Grants and Other Revenue	**655,527**	**643,179**	**(12,348)**	**(1.9)**
Operating and Other Expenditures				
Classroom	447,809	442,965	(4,844)	(1.1)
Non-Classroom	54,384	53,709	(675)	(1.2)
Administration	15,642	16,143	501	3.2
Transportation	29,732	29,720	(12)	(0.0)
School Operations and Maintenance	57,701	58,136	435	0.8
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	47,777	39,905	(7,872)	(16.5)
Other	89	89	-	-
Debt Charges	5,330	5,330	-	-
Total Operating and Other Expenditures	**658,464**	**645,997**	**(12,467)**	**(1.9)**
Surplus/Deficit Before Use of Accumulated Surplus	**(2,937)**	**(2,818)**	**119**	**(4.1)**
General Operating Accumulated Surplus	-	-	-	-
Other Accumulated Surplus	2,937	2,818	(119)	(4.1)
Surplus/Deficit	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

Note: Projection based on year-to-date actuals up to October 31, 2025

Highlights of Changes in Revenue

- Due to Average Daily Enrolment (ADE) being 239 ADE (0.5%) below original projections, Core Education Funding has decreased by $2.7M. Additionally, Core Education Funding reflects a reduction of $7.8M in Deferred Capital Contributions, resulting in a corresponding decrease in Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets due to the timing of capital projects and reduction of approximately $2.0M to benchmark funding for teachers, with an equal offset in expenses.
- Other revenue increased by $81K, driven by an increase in provincial grants of $449K, and a decrease in investment income of $400K, attributed to declining interest rates. Minor adjustments have also been made to other revenue categories.

Highlights of Changes in Expenditures

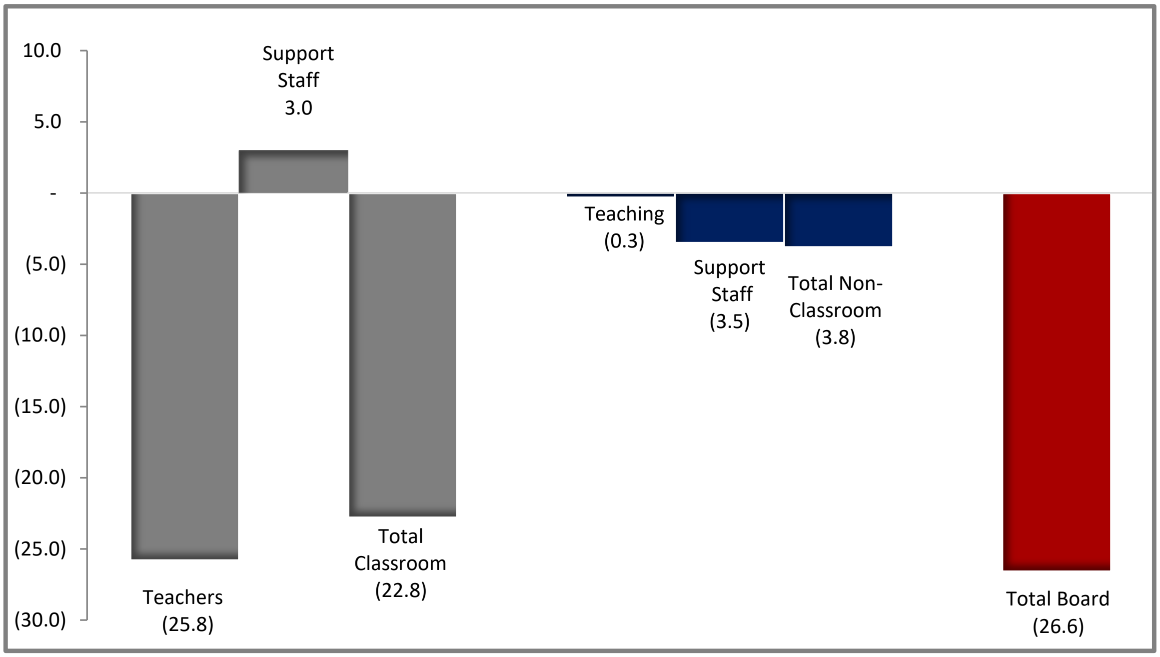
- The decrease in expenditures, excluding Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets, is primarily due to the 26.6 FTE staffing reduction outlined on page 2.

District School Board of Niagara
2025-26 Interim Financial Report - Staffing
For the Period Ending October 31, 2025

Summary of Staffing

FTE	Budget #	Projected #	In-Year Change #	In-Year Change %
Classroom				
Teachers	2,684.2	2,658.4	(25.8)	(1.0)
Support Staff	698.0	701.0	3.0	0.4
Total Classroom	**3,382.2**	**3,359.4**	**(22.8)**	**(0.7)**
Non-Classroom				
Teaching	225.6	225.3	(0.3)	(0.1)
Support Staff	1,000.7	997.2	(3.5)	(0.3)
Total Non-Classroom	**1,226.3**	**1,222.5**	**(3.8)**	**(0.3)**
Total Staffing	**4,608.5**	**4,581.9**	**(26.6)**	**(0.5)**

Note: Projected staffing as at October 31, 2025



Highlights of Changes in Staffing

- Classroom teacher positions have decreased by 25.8 FTE due to lower enrolment compared to original projections. During the staffing process, these positions were held pending confirmation of enrolment. As the anticipated enrolment did not materialize, and these positions were not filled, they have been removed from budget.
- The increase in Classroom Support Staff of 3.0 FTE relates to an increase of 1.0 FTE Interpreter and an increase of 2.0 FTE Early Childhood Educators to address the needs of our students.
- The decrease in Non-Classroom Support of 3.5 FTE is the result of a decrease of 7.5 FTE secretaries, which has been offset by an increase of 3.0 FTE Food Technicians and an increase of 1.0 FTE Special Education Coordinator. The reduction to secretaries is consistent with the approach above for classroom teachers.

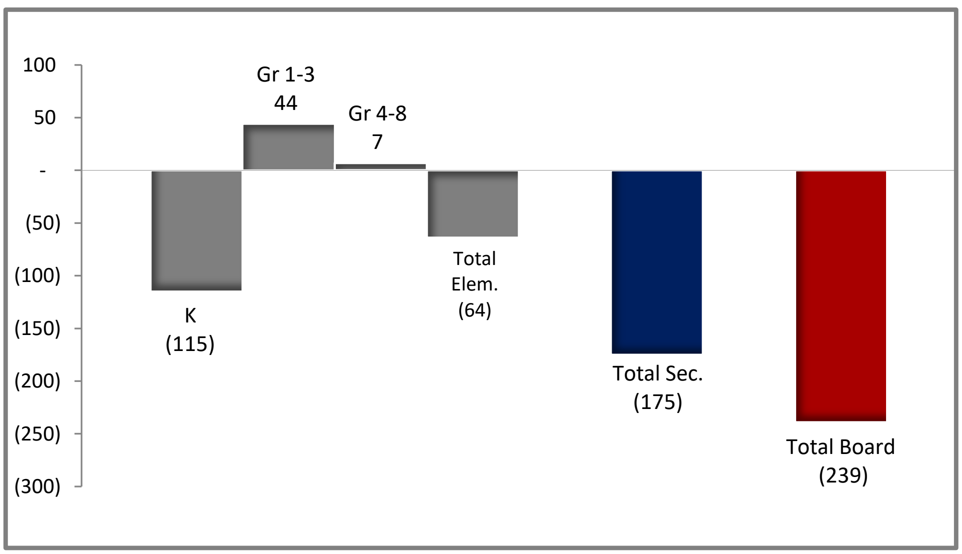
District School Board of Niagara
2025-26 Interim Financial Report - Enrolment
For the Period Ending October 31, 2025

Summary of Enrolment

ADE	Budget	Projection	In-Year Change	
	#	#	#	%
Elementary				
Kindergarten	5,423	5,308	(115)	(2.1)
Grades 1-3	9,141	9,185	44	0.5
Grades 4-8	15,756	15,763	7	0.0
Total Elementary	**30,320**	**30,256**	**(64)**	**(0.2)**
Secondary				
Under 21	13,306	13,124	(182)	(1.4)
Over 20	-	7	7	100.0
Total Secondary	**13,306**	**13,131**	**(175)**	**(1.3)**
Total Enrolment	**43,626**	**43,387**	**(239)**	**(0.5)**

Note: Projection based on October 31, 2025 actuals and preliminary March 31, 2026.

Changes in Enrolment: Budget to Projection



District School Board of Niagara
2025-26 Interim Financial Report - Revenue
For the Period Ending October 31, 2025
(in thousands)

	Budget 2025-26 Approved Budget $	Budget 2025-26 Projection $	Change Increase (Decrease) $	Change Increase (Decrease) %	Actual to Oct 31/25 Projected Revenue %	Actual to Oct 31/24 Actual Revenue %	Year to Year Increase (Decrease) %
REVENUE							
CLASSROOM STAFFING FUND (CSF)							
CSF - Per Pupil Allocation	253,214	251,778	(1,435)	(0.6)			
Language Classroom Staffing Allocation	18,072	18,069	(2)	(0.0)			
Local Circumstances Staffing Allocation	60,303	58,228	(2,074)	(3.4)			
Indigenous Education Classroom Staffing Allocation	211	211	-	-			
Supplementary Staffing Allocation	5,818	5,806	(12)	(0.2)			
	337,617	**334,093**	**(3,524)**	**(1.0)**			
LEARNING RESOURCES FUND (LRF)							
LRF - Per Pupil Allocation	32,613	32,421	(192)	(0.6)			
Language Education Supports Allocation	6,250	6,171	(80)	(1.3)			
Indigenous Education Supports Allocation	2,875	2,861	(14)	(0.5)			
Mental Health and Wellness Allocation	1,581	1,579	(3)	(0.2)			
Student Safety and Well-Being Allocation	996	990	(5)	(0.5)			
Continuing Education and Other Programs Allocation	3,127	3,152	25	0.8			
School Management Allocation	38,140	37,946	(194)	(0.5)			
Differentiated Supports Allocation	5,058	5,056	(2)	(0.0)			
Experiential Learning	-	-	-	-			
	90,641	**90,175**	**(466)**	**(0.5)**			
SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND (SEF)							
SEF - Per Pupil Allocation	40,591	40,410	(180)	(0.4)			
Differentiated Needs Allocation	28,175	28,174	(2)	(0.0)			
Complex Supports Allocation	5,554	5,550	(4)	(0.1)			
Specialized Equipment Allocation (SEA)	2,644	2,632	(12)	(0.4)			
Special Education Deferred Revenue	886	851	(34)	(3.9)			
	77,850	**77,618**	**(232)**	**(0.3)**			
SCHOOL FACILITIES FUND (SFF)							
School Operations Allocation	51,366	51,137	(229)	(0.4)			
School Renewal Allocation	-		-	-			
Temporary Accommodation	500	500	-	-			
Rural and Northern Education Allocation	90	90	-	-			
	51,955	**51,727**	**(229)**	**(0.4)**			
STUDENT TRANSPORTATION FUND (STF)							
Transportation Services Allocation	27,015	26,962	(53)	(0.2)			
School Bus Rider Safety Training Allocation	41	41	-	-			
Transportation to Provincial or Demonstration Schools	141	141	-	-			
	27,197	**27,144**	**(53)**	**(0.2)**			
SCHOOL BOARD ADMINISTRATION FUND (SBAF)							
Trustees and Parent Engagement Allocation	297	297	-	-			
Board-Based Staffing Allocation	12,628	12,580	(48)	(0.4)			
Central Employer Bargaining Agency Fees	61	61	-	-			
Data Management and Audit Allocation	432	431	(0)	(0.1)			
Declining Enrolment Adjustment Allocation	-	-	-	-			
Supplementary Staffing Allocation	-	-	-	-			
	13,418	**13,370**	**(48)**	**(0.4)**			
TOTAL CORE EDUCATION FUNDING	**598,677**	**594,127**	**(4,551)**	**(0.8)**	**19.2**	**18.6**	**0.5**
Minor Tangible Capital Assets	**(3,008)**	**(3,008)**	**-**	**-**			
Other Ministry Funding							
Amortization of Deferred Capital Contributions	44,286	36,498	(7,788)	(17.6)			
Debt Charges	4,999	4,909	(90)	(1.8)			
Bill 124 funding - forecasted benchmark increases	-	-	-	-			
OTHER MINISTRY FUNDING	**49,285**	**41,407**	**(7,878)**	**(16.0)**	**22.6**	**28.9**	**(6.2)**
Prior Year Grant Adjustment	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**94.5**	**(94.5)**
TOTAL MINISTRY FUNDING	**644,955**	**632,526**	**(12,429)**	**(1.9)**	**19.5**	**20.2**	**(0.7)**
Other Revenue							
Other Provincial Grants	4,747	5,196	449	9.5			
Tuition Fees	1,159	1,159	-	-			
Community Education	918	950	32	3.5			
Community Use of Schools	906	906	-	-			
Interest Income	2,400	2,000	(400)	(16.7)			
Miscellaneous Revenues	442	442	-	-			
TOTAL OTHER REVENUE	**10,572**	**10,653**	**81**	**0.8**	**27.2**	**32.5**	**(5.3)**
TOTAL GRANTS AND OTHER REVENUE	**655,527**	**643,179**	**(12,348)**	**(1.9)**	**19.6**	**20.5**	**(0.9)**
Use of Accumulated Surplus							
General Operating	-	-	-	-			
Other	3,490	3,809	318	9.1			
TOTAL USE OF ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	**3,490**	**3,809**	**318**	**9.1**			
TOTAL REVENUE	**659,017**	**646,988**	**(12,030)**	**(1.8)**	**19.5**	**20.3**	**(0.9)**

District School Board of Niagara
2025-26 Interim Financial Report - Expenditures
For the Period Ending October 31, 2025
(in thousands)

	Budget 2025-26 Approved Budget $	Budget 2025-26 Projection $	Change Increase (Decrease) $	Change Increase (Decrease) %	Actual to Oct 31/25 Projected Spending %	Actual to Oct 31/24 Actual Spending %	Year to Year Increase (Decrease) %
EXPENDITURES							
Classroom							
Teachers	335,439	330,301	(5,138)	(1.5)	18.5	18.6	(0.1)
Supply Staff	11,495	11,495	-	-	14.9	8.3	6.6
Educational Assistants	32,257	32,257	-	-	13.0	13.0	(0.0)
Early Childhood Educators	12,831	12,931	100	0.8	13.3	13.1	0.3
Textbooks and Supplies	13,050	13,432	382	2.9	19.5	20.9	(1.4)
Classroom Computers	5,499	5,522	23	0.4	93.1	50	43.1
Professionals and Paraprofessionals	23,400	23,512	111	0.5	11.0	9.2	1.8
Library and Guidance	10,235	10,183	(52)	(0.5)	3.3	3.0	0.3
Staff Development	3,061	2,790	(272)	(8.9)	9.1	15.3	(6.2)
Department Heads	542	543	1	0.2	13.5	14.8	(1.3)
TOTAL CLASSROOM	**447,809**	**442,965**	**(4,844)**	**(1.1)**	**18.0**	**17.1**	**0.9**
Non-Classroom							
Principal and Vice-Principals	23,489	23,796	308	1.3	15.1	0.9	14.2
School Office	13,191	12,667	(524)	(4.0)	15.9	13.4	2.5
Instructional Support	15,274	14,791	(483)	(3.2)	15.1	11.7	3.4
Continuing Education	2,430	2,455	24	1.0	3.1	17.1	(14.0)
TOTAL NON-CLASSROOM	**54,384**	**53,709**	**(675)**	**(1.2)**	**14.8**	**7.3**	**7.5**
Administration							
Trustees	409	409	-	-	29.2	33.0	(3.8)
Director/Supervisory Officers	2,290	2,290	-	-	9.3	8.5	0.9
Board Administration	12,943	13,444	501	3.9	7.0	9.7	(2.7)
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	**15,642**	**16,143**	**501**	**3.2**	**7.9**	**10.1**	**(2.3)**
Transportation	**29,732**	**29,720**	**(12)**	**(0.0)**	**10.8**	**7.1**	**3.7**
School Operations and Maintenance	**57,701**	**58,136**	**435**	**0.8**	**11.4**	**10.4**	**1.0**
Other							
School Renewal	-	-	-	-	-	38.6	(38.6)
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	47,777	39,905	(7,872)	(16.5)	-	-	-
Loss on disposal of TCA		-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	89	89	-	-	56.1	(344.9)	400.9
TOTAL OTHER	**47,866**	**39,994**	**(7,872)**	**(16.4)**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**(0.0)**
Debt Charges	**5,330**	**5,330**	**-**	**-**	**0.3**	**1.1**	**(0.9)**
TOTAL OPERATING & OTHER EXPENDITURES	**658,464**	**645,997**	**(12,467)**	**(1.9)**	**15**	**13.8**	**1.5**
Increase to Accumulated Surplus							
General Operating	-		-	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
Other	553	990	437	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
TOTAL INCREASE TO ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	**553**	**990**	**437**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**659,017**	**646,988**	**(12,030)**	**(1.8)**	**15**	**13.6**	**1.7**

District School Board of Niagara
2025-26 Interim Financial Report - Other Special Initiative Provincial Grants
For the Period Ending October 31, 2025

Other Special Initiative Provincial Grant	$
Early ON	24,375
Artists in Residence (Ontario Arts Council)	20,000
Cyber Security Operating Model (CSOM)	280,000
Math Achievement Action Plan - Additional Qualification (AQ) Subsidy	124,800
Total	**449,175**

District School Board of Niagara
2025-26 Interim Financial Report - Capital
For the Period Ending October 31, 2025
(in thousands)

	Planned Capital Projects							PROJECT COSTS		
	MINISTRY FUNDED				DSBN FUNDED		TOTAL			
	Priority Capital $	Child Care $	School Renewal $	School Condition Improvement $	POD $	Other $	Total Funding $	Estimated Project Costs $	Projected Project Costs $	Increase (Decrease) $
CAPITAL										
Land										
Thorold East (Rolling Meadows) elementary site	10,009	-	-	-	-	-	10,009	10,009	10,009	-
Welland-Thorold (Fairgrounds) elementary site	9,016	-	-	-	-	-	9,016	9,016	9,016	-
TOTAL LAND	**19,025**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**19,025**	**19,025**	**19,025**	**-**
Capital Construction										
Fitch Street PS	12,367	1,982	2,654	-	-	-	17,003	17,003	15,245	(1,758)
Gainsborough Central PS	-	-	1,022	327	2,758	-	4,107	4,107	4,107	-
Quaker Road PS	13,210	1,800	800	-	-	-	15,810	15,810	15,230	(580)
Thundering Heights PS	26,157	2,626	-	-	-	-	28,783	28,783	28,783	-
South Welland (Dain City) elementary	26,633	2,250	-	-	-	-	28,883	28,883	28,883	-
Thorold East (Rolling Meadows) elementary	31,239	2,250	-	-	-	-	33,489	33,489	33,489	-
Welland-Thorold (Fairgrounds) elementary	30,849	2,250	-	-	-	-	33,099	33,099	33,099	-
TOTAL CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION	**140,456**	**13,158**	**4,476**	**327**	**2,758**	**-**	**161,174**	**161,174**	**158,836**	**(2,338)**
Capital Renovations & Improvements										
School Renewal projects	-	-	16,881	-	-	-	16,881	16,881	12,684	(4,197)
School Condition Improvement projects	-	-	-	33,428	-	-	33,428	33,428	28,726	(4,702)
TOTAL CAPITAL RENOVATIONS	**-**	**-**	**16,881**	**33,428**	**-**	**-**	**50,309**	**50,309**	**41,410**	**(8,899)**
TOTAL CAPITAL	**159,481**	**13,158**	**21,357**	**33,755**	**2,758**	**-**	**230,508**	**230,508**	**219,271**	**(11,237)**

Summary of Accounts

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

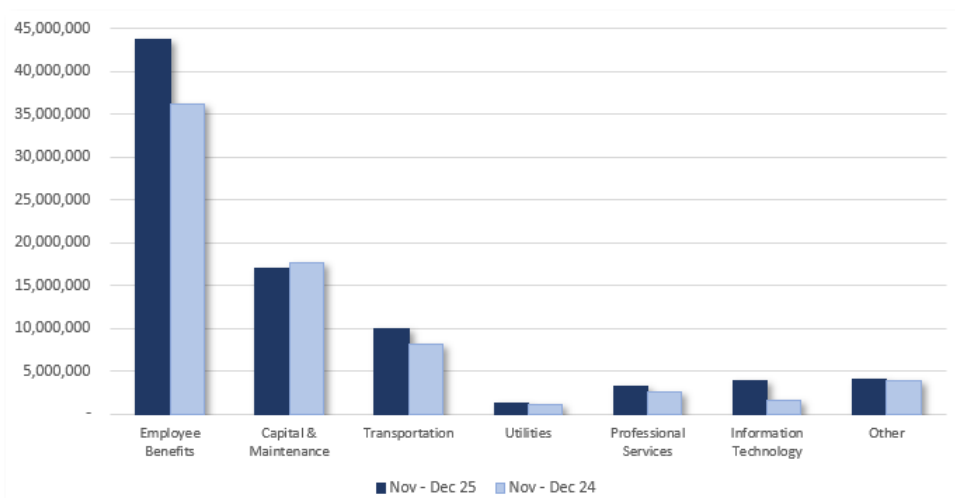
BACKGROUND

This report summarizes the cash outflow of expenditures paid during the previous months. The summary highlights the costs associated with employee benefits, constructions/repairs and maintenance, transportation, utilities, professional services, information technology purchases and the other non-salary expenditures. The timing of the expenditures is reported on a cash-basis and does not include accruals for accounting purposes. The information presented in this report is not intended to match the timing of information presented in quarterly and annual financial reports.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS:

A summary of accounts paid for the months of November and December 2025, is as follows:

Expenditure Category	November 2025	December 2025
Employee Benefits	$ 25,913,856	$ 17,775,601
Construction/Repairs & Maintenance	9,311,591	7,681,658
Transportation	5,315,803	4,654,612
Utilities	745,409	554,181
Professional Services	730,415	2,483,987
Information Technology	2,804,912	1,100,928
Other	2,347,465	1,599,510
Total	**$ 47,169,451**	**$ 35,850,477**



RECOMMENDED MOTION

"That the Summary of Accounts paid for the months of November and December 2025, totaling $82,919,928 be received."

Respectfully submitted by:

Stacy Veld, Associate Director of Education, Corporate Services and Board Treasurer
Nicky Westlake, Controller of Finance

January 13, 2026

For further information, please contact Stacy Veld, Associate Director of Education, Corporate Services and Board Treasurer.

Award of Contracts Summary Report

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

BACKGROUND

The Award of Contracts Summary Report is presented to Trustees to provide information with respect to contracts awarded that are equal to or greater than $750,000. The Summary highlights the project name, the value of the contract awarded, who it was awarded to, and the date of award.

AWARD OF CONTRACTS SUMMARY FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 TO DECEMBER 31, 2025

PROJECT NAME	BID AMOUNT AWARDED	VENDOR(S) AWARDED	CONTRACT AWARD DATE
Microsoft Enrollment for Education Solutions (EES)	$761,071	Softchoice Canada Corp.	November 1, 2025
Briardale School HVAC/Mechanical Renewal	$3,604,215	Keith's Plumbing & Heating Inc.	December 10, 2025
James Morden Library Colling Centre & Classroom HVAC	$783,271	Van Am Mechanical Limited	December 10, 2025

**Estimate – Contract value estimate based on previous expenditures. Contract award will be adjusted based on actual goods and services rendered.*

RECOMMENDED MOTION

"That the Award of Contracts Summary Report for the period ending December 31, 2025, be received."

Respectfully submitted by:

Stacy Veld, Associate Director of Education, Corporate Services and Board Treasurer

January 13, 2026

For further information, please contact Stacy Veld, Associate Director of Education, Corporate Services and Board Treasurer.

Annual Trustee Expense Report

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

BACKGROUND

This report provides a summary of the Trustees' annual expenses for the 2024-25 term. It categorizes expenses into three main areas: mileage, technology, and Education and Business Development. Trustees can claim reimbursement for expenses they incur in fulfilling their duties during their time in office. Eligible expenses cover areas such as technology, professional development, conferences, office supplies, as well as travel and business-related costs.

APPENDED DATA:

1. Annual Trustee Expense Term 2024-25

RECOMMENDED MOTION

"That the Annual Trustee Expense Report be received."

Respectfully submitted by:
Stacy Veld, Associate Director of Education, Corporate Services and Board Treasurer.

January 13, 2026

For further information, please contact Stacy Veld, Associate Director of Education, Corporate Services and Board Treasurer.

ANNUAL EXPENSES FOR TRUSTEE TERM 2024-25

Trustee - Area	Mileage	Technology	Education & Business Development	Total
Baggott, Kate - St. Catharines/NOTL				
Barnett, Sue - Welland	1,585.18	676.30	4,187.34	6,448.82
Brosseau, Michael - St. Catharines/NOTL				-
Campbell, Helga - Niagara Falls	410.09		1,210.43	1,620.52
Campbell, Lora - St. Catharines/NOTL				-
Fast, Jonathan - St. Catharines/NOTL			41.50	41.50
Klassen, Elizabeth - Grimsby/Town of Lincoln	521.44	591.86		1,113.30
Mitchell, Shannon - Niagara Falls				-
Beamer, Nancy - Thorold/Pelham	785.05	478.10	1,900.20	3,163.35
Jovanovic, Susan Fort Erie/Port Colborne	2,951.84	371.52	2,844.37	6,167.73
MacIntosh, Deanne -West Lincoln/Wainfleet	778.48	869.01	19.88	1,667.37
Student Trustees (3)	4,383.20	856.10	16,452.96	21,692.26
Total	11,415.28	3,842.89	26,656.68	41,914.85

** Note a; year references are fiscal years Sept. 1 - Aug. 31
Education & Business Development reflects all expenses incurred by the Trustee and reimbursed. (e.g, conferences, accommodations, mileage, meals).
Education and Business Development costs include OBSPA and PES Conferences.

DSBN Schools as Hubs of the Community

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

BACKGROUND

The DSBN supports the use of schools outside of school hours for both board-sanctioned events and community programs and activities. Permit and Rental Services administer all permits for afterhours use of DSBN schools, including internal events and external rental by community members and organizations, through the Community Use of Schools (CUOS) program. The CUOS program continues to be a vital service enabling community access to DSBN facilities. Permits are issued annually from September 1 to August 31. In late June, the system opens for external priority requests for the upcoming school year, with temporary restrictions on the number of permits and schools requested to support equitable access.

In addition, the DSBN works with many community partners to enhance services hosted at schools, including child care that support families across the region.

USE OF DSBN FACILITIES

As of October 31, 2025, for the 2025–2026 school year, Permit and Rental Services has processed:

External Use

- 1,200,231 hours of approved use
- 1,145 permits granted

Internal Use

- 808,854 hours of approved use for internal and school functions outside instructional hours
- 4,158 permits granted

Permit data reflects a broad range of age groups from early childhood (0-6) to seniors (65+) and a diverse array of activities. These include educational support programs, sports and recreation, child care, arts and culture, newcomer support, social services, and leadership groups. This diversity underscores DSBN's role as a hub for inclusive and accessible community engagement.

Permit requests continue to be received daily throughout the school year. Each approved permit receives regular monitoring and adjustments to accommodate evolving needs and ensure smooth operations.

Permit and Rental Services staff strive to ensure equitable access to school spaces for individuals and groups from diverse backgrounds, fostering inclusive environments where all community members feel welcome and valued.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CHILD CARE PLANNING

On an annual basis, school boards are required to conduct viability testing to determine if a school has sufficient demand to offer school-aged child care. At DSBN, this work is led by Community Partnership Services in collaboration with Niagara Region Children's Services. The results are submitted to the Ministry of Education annually as part of the *Before and After School Program Planning Report* (BASP).

When a school site meets the viability threshold, boards are obligated to offer child care services. DSBN fulfills this requirement by partnering with licensed third-party community organizations to operate the programs.

For the 2025–2026 school year, four new BASP programs were identified as being viable:

- Westmount Public School
- Gainsborough Public School
- Bridgeview Public School
- Thundering Heights Public School
- Briardale Public School (2026)

The addition of these four programs brings DSBN's total to 60 Before and After School child care programs across elementary schools. With this most recent expansion, DSBN is now hosting school-aged child care in 75% of our elementary schools, reflecting our ongoing commitment to supporting families and communities by facilitating access to quality child care options. Community Partnership Services continues to work closely with child care partners to ensure smooth implementation, operational readiness, and ongoing support for each site.

CONCLUSION

The Permit and Rental Services and Community Partnership Services departments will continue to work in tandem to deliver initiatives that strengthen relationships between DSBN and the broader community. The DSBN shows we value relationships by planning together, delivering responsive services, and regularly assessing needs to benefit students and communities.

Projected revenues from community use will be used to support system fundraising initiatives like the WNSS theatre and playgrounds at locations such as Bridgeview Public School and Briardale Public School.

CONNECTION TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Priority:

We value caring and supportive environments that promote lifelong learning for all students, staff and community.

Strategic Actions:

Fostering environments that promote lifelong learning for all students, staff and community through a collective responsibility to nurture a culture of trust, respect and cooperation.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

"That the DSBN Schools as HUBS in the Community Report be approved."

Respectfully submitted by:

Stacy Veld, Associate Director of Education, Corporate Services & Board Treasurer

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

For further information, please contact Stacy Veld, Associate Director of Education, Corporate Services and Board Treasurer.