

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026

Public Session: 6:00 pm

AGENDA

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD

1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory
2. Call to Order and Noting of Members Absent
3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

B. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

C. REFLECTIVE READING

By Student Trustee William Connor

D. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Recommended Motion:

"That the Agenda be adopted."

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Pages 5-10

Recommended Motion:

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated December 2, 2025, be confirmed as submitted."

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

E. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS

1. Director's Recognition and Highlights

K. Pisek – Pages 11-12

a) Director's Recognition

- Martha Shaw, Elementary Secretary, DeWitt Carter Public School

b) Director's Highlights

2. Educational Showcase

F. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

G. DELEGATIONS

H. BOARD RECESS (OPTIONAL)

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Program and Planning Committee

S. Jovanovic – Pages 13-24

Recommended Motions:

“That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated December 9, 2025, be received.”

2. Report of the Policy Committee

J. Feren – Pages 25-38

Recommended Motions:

“That the report of the Policy Committee dated December 9, 2025, be received.”

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

“That Policy E-03: Health and Safety be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Policy D-11: Arts Program be revoked.”

“That Policy D-14: Assessment and Evaluation and Reporting be approved as received and adopted.”

“That Policy A-12: School Councils be approved as received and adopted.”

“That Policy Preamble-i01: Policy - General be approved as received and adopted.”

“That Policy Preamble-i02: Policy Committee be approved as received and adopted.”

“That Policy Preamble-i03: Policy Generating Process be approved as amended and adopted.”

3. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

H. Campbell – Pages 39-43

Recommended Motions:

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated December 10, 2025, be received.”

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated January 14, 2026, be received.”

4. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

E. Klassen / S. Mitchell – Pages 44-47

Recommended Motions:

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated December 11, 2025, be received.”

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated January 8, 2026, be received.”

5. Report of the Finance Committee

S. Barnett – Pages 48-66

Recommended Motions:

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated January 13, 2026, be received.”

“That the 2025-26 Interim Financial Report be received.”

“That the Summary of Accounts paid for the month of November and December 2025, totalling \$82,919,928 be received.”

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

“That the Annual Trustee Expense Report be received.”

J. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

K. NEW BUSINESS

L. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Staff Reports**
2. **Trustee Information Sessions**
3. **Correspondence and Communications**
4. **Trustee, Student Trustee and Indigenous Student Trustee Communications and School Liaison**
5. **Ontario Public School Boards' Association Report**
6. **Ontario Student Trustees' Association Report**
7. **Future Meetings**
Pages 67-68
 - a) February Meeting Calendar
 - b) February Days of Significance Calendar

M. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

1. **Motion to Move to Committee of the Whole (Private Session)**

Motion:

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

2. **Motion to Return to Open Board (Public Session)**

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Recommended Motion:

"That the business transacted in Committee of the Whole be now ratified by the Board."

O. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Recommended Motions:

"That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on January 27, 2026, 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."

P. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025

Public Session: 6:03 p.m. – 7:17 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

(*denotes approval received to attend electronically)

BOARD

Kate Baggott (Chair), Sue Barnett, Nancy Beamer, Mike Brousseau, Lora Campbell*, Jonathan Fast, Susan Jovanovic, Elizabeth Klassen (Vice Chair), Deanne MacIntosh*, Shannon Mitchell

STUDENT TRUSTEES

William Connor

INDIGENOUS STUDENT TRUSTEE

Barrett Dockstator

ADMINISTRATION

Kelly Pisek (Director of Education), Karen Bellamy, Jennifer Feren, Ann Gilmore, Simon Hancox, Milica Petkovic, Marian Reimer Friesen, Melanie Sendzik, Neil Sheard, Jaime Sinnett, Mike St. John, Teri Thompson, Stacy Veld (Associate Director)

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer Reid

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Nate Burns, Lyka Yatco

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Chair Baggott 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

Moved by Jonathan Fast

Seconded by Mike Brousseau

“That the absence of Trustee Helga Campbell be approved under section 228(1)(b) of the Education Act.”

CARRIED



Chair Baggott called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:02 p.m.

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

B. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

The Board stood as '*O Canada*' was performed by Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School choir, via video.

C. REFLECTIVE READING

There was no reflective reading.

D. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Nancy Beamer

Seconded by Sue Barnett

"That the Agenda be adopted."

CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Moved by Susan Jovanovic

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the Minutes of the Organization Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated November 18, 2025, be confirmed as submitted."

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated November 18, 2025, be confirmed as submitted."

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Associate Director Veld confirmed that Ontario school boards received correspondence about government funding for Nutrition Programs. Currently there are 13 agencies being funded through this government initiative. Niagara Nutrition Partners are looking to apply for funding in Niagara.

E. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS



1. Director's Recognition and Highlights

a) Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions

Director Pisek recognized Marian Reimer Friesen, Superintendent of Student Achievement and Well-Being, for her 30 years of dedication to education at the DSBN, demonstrating exceptional leadership, integrity, and commitment to student achievement and educator growth. Marian's significant achievements include leading system-wide improvements, developing foundational resources such as DSBN Math Scope and Sequence, and establishing inclusive programs like the ROUTES program to support Low German families. Her relationship-focused leadership and ability to inspire others to lead with purpose is admired and valued by colleagues and will leave a lasting impact on the DSBN.

b) Director's Highlights

Director Pisek along with members of the system leadership team provided recent highlights from across the system which included information about:

- YMCA Youth Peace Medal Recipients
- Bullying Awareness & Prevention Week/Kindness Week
- Memories & Milestones

2. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASES

a) A Story Worth Telling: James Morden PS Food Drive

Superintendent Marian Reimer Friesen introduced staff and students from James Morden Public School who shared information about a special initiative called Project Share.

Students explained that the Project Share campaign is led by students and focusses on giving back to the community through food collection and distribution across several impactful events such as Stuff the Bus, a Community Breakfast, Walk the Neighbourhood, and the school's Annual Food Drive.

During the campaign, author Eric Walters who was visiting the school, took interest in the campaign and was deeply inspired by the students' generosity. This act of kindness sparked the creation of the book *One Can*, co-written with Lana Button, celebrating the power of helping others.

Chair Baggott noted the recent appointment of Superintendent Mike St. John to the position of Director of Education at School District No. 73 in Kamloops-Thompson, British Columbia.

F. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

There were no student achievement reports.

G. DELEGATIONS



There were no delegations.

H. BOARD RECESS

There was no recess.

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Mike Brousseau
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated November 20, 2025, be received.”
CARRIED

Vice Chair Klassen shared that the committee received an overview of the Secondary School to Community (SSTC) Program from the program leaders at Eastdale and heard a presentation about the collaboration of Outdoor Education and Special Education to develop the Special Education Day Outdoor Education Pilot that incorporates activities designed to accommodate all students. It was reported that the DSBN successfully secured funding through the Ministry of Education’s Removing Barriers Grant initiative. A video was presented about a grade nine Stamford Collegiate student highlighting her success in the Secondary School to Work program.

J. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

In response to Trustee Beamer’s inquiry about the effectiveness of Hallway Monitors to reduce vaping, Superintendent Gilmore confirmed that a report will be presented at a future Program and Planning meeting.

Trustee Barnett noted that by the end of the year businesses will not be able to mass recycle and asked that this topic be monitored.

K. NEW BUSINESS

L. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. STAFF REPORTS

There were no staff reports.

2. TRUSTEE INFORMATION SESSIONS

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

Student Trustee Connor shared that the recent Student Senate meeting focussed on bullying awareness, prevention, and student well-being, addressing concerns about the growing impact of mental health on students. Subcommittees brainstormed new initiatives, shared anti-bullying activities within their schools, discussed leadership opportunities, and strategies and available resources within the DSBN to create safe and inclusive spaces. Student Trustees shared information on Bill 33 to ensure senators are informed about upcoming changes within public school board systems across Ontario.

Indigenous Student Trustee Dockstator added that the Student Senate Equity subcommittee, emphasized proper representation for all students, including LGBTQIA+ and special needs students to ensure all students feel heard and seen especially during the holiday season. He reported that the Indigenous Education team hosted a Powwow to celebrate music, tradition and culture and reps will be participating in the panel at the upcoming Rise Up student conference on December 10.

Trustee Beamer noted that the E.L. Crossley junior girls' basketball team won SOSSA.

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

Chair Baggott shared highlights from the recent OPSBA meeting. Board members were asked to give feedback to Chair Baggott before December 18.

6. Ontario Student Trustees' Association Report

There was no Ontario Student Trustees' Association report.

6. Future Meetings

Chair Baggott noted that the next Board meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2026.

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

M. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

There was no special meeting.

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

There was no special meeting.



O. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Deanne MacIntosh

Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on November 18, 2025, 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

P. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

KATE BAGGOTT

Chair

KELLY PISEK

Director of Education and Secretary



Director's Highlights

January 2026

DIRECTOR'S RECOGNITION

Martha Shaw | Elementary Secretary, DeWitt Carter Public School

Martha Shaw's career has been defined by dedication, creativity and an unwavering commitment to students, staff and families.

Her journey with DSBN began as a Library Assistant at Ridgeway-Crystal Beach Secondary School, followed by secretarial roles at Port Colborne High School and Princess Elizabeth Public School. Martha has consistently sought opportunities to deepen her expertise, and her passion for learning has enriched DSBN's Continuing Education and Summer School programs, benefiting students for more than a decade.

In 2014, Martha joined DeWitt Carter Public School, quickly becoming the heart of the school community. As Parent and School Council Chair Melissa Lofquist shared, "Martha's dedication and love for DeWitt Carter has no bounds. She knows the name of every student in the school and has the unique ability to bring out the best in all of them."

Known for ensuring seamless day-to-day operations - no small feat in a school with a single Administrative Assistant - Martha goes far beyond her role. For years she has organized the much-anticipated movie day before winter break, coordinating and fundraising on her own to ensure it remains affordable for all families. Martha is also known for devoting her own time to enhance the school environment. Following renovations at DeWitt Carter, she worked after school and on weekends to source items, refinish furniture and decorate the staffroom, creating a cozy and relaxed space for staff to enjoy.

Her care extends to student success and well-being. She advocated for the installation of a greeter's window, regularly provides snacks for late arrivals ensuring no student starts the day hungry, listens and mentors students and actively participates in school events. As one Grade 8 student who has been at DeWitt since Kindergarten shared, "Mrs. Shaw works very hard. She's always here, never away. She helps a lot around the school by taking attendance, planning the field trips and all sorts of things like that!"

Martha truly embodies the DeWitt Carter motto: "Make it a great day for yourself and someone else" - every day. Through her tireless efforts, genuine care and remarkable talent, she not only fulfills her role, but elevates it, helping to create a school culture where everyone feels safe, supported and inspired. Congratulations on receiving the Director's Recognition Award, Martha and thank you for the profound impact you have had on so many.

Rise Up *Students Leading the Change*

DSBN's fourth annual equity conference, RISE Up – Students Leading the Change, was held on Wednesday, December 10 at the Niagara Falls Convention Centre. The event brought together secondary students from across DSBN for a day of learning, collaboration, and inspiration. Throughout the conference, students explored topics like self-advocacy, social justice, Indigenous perspectives, 2SLGBTQ+ inclusivity, and creative ways to support mental well-being – all while connecting, learning, and inspiring each other to lead change. Guided by community principles – take care of yourself, be respectful, and promote honest dialogue – students left ready to make a difference in their schools and beyond.



"Equity is more than checking off a checklist; it's about loving yourself and then using that love to help others."
- Huda



DSBN HIGHLIGHTS

High School Open Houses

A welcoming first step into secondary school

From January 12 to 15, hundreds of Grade 8 students and their families took part in our annual High School Open House events, getting a firsthand look at what awaits them in the year ahead. Across our secondary schools, students were welcomed into vibrant and engaging spaces filled with creative displays, guided tours and interactive demonstrations highlighting the wide range of courses, programs and extracurricular opportunities available. Staff and current students played an essential role in helping students envision themselves as part of their future school communities, answering questions and sharing their experiences. Thank you to our secondary and elementary staff for the care, time and energy you invested in these events. Your efforts helped foster a strong sense of belonging and reflect our shared commitment to creating inclusive, welcoming environments where every student can learn, grow and thrive.



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 2025

Public Session: 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

(*denotes approval received to attend electronically)

TRUSTEE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Trustee Susan Jovanovic (Committee Chair), Trustee Nancy Beamer, Trustee Deanne MacIntosh*, Trustee Mike Brousseau*

ADMINISTRATION

Marianne Groat, (Student Achievement Leader, Indigenous Education – Curriculum)
Kirsty Howie, (Student Achievement Leader, Indigenous Education - Well Being)
Pratima Burton (Student Achievement Leader – Equity & Inclusion)
Zakia Hamdani (Student Achievement Leader Education – Equity & Inclusion)
Kelly Pisek (Director of Education)
Ann Gilmore (Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well Being)
Mary Anne Gage (Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well Being)
Neil Sheard (Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well Being)
Marian Reimer Friesen (Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well Being)

TRUSTEE GUESTS

Trustee Sue Barnett, Trustee Elizabeth Klassen and Trustee Helga Campbell

RECORDING SECRETARY

Alison Vegh

A. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Chair Jovanovic opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of the Traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples.

B. CALL TO ORDER/NOTING OF MEMBERS ABSENT

Chair Jovanovic called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and noted that Trustee Fast sent regrets.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: Trustee Nancy Beamer

Seconded by: Trustee Mike Brousseau

“That the agenda be approved as presented.”

CARRIED



D. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2025-2026 Equity & Inclusion Overview

Superintendent Mary Anne Gage introduced the report by highlighting the District School Board of Niagara's (DSBN) continued focus on fostering inclusive environments by prioritizing human rights, anti-oppression, and anti-racism. Student Achievement Leader Pratima Burton shared how this commitment advanced through the DSBN Equity Action Plan, the Equity and Inclusion Community Advisory Committee (EICAC), and an updated Equity and Inclusion website.

Student Achievement Leader Zakia Hamdani shared an overview of the Equity Action Plan, which is aligned with DSBN's Strategic Plan, operates on a three-year cycle and targets six key principles: student voice, inclusive spaces, responsive curriculum, anti-bias learning, community partnerships, and eliminating systemic barriers. EICAC convenes five times annually to advise on equity efforts, while the enhanced website, guided by EICAC's feedback, provides accessible resources and engagement opportunities.

2. 2024-2025 Board Action Plan on Indigenous Education

Superintendent Ann Gilmore provided an overview of the Indigenous Board Action Plan (BAP) which is a Ministry-required, annually updated plan detailing DSBN's strategies to support First Nations, Inuit, and Métis students. Developed in consultation with the Indigenous Education Committee (IEC), the BAP directs use of the Indigenous Education Grant and sets priorities such as culturally responsive programming, staff development, student leadership, and community engagement.

Student Achievement Leaders Marianne Groat and Kirsty Howie provided examples within the 2024–2025 BAP from each of the six key initiatives aligned with Ontario's First Nation, Métis, and Inuit policy framework. These initiatives supported both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, educators, and broader community connections all underscoring DSBN's commitment to reconciliation, inclusion, and student well-being.

3. DSBN Lockdown Drills and Emergency Procedures

Superintendent Ann Gilmore shared that the Ministry of Education requires all schools to hold at least two lockdown drills each year, as set out in the Ontario School Board Emergency Management Guidelines (2017). This practice is also outlined within DSBN Policies and Procedures which ensures a consistent approach to emergency preparedness, through clear procedures, training, and regular communication.

To maintain consistency, DSBN has set November 3–7 and May 4–8 as board-wide periods for lockdown drills, aligning with National Community Safety and Crime Prevention Month and Emergency Preparedness Week. DSBN collaborates with Niagara Regional Police Service to uphold province-aligned safety practices in every school. Regular lockdown drills and ongoing training help DSBN reinforce safe routines, promote a caring culture, and strengthen trust among students, staff, and families.



PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025



4. Student Achievement Updates

Superintendent Marian Reimer Friesen shared general information about the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessments measure student achievement in reading, writing, and mathematics at key stages: Grades 3, 6, 9 (Math), and 10 (Literacy). She also shared that DSBN's elementary EQAO results exceeded provincial averages, with Grade 3 and 6 students outperforming the province in Math by 15% and 20% respectively.

She also shared an update on the elementary Math Achievement Action Plan (MAAP) was introduced, requiring boards to track specific student data and support priority schools. Elementary MAAP schools saw significant gains, with Grade 3 math up 24% and Grade 6 math up 52% since 2022–23.

Superintendent Neil Sheard shared that Grade 9 math scores increased by 8% over the previous year, and all secondary schools improved. Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) results also rose, with a 3% increase and a 4% lead over the provincial average. He also shared an update on Secondary MAAP progress, highlighting a 7% improvement since 2023/2024 and 24% improvement over the past three years.

These results reflect DSBN's effective improvement strategies which are targeted and differentiated and supports an ongoing focus on mathematics in future student achievement plans.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

None

F. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, February 10th, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025

Public Session – 6:15p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

(*denotes approval received to attend electronically)

TRUSTEE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Trustee Kate Baggott (Acting Committee Chair), Trustee Deanne Macintosh*, Trustee Sue Barnett, Trustee Helga Campbell

TRUSTEE GUESTS

Trustee Nancy Beamer, Trustee Mike Brousseau, Trustee Susan Jovanovic, Trustee Elizabeth Klassen

ADMINISTRATION

Jennifer Feren (General Counsel), Kelly Pisek (Director of Education)

GUESTS

Stacy Veld (Associate Director of Business), Marian Reimer Friesen (Superintendent of Student Achievement and Well-Being), Neil Sheard (Superintendent of Student Achievement and Well-Being), Michael St. John (Superintendent of Employee Services)

RECORDING SECRETARY

Susan Sentance, Administrative Assistant

A. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Chair Baggott opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of the Traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples.

B. CALL TO ORDER/NOTING MEMBER ABSENCES

Chair Baggott called the meeting to order at 6:54pm and noted that Trustee Lora Campbell was absent.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Trustee H Campbell

Seconded by Trustee MacIntosh



“That the Agenda dated December 9, 2025, be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. E-15: Workplace Violence and Harassment Prevention

Superintendent St. John presented Policy E-15 which was amended to include reference to the *Occupational Health & Safety Act*. The feedback received fell outside the parameters of the policy and was forwarded for follow-up at the school level.

Moved by Trustee Barnett

Seconded by Trustee H Campbell

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

CARRIED

2. E-03: Health and Safety

Associate Director Veld presented Policy E-03. During the meeting, references throughout the policy to employees were changed to workers to align with the Ontario *Health and Safety Act*.

Moved by Trustee Barnett

Seconded by Trustee H Campbell

“That Policy E-03: Health and Safety be approved as amended and adopted.”

CARRIED

3. D-11: Arts Programs

Superintendents Sheard and Reimer Friesen presented Policy D-11 with a recommendation to revoke as it is operational in nature and directly related to curriculum that is ministry driven. The feedback received was forwarded to DSNB’s curriculum department for consideration.

Moved by Trustee MacIntosh

Seconded by Trustee Barnett

“That Policy D-11: Arts Program be revoked.”

CARRIED

4. D-14: Assessment and Evaluation and Reporting

Superintendents Sheard and Reimer Friesen presented Policy D-14 with no significant changes. No public feedback was received.



Moved by Trustee H Campbell

Seconded by Trustee Barnett

"That Policy D-14: Assessment and Evaluation and Reporting be approved as received and adopted."

CARRIED

5. A-12: School Councils

General Counsel Feren presented Policy A-12 which was rewritten to better align with Ontario Regulation 612/00 and Ministry of Education guidelines and emphasize efforts to support diverse parent engagement and equitable access by all school community members. The feedback received fell outside the parameters of the policy and was forwarded for follow-up at the school level.

Moved by Trustee MacIntosh

Seconded by Trustee H Campbell

"That Policy A-12: School Councils be approved as received and adopted."

CARRIED

6. Policy Preamble-i01: Policy - General

General Counsel Feren presented Policy Preamble-i01: Policy General with minor changes. The feedback received fell outside the parameters of the policy and was forwarded for follow-up at the school level.

Moved by Trustee Barnett

Seconded by Trustee H Campbell

"That Policy Preamble-i01: Policy - General be approved as received and adopted."

CARRIED

7. Policy Preamble-i02: Policy Committee

General Counsel Feren presented Policy Preamble-i02: Policy Committee. The policy was amended to remove redundant information already contained in DSBN By-laws. Feedback was received and considered by the committee.

Moved by Trustee MacIntosh

Seconded by Trustee H Campbell

"That Policy Preamble-i02: Policy Committee be approved as received and adopted."

CARRIED



POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025



8. Policy Preamble-i03: Policy Generating Process

General Counsel Feren presented Policy Preamble-i03: Policy Generating Process, which includes amendments during the meeting to change the words “Senior” Leadership to “System” and “deletion” to “revocation”. The last paragraph of the policy was also updated at the meeting to include more concise language retaining the key messaging. No feedback was received.

Moved by Trustee H Campbell

Seconded by Trustee Barnett

“That Policy Preamble-i03: Policy Generating Process be approved as amended and adopted.”

CARRIED

E. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35p.m.



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025

SAL MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present

Ann Gilmore, Superintendent of Student Achievement and Well-Being
Kara Lee Carson-Simpson - John Howard Society of Niagara
Caroline Graham - John Howard Society of Niagara
Sandra Orr - Student Achievement Leader
Mat Miller – Secondary Principal
Helga Campbell, Trustee

Administration/Resource

Nadia LaSelva, Attendance Counsellor
Laura Livingston - SAL Secretary
Jennifer McGugan – Safe Schools and Student Well-Being Coordinator

Guests

Kim Landon, VP, Eastdale Secondary School
Erica Dorinzi- VP, Greater Fort Erie Secondary School
Rhianna Dioguardi – Stamford Collegiate Secondary School
Victoria Leng-Marini – VP, West Niagara Secondary School
Naomi Taylor - VP, A.N. Myer Secondary School
Kyle Steele - VP, E.L. Crossley Secondary School

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE SAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Student Achievement Leader Sandra Orr called the meeting to order at 1 pm.

B. Cases

226-012 MV DOB 11/03/2011

The student is currently participating in one period at school, focusing on ELS201, and is engaging with an Educational Assistant. The school will maintain collaboration with the student to facilitate progress toward enhanced participation and attendance.

MV has been approved for SAL.



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025

226-013 OB DOB 04/17/2009

The student is currently enrolled in IDC30 online. They will maintain connections with their school's social worker and student success teacher, while also accessing relevant community support services. The school remains committed to supporting the student in their pursuit of achieving the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and facilitating their return to full-time in-person learning.

OB has been approved for SAL.

226-014 VM DOB 06/09/2010

The student is working on GWL30 and MEL3E and will work with student success to complete packages at home. In addition, the student is engaging with both the DSBN Indigenous Education Team and relevant community resources. The connected staff will continue to support the student in working toward their goal of earning credits, participating in a coop placement and engaging in technological education opportunities when returning to in person learning.

VM has been approved for SAL.

226-015 KH DOB 05/09/2011

The student is working on AVI201-02 and GLC20H -02 in the student success room and the student has connected with the school social worker. The school will continue to support the student with strategies that align with their interest in art and horses.

KH has been approved for SAL.

226-016 MT DOB 03/04/2011

The student is working on GLE10 and DCO307 within the student success room and participates actively in the art hub during school hours. The student maintains regular communication with the school social worker. The school will continue to foster and support the student's interest in art.

MT has been approved for SAL.

226-017 KH DOB 12/19/2008

The student is enrolled in PPZ301 and will work from home, participating in virtual check-ins at school every two weeks. The student will maintain their community involvement, and the school will continue to offer support.

KH has been approved for SAL.

226-018 CF DOB 08/19/2009

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025

The student is currently enrolled in IDC3O and will be in contact with the school social worker. The student is actively seeking employment, and the school will continue to provide support as they work towards their goal of obtaining a college diploma.

CF has been approved for SAL

C. CASE REVIEW

The Committee reviewed twenty-two (22) cases that had been brought forward previously. Of the cases reviewed, two (2) cases were discontinued due to non-compliance.

D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026

SAL MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present

Ann Gilmore, Superintendent of Student Achievement and Well-Being
Kara Lee Carson-Simpson - John Howard Society of Niagara
Mat Miller – Acting Superintendent of Student Achievement and Well-Being
Helga Campbell - Trustee

Administration/Resource

Nadia LaSelva, Attendance Counsellor
Laura Livingston - SAL Secretary
Trisha Miller – Administrative Assistant

Guests

Julie Volcansek - VP, Laura Secord Secondary School
Kristen Toyne - VP, Westlane Secondary School
Erica Dorinzi - VP Greater Fort Erie Secondary School
Kyle Visser - VP, Thorold Secondary School
Jenn Edwards - VP, Welland Centennial Secondary School

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE SAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Acting Superintendent Mat Miller called the meeting to order at 1:00pm and noted the regrets for Helga Campbell.

B. CASES

226-019 SC DOB 8/11/2011

The student is currently participating in two periods at school, focusing on Math and Geography, and is engaging with a social worker. The school will maintain collaboration with the student to facilitate progress toward enhanced participation and attendance.

SC has been approved for SAL.

226-019 AP DOB 6/8/2011

The student is currently enrolled online. They will maintain connections with their school's social worker and student success teacher, while also accessing relevant community support services. The school remains committed to supporting the student to facilitate progress toward enhanced participation and attendance.



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025

AP has been approved for SAL.

226-021 MC DOB 2/27/2009

The student is working on MEL3E and will maintain connections with their school's social worker and student success teacher while also accessing relevant community support services. The school remains committed to supporting the student to facilitate progress toward enhanced participation and attendance.

MC has been approved for SAL.

226-022 MD DOB 06/05/2009

The student is working on GLE 30 on Wednesday during period 4 and the student has connected with the school social worker. The school remains committed to supporting the student to facilitate progress toward enhanced participation and attendance.

MD has been approved for SAL.

226-023 RWM DOB 03/29/2009

The student is working on IDC30 and NBE3U. The student maintains regular contact with a teacher.

RWM has been approved for SAL.

C. CASE REVIEW

The Committee reviewed twenty-seven (27) cases that had been brought forward previously.

D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present

Linda Morrice (Chair) - Pathstone Mental Health, Brianne Freiwat – Bethesda Services, Flavia Orvitz - Autism Ontario – Niagara Chapter, Patty Ferrie – Inclusion West Niagara, Victoria Everett – Learning Disabilities Association Niagara

Administration/Resource

Simon Hancox-Superintendent of Student Achievement and Well-being, Terri Beck- Student Achievement Leader Special Education Elementary, Matt Ezrin – Student Achievement Leader Special Education Secondary, Tracey Krysa – Senior Manager Special Education, Elizabeth Klassen - Trustee, District School Board of Niagara, Shannon Mitchell - Trustee, District School Board of Niagara, Kelly Pisek – Director of Education

Regrets

Kathy Bell-Niagara Children's Centre
Tessa Alexander – VOICE for Children Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Katie McKay – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Coalition
Catherine Hodson-Niagara Children's Centre School Authority

Recording Secretary

Jennifer McGugan – Safe Schools and Student Well-Being Coordinator

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY

Quorum was established and the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Chair Morrice opened the meeting with the Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Flavia Orvitz

Seconded by Brianne Freiwat

"That the Agenda dated December 11, 2025, be approved as presented."

CARRIED

3. STUDENT VOICE

Terri Beck, Student Achievement Leader for Special Education - Elementary, introduced a video showcasing the Early Intervention Program (EIP) at Connaught Public School. The EIP team explained that the program emphasises school readiness, independence, and communication skills, while implementing tailored strategies to support each student. The video featured inspiring examples of positive student outcomes achieved through the program.

4. SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT



SEAC MINUTES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025



Superintendent Hancox presented information available on the DSBN website to help committee members as they support and direct families who have concerns regarding their students.

5. **ASSOCIATION INFORMATION**

There were no association reports.

6. **TRUSTEE UPDATE**

Trustee Mitchell provided an update on the December Board meeting.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

8. **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

There were no questions.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 8, 2026 – Grimsby Lincoln Room (members attending virtually)



THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present

Linda Morrice (Chair) - Pathstone Mental Health, Brianne Freiwat – Bethesda Services, Flavia Orvitz - Autism Ontario – Niagara Chapter, Patty Ferrie – Inclusion West Niagara, Victoria Everett – Learning Disabilities Association Niagara, Kylee Daley-Niagara Children’s Centre, Tessa Alexander – VOICE for Children Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Katie McKay – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Coalition

Administration/Resource

Simon Hancox-Superintendent of Student Achievement and Well-being, Terri Beck- Student Achievement Leader Special Education Elementary, Matt Ezrin – Student Achievement Leader Special Education Secondary, Tracey Krysa – Senior Manager Special Education, Elizabeth Klassen - Trustee, District School Board of Niagara, Shannon Mitchell - Trustee, District School Board of Niagara, Kelly Pisek – Director of Education

Regrets

Catherine Hodson-Niagara Children’s Centre School Authority

Recording Secretary

Jennifer McGugan – Safe Schools and Student Well-Being Coordinator

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY

Quorum was established and the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Chair Morrice opened the meeting with the Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Patty Ferrie

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the Agenda dated January 8, 2026, be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

3. ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION

Patty Ferrie from Inclusion West Niagara introduced Cheryl Barnsley, Family Support Coordinator, who provided an overview of the programs and services available for individuals with developmental disabilities. Inclusion West Niagara collaborates with DSBN staff to support students and their families, fostering student inclusion within school communities. Additionally, she highlighted that February is recognized as Inclusive Education Month and underscored the importance of inclusion extending beyond the classroom.

4. SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT

Superintendent Simon Hancox discussed the DSBN Special Education Budget and invited committee members to participate in a feedback survey.



Terri Beck, Student Achievement Leader for Special Education Elementary, presented an overview of Preschool Transitions and the procedures involved in preparing more than 300 students for entry into kindergarten. This year, DSBN school staff, rather than Special Education Central staff, were responsible for collecting information about incoming students and assessing their learning needs. The Niagara Children's Centre (NCC) facilitates a Transition to School Caregiver Orientation, introducing parents to the strong collaborative relationship between NCC and DSBN. As students start school, they receive support from both organizations during their first few months.

5. **ASSOCIATION INFORMATION**

Committee members shared information and updates from their respective associations and roles.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

7. **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

There were no questions.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 12, 2026 – Grimsby Lincoln Room (members attending virtually)



MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026

Public Session: 5:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

(*denotes approval received to attend electronically)

TRUSTEE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Trustee Sue Barnett (Committee Chair), Trustee Michael Brousseau, Trustee Helga Campbell*

ADMINISTRATION

Kelly Pisek (Director of Education), Nicky Westlake (Controller of Finance)

TRUSTEE GUESTS

Board Chair Kate Baggott, Vice Chair Elizabeth Klassen, Trustee Deanne Macintosh *, Trustee Nancy Beamer

RECORDING SECRETARY

Tamara Lockhart

A. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Chair Barnett opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of the Traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples.

B. CALL TO ORDER/NOTING OF MEMBERS ABSENT

Chair Barnett called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and noted that Trustee Lora Campbell was absent.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

There was an amendment to the agenda. Item H – DSBN Schools as Hubs of the Community has been deferred to the March 10, 2026 meeting.

Moved by Mike Brousseau

Seconded by Helga Campbell

“That the agenda be approved as amended.”

CARRIED



D. 2025-26 FIRST INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Controller of Finance Nicky Westlake presented the 2025-26 Interim Financial Report which is based on the revised estimates submitted to the Ministry. The report 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 while projected enrolment has not been reached yet. Based on preliminary October 31, 2025, actual enrolment, the DSBN has increased by 444 average daily enrolment (ADE) from last year's actual enrolment.

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 First Interim Financial Report projects a balanced budget with no use of accumulated surplus.

Controller Westlake highlighted some key changes in Revenue and Expenditures mentioning Core Education Funding has decreased by \$12.4M in comparison to the original budget. This is comprised of three major areas; \$2.7M related to the reduction in ADE, \$2.0M to benchmark funding for teachers salaries, and \$7.8M in Deferred Capital Contributions. A corresponding decrease of \$7.8M in Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets due to the timing of capital projects has been accounted for in expenses.

Moved by Helga Campbell

Seconded by Mike Brousseau

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

CARRIED

E. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

Controller of Finance Nicky Westlake shared the Summary of Accounts stating the report summarizes the cash flow of expenditures paid during the months of November and December 2025. The summary highlights the costs associated with employee benefits, constructions/repairs & maintenance, transportation, utilities, professional services, information technology purchases and other non-salary expenditures. The timing of these expenditures is reported on a cash-basis and does not include accruals for accounting purposes.

Moved by Mike Brousseau

Seconded by Helga Campbell

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

CARRIED



FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

F. AWARD OF CONTRACT SUMMARY REPORT

Controller of Finance Nicky Westlake reported on contracts over \$750,000 awarded from September 1 to December 31, 2025. Softchoice Canada Corp received the Microsoft Enrollment for Education Solutions contract; Keith's Plumbing & Heating Inc was awarded Briardale School HVAC/Mechanical Renewal; Van Am Mechanical Ltd was selected for James Morden Library Cooling Centre & Classroom HVAC.

Moved by Helga Campbell

Seconded by Mike Brousseau

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

CARRIED

G. ANNUAL TRUSTEE EXPENSE REPORT

Controller of Finance Nicky Westlake presented the Annual Trustee Expense Report, which provides a detailed summary of Trustee expenses for the 2024-25 term. The report categorizes expenditures into three areas: Mileage, Technology, and Education and Business Development. Trustees are eligible for reimbursement of costs incurred while fulfilling their official duties. In accordance with Board Policy, the summary will be published annually upon completion of the Financial Statements and verification of all expense claims.

Moved by Helga Campbell

Seconded by Mike Brousseau

"That the Annual Trustee Expense Report be received."

CARRIED

H. DSBN SCHOOLS AS HUBS OF THE COMMUNITY

This item was deferred to the March 10, 2026 meeting.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m. The next Finance Committee meeting date is Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.



FEB 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
				PIC 5:30 pm		
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
		Policy 5:30 pm Program & Planning 6 pm	SAL 1 pm	SEAC 5:30 pm		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Regular Board Meeting 6 pm				



FEBRUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Black History Month						
01 Imbolc World Hijab Day	02	03 Nisfu Sha'ban* (fasting day) Setsubun	04 Imamat Day	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13	14 Kindness Awareness Week (Feb. 14-20) Valentine's Day
15 Buddha's Death (Nirvana Day) Maha Shivaratri	16 Family Day	17 Lunar New Year* Mardi Gras	18 Ramadan * (Feb. 18 – Mar. 19) Ash Wednesday (First Day of Lent) Losar New Year	19	20 World Day of Social Justice	21 International Mother Language Day
22	23 Clean Monday	24	25 Ayyam-i-Ha (Feb. 25- Mar. 1) Anything Pink Day	26	27	28

NOTE: Days of Significance/Holy Days may vary a few days before or after the indicated date due to the observance of the lunar calendar for some cultures/faiths and time zones.

* Denotes Days of Significance/Holy Days that begin in **the evening before** the indicated time.

