

MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026

Public Session: 6:00 p.m. – 7:41 p.m. | Private Session: 7:15 p.m. – 7:41 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

(*denotes approval received to attend electronically)

BOARD

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

STUDENT TRUSTEES

William Connor

INDIGENOUS STUDENT TRUSTEE

Barrett Dockstator

ADMINISTRATION

Kelly Pisek (Director of Education), Karen Bellamy, Michael Burns, Sara De Divitiis, Jennifer Feren, Mary Anne Gage, Ann Gilmore, Simon Hancox, Mat Miller, Milica Petkovic, Breann Pyke, Melanie Sendzik, Neil Sheard, Jaime Sinnett, Teri Thompson, Stacy Veld (Associate Director)

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer Reid

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Nate Burns, Ann Hamm

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 Nancy Beamer

Seconded by Mike Brousseau

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

CARRIED

Chair Baggott called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted that Trustee Lora Campbell, Trustee Deanne MacIntosh, and Student Trustee Jacklyn Saddler were absent.

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 Gainsborough Public School choir, via video and remained standing for moment of silence in honour of a student.

C. REFLECTIVE READING

There was no reflective reading.

D. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Helga Campbell
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 Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated December 2, 2025, be confirmed as submitted."

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

E. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS

1. Director's Recognition and Highlights

a) Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions

Director Pisek recognized Martha Shaw, Elementary Secretary at DeWitt Carter Public School for her dedication, leadership and endless commitment to fostering a caring, inclusive, and welcoming school culture.

Trustee Jonathan Fast arrived at 6:13 pm.

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:

- RISE UP! Students Leading the Change
- High School Open Houses

2. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASES

There was no educational showcase.

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 Program and Planning Committee

Moved by Susan Jovanovic

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

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

CARRIED

Trustee Jovanovic reported that four reports were presented to the committee. These included the 2025-2026 Equity and Inclusion Overview, which highlighted the DSBN Equity Action Plan and introduced the updated Equity and Inclusion website, designed to provide accessible resources for

students, families and staff based on feedback from the Equity and Inclusion Community Advisory Committee. The 2024-2025 Board Action Plan on Indigenous Education that includes six initiatives that align with Ontario's policy framework benefiting both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students was presented. In addition, DSBN Lockdown Drills and Emergency Procedures and Student Achievement Updates with highlights from the 2024-2025 EQAO results were presented to the committee.

2. Report of the Policy Committee

Moved by Helga Campbell

Seconded by Mike Brousseau

"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."

CARRIED

General Counsel Feren reported that a total of eight policies were reviewed and highlighted the following changes, policy A-12: School Councils was updated to emphasize efforts to support diverse parent engagement and equitable access by all school community members and to better align with Ontario Regulation 612/00. Policy Preambles i-01, i-02, and i-03 were updated to remove redundant language and for clarity and policy D-11: Arts Program was presented with the recommendation to revoke, due to its operational nature. Board members were reminded that the second set of policies are open for public feedback on the DSBN website.

3. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Moved by Helga Campbell

Seconded by Sue Barnett

“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.”

CARRIED

Trustee Helga Campbell shared that during the December meeting seven new cases were presented and approved for SAL and that during the January meeting five new cases were presented and approved for SAL.

4. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Shannon Mitchell

Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

“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.”

CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell shared highlights from both the December and January meetings. These include presentations about the Early Intervention Program at Connaught Public School, information about various supports available for students with developmental disabilities from Inclusion West Niagara, and the resources available on the DSBN website that can assist community organizations in supporting families with student concerns. In addition, an update on the Special Education Budget and Preschool Transitions highlighting the coordinated efforts between DSBN and the Niagara Children’s Centre were provided to the committee.

5. Report of the Finance Committee

Moved by Sue Barnett

Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“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.”

CARRIED

Trustee Barnett reported that the 2025-2026 First Interim Financial Report includes the updated enrolment projection increase of 444 ADE from last year and changes to revenue and expenditures, highlighting a \$12.4 million decrease in Core Education Funding offset by corresponding reduction in amortization was presented to the committee. The Summary of Accounts summarizing the cash flow of expenditures paid during the months of November and December 2025, and the report on contracts over \$750,000 awarded from September 1 to December 31, 2025, were presented. In addition, the Annual Trustee Expense Report for the 2024-2025 term was presented.

J. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

In response to a question, Director Pisek noted that a report on vaping will be presented at the February Program and Planning Committee meeting.

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

Trustee Jovanvic shared that she received communication from school communities expressing appreciation for the social media posts on the inclement weather updates.

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

Student Trustee William Connor reported on the most recent Student Senate meeting, where Senators focussed on bullying awareness and subcommittees created promotional social media content to increase awareness about Student Senate and DSBN resources available to support students, discussed current initiatives.

Indigenous Student Trustee Barrett Dockstator shared highlights from Rise Up, and from the second Indigenous Rep meeting. During the Equity break out discussions focussed on the holiday season and how to create more inclusivity within schools. In addition, school events and programs happening across the DSBN for Indigenous students inspired by Indigenous student voice were shared.

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

Trustees shared highlights from the recent Public Education Symposium, noting that the sessions were informative and engaging.

6. Ontario Student Trustees' Association Report

There was no Ontario Student Trustees' Association report.

7. Future Meetings

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

M. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Mike Brousseau
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

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

CARRIED

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"That the Board return to Open meeting."

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 7:41 p.m.

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

Moved by Mike Brousseau
Seconded by Sue Barnett

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

CARRIED

O. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026



Moved by Jonathan Fast

Seconded by Sue Barnett

"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 7:41 p.m.

KATE BAGGOTT

Chair

KELLY PISEK

Director of Education and Secretary