

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 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

Recommended Motion:

“That the absence of Trustee Lora Campbell be approved under section 228(1)(b) of the Education Act, until May 31, 2026.”

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 5-12

Recommended Motion:

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated January 27, 2026, be confirmed as submitted.”

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

E. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS

1. Director's Recognition and Highlights

K. Pisek – Pages 13-14

a) Director's Recognition

- **Maira Berzins and Wendy Campbell**, Finance Clerks, Financial Services

b) Director's Highlights

2. Educational Showcase

A. Gilmore

a) The Fabric of Our Being: Stories in Every Stitch

F. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

G. DELEGATIONS

H. BOARD RECESS (OPTIONAL)

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Parent Involvement Committee

S. Jovanovic/S. Mitchell – Pages 15-16

Recommended Motion:

"That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated February 5, 2026, be received."

2. Report of the Policy Committee

J. Feren – Pages 17-26

Recommended Motions:

"That the report of the Policy Committee dated February 10, 2026, be received."

"That Policy G-24: Onsite/off-site Evacuation be approved as received and adopted."

"That Policy C-04: Community Planning and Facility Partnerships be approved as received and adopted."

"That Policy G-10: Use of Identification Badges be revoked."

"That Policy G-21: Advertising in Schools be approved as amended and adopted."

3. Report of the Program and Planning Committee

S. Jovanovic – Pages 27-43

Recommended Motions:

"That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated February 10, 2026, be received."

"That the Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars – 2026-2027 be received and approved for submission to the Ministry of Education."

4. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

H. Campbell – Pages 44-45

Recommended Motion:

"That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated February 11, 2026, be received."

5. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

E. Klassen/S. Mitchell – Pages 46-47

Recommended Motion:

"That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated February 12, 2026, 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 48-49
 - a) March Meeting Calendar
 - b) March Days of Significance Calendars

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 February 24, 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, 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 a 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

Director's Highlights

February 2026

DIRECTOR'S RECOGNITION

Maira Berzins & Wendy Campbell | Finance Clerks, Financial Services

When Accounting Supervisor Nancy Folino refers to Maira Berzins and Wendy Campbell as the “dynamic duo,” it’s a reflection of the seamless support and extraordinary impact they have on day-to-day financial operations across the DSBN each day. Deeply trusted, knowledgeable and solutions-oriented, the two Finance Clerks have strengthened daily practices and system-wide confidence with their reliable, precise and caring approach.

With a combined four decades of service, Maira and Wendy have supported countless secretaries and administrators, translating complex financial requirements into clear, practical guidance. They are tireless capacity-builders - developing and leading monthly training sessions, onboarding and coaching new staff as well as offering one-on-one support that meets people where they are. Their work ensures consistency, compliance, and clarity across our schools.

When schools face staffing transitions or urgent needs, Maira and Wendy step in without hesitation. On several occasions, they have managed the full financial responsibilities of multiple schools for extended periods, maintaining continuity, accuracy and accountability to ensure there are no disruptions or negative impact on school operations and student and staff experiences.

“What sets them apart is their proactive approach and innovative mindset,” shares Nicky Westlake, Controller of Finance. “Their ability to anticipate needs, offer hands-on assistance and maintain strong relationships with school staff demonstrates their professionalism and genuine care for the success of our educational community. They regularly visit schools, ensuring they stay connected and informed which allows them to provide timely and relevant guidance.”

Equally noteworthy is how they do their work: with kindness, patience, and proficiency. They create an environment where questions are welcomed, support is timely, and solutions are collaborative. For principals and administrative assistants alike, Maira and Wendy are trusted partners whose presence in schools matters. They help leaders analyze budgets, make informed decisions, and align financial management with student success. Their responsiveness and care for people exemplify the highest standards of public service.

Congratulations, Maira and Wendy on receiving the Director’s Recognition Award. Through your expertise, dedication, generosity and remarkable professionalism, you not only fulfill your roles, but elevate them, creating a culture where everyone feels supported, capable and confident. Thank you for the extraordinary impact you make across our system every day.

15 Years of Dedicated Service

Trustee Barnett recognized at PES 2026

At this year’s Public Education Symposium (PES) in Toronto, the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association (OPSBA) celebrated eight Trustees from across the province for their long-standing service. Among them was DSBN Trustee Sue Barnett who celebrated a significant milestone - 15 years of dedicated service - reflecting four consecutive municipal election wins and a strong commitment to students and families. Congratulations, Trustee Barnett and thank you for your continued dedication to students, families and public education.



PES
2026



Ontario Public School
Boards' Association



Sue Barnett, Trustee
Welland

DSBN HIGHLIGHTS

Belonging Begins With Kindness *DSBN students celebrate Kindness Week*

Students and staff across DSBN joined communities nationwide in celebrating *Kindness Week* from February 15 to 21, including Random Acts of Kindness Day on February 17. Inspired by the theme, *Belonging Begins with Kindness*, schools engaged in thoughtful gestures and connection-building activities that highlighted how small acts can make a big difference. From posting kind notes on lockers and bulletin boards and filling school “kindness jars” with thoughtful actions to painting rocks with messages of kindness for outdoor spaces, these moments create meaningful opportunities for students to feel seen, supported, and included. For staff, the launch of [DSBN Recognition Cards](#) provided a simple but purposeful way to acknowledge the kindness and care shown by colleagues. Thank you to DSBN students and staff for showing, day after day, that kindness is a shared commitment - one that shapes our schools, strengthens our communities and helps everyone feel a true sense of belonging.



Minister of Education Visits DSBN *Learning in action*

On February 10, Minister of Education Paul Calandra visited three DSBN schools to connect with students and staff and see learning in action. With a focus on Kindergarten and science programs, the Minister visited Power Glen Public School, where Kindergarten students demonstrated early literacy and numeracy skills. The visit continued at Ferndale Public School and West Niagara Secondary School, with a science focus, aligned with International Day of Women and Girls in Science (February 11). These visits highlighted inquiry-based STEM learning and student-designed Science Fair projects that celebrated the creativity, leadership, and innovation of girls in science. Students shared how hands-on, real-world learning experiences support confidence and future pathways, reflecting DSBN's commitment to inclusive, high-quality learning from early years through secondary school.

Black History Month *Meaningful learning across DSBN*

Throughout Black History Month, students across DSBN engaged in learning and reflection that honoured Black histories, contributions, and excellence. In classrooms across the system, learning amplified the voices, achievements, and lived experiences of Black communities in Canada and across the diaspora. Supported by resources from the DSBN Equity and Curriculum teams, educators created learning opportunities that centred student voice, connection, and pride. Across the system, this work took many forms, from rich classroom inquiry and discussions that highlighted Black voices, to morning announcements, student-led initiatives and information about community events. Together, these efforts supported classrooms as spaces where students see themselves reflected, deepen their understanding of our shared histories, learn from one another, and recognize the communities that continue to shape who we are today.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 05, 2026

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members

Melissa Lofquist (Co-Chair), Ryan Morris (Co-Chair), Amber Hughes, Ray Darukhanawalla, Lisa Mooney, Jon Cairns (Administrator), Carolyn Jonovich (Administrator), Michael Burns (Acting Superintendent)

Trustee Committee Members

Shannon Mitchell, Susan Jovanovic

Guests

Kelly Pisek (Director of Education), Elizabeth Klassen (Vice-Chair, Board of Trustees), Caitlyn MacInnis, Kelly Goulding, Melissa Roberts, Sarah Richert

Recording Secretary

Elisha von Wuthenau, Administrative Assistant to Michael Burns

A. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Acting Superintendent Michael Burns began the meeting with an Acknowledgment of the Traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples.

B. WELCOME

Chair Lofquist welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced guests.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Ray Darukhanawalla

Seconded by Lisa Mooney

"That the Agenda be approved."

CARRIED

D. GUEST PRESENTATION – Jennifer Feren, General Counsel

Ms. Feren reviewed new Ministry of Education police check requirements for volunteers. She indicated detailed information will be sent to Administrators to share with staff and volunteers. She added that clearances will be completed at no charge to the volunteers.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 05, 2026



E. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Lofquist began her report by presenting the four member candidates to the committee and proposing a vote to welcome them as new members of PIC.

Moved by Ray Darukhanawalla

Seconded by Amber Hughes

“That the four candidates be accepted as new members of the committee.”

CARRIED

Chair Lofquist reviewed the committee member chart addressing different geographical areas the committee should focus on for recruitment. The suggestion was made to email School Council Chairs to invite any interested parties to the next PIC meeting.

Chair Morris presented the list of policies that are open for feedback on the DSBN website and encouraged the committee to review them.

F. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Acting Superintendent Burns reviewed the funds remaining in the PIC budget. He also shared information about an upcoming free webinar “Parenting in the Online World”.

G. EVENT (Conference) PLANNING

Based on feedback provided from the committee at the last meeting, Acting Superintendent presented the suggestion of a three-night (two in-person and one virtual) Speaker Series with Jennifer Alexander. The dates scheduled are May 5, 6 and 7, 2026. The two in-person evenings will include dinner and childcare at two different locations, one in St. Catharines and the other in Welland. Once more details are established, they will be shared with the committee and with parents.

H. TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee Mitchell spoke about the 4th Annual “Rise Up – Students Leading the Change” conference, where secondary students across the board participated in learning and leadership sessions. She also highlighted the High School Open Houses that happened across the DSBN in January and early February.

Trustee Jovanovic highlighted the Directors Recognition of Martha Shaw, school secretary at DeWitt Carter in Port Colborne.

The Parent Involvement Committee meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.

Next meeting – Thursday, May 14, 2026, at Thundering Heights Elementary School.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026

Public Session – 5:30p.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 GUESTS

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

ADMINISTRATION

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

GUESTS

Stacy Veld (Associate Director of Education, Corporate 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 5:30pm and noted that Trustee Lora Campbell and Trustee Helga Campbell were absent.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Trustee Barnett

Seconded by Trustee MacIntosh

“That the Agenda dated February 10, 2026, be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. G-24: Onsite/off-site Evacuation Associate Director Veld presented Policy G-24. The policy was presented with no significant changes. No public feedback was received.

Moved by Trustee MacIntosh

Seconded by Trustee Barnett

“That Policy G-24: Onsite/off-site Evacuation be approved as received and adopted.”

CARRIED

2. C-04: Community Planning and Facility Partnerships

Associate Director Veld presented Policy C-04. Revisions were made to the policy title and wording to reinforce that the scope of the policy is limited to facility partnerships within DSNB spaces and does not extend to other community partnerships established by the DSNB. A portion of the policy was removed as it was determined to be operational in nature. No public feedback was received.

Moved by Trustee Barnett

Seconded by Trustee MacIntosh

“That Policy C-04: Community Planning and Facility Partnerships be approved as received and adopted.”

CARRIED

3. G-10: Use of Identification Badges

Associate Director Veld presented Policy G-10: Use of Identification Badges with a recommendation to revoke as it is operational in nature. No public feedback was received.

Moved by Trustee MacIntosh

Seconded by Trustee Barnett

“That Policy G-10: Use of Identification Badges be revoked.”

CARRIED

4. G-21: Advertisements in Schools

Associate Director Veld presented Policy G-21 with minor language changes to reflect current practices. The policy was amended during the meeting to ensure consistency in its reference to the Associate Director of Education, Corporate Services with another policy presented earlier in the meeting. No public feedback was received.

POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026



Moved by Trustee Barnett

Seconded by Trustee MacIntosh

"That Policy G-21: Advertising in Schools be approved as amended and adopted."

CARRIED

E. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH, 2026

Public Session: 6:00 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

Kelly Pisek (Director of Education)
Michael Burns (Acting Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well Being)
Simon Hancox (Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well Being)
Milica Petkovic (Public Relations Manager)
Melanie Sendzik (Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well Being)
Neil Sheard (Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well Being)
Teri Thompson (Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well Being)

TRUSTEE GUESTS

Trustee Sue Barnett, Trustee Elizabeth Klassen, Trustee Shannon Mitchell

RECORDING SECRETARY

Alison Vegh

A. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

B. CALL TO ORDER/NOTING OF MEMBERS ABSENT

Chair Jovanovic called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and noted that Trustee Fast sent regrets.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: Trustee Beamer

Seconded by: Trustee Brousseau

“That the agenda be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. School Year Calendar 2026-2027

Superintendent Mike Burns introduced the first report by presenting the 2026-2027 school year calendar

As per Regulation 304 of the Education act, the 2026–2027 school year must include a minimum of 194 school days between September 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027, inclusive of Professional Activity (PA) Days and secondary examination days. The school year will begin with two PA Days on September 2 and September 3, 2026. As per Ministry requirements, the DSBN will observe Ontario Day on June 1, 2027. This date will remain an instructional day

Moved by: Trustee MacIntosh

Seconded by: Trustee Beamer

"That the Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars – 2026-2027 be received and approved for submission to the Ministry of Education."

Carried

2. Safe Schools Update: Supporting Student Safety and Well-Being

Superintendent Teri Thompson provided a Safe School update.

In June 2024, Ontario updated its Provincial Code of Conduct to address vaping in schools; this included funding to support the installation of vape detection systems, and supports for mental health, parent engagement, and targeted student education. The DSBN has utilized this funding and installed vape detectors in all secondary schools. Vape detectors are most effective when paired with comprehensive prevention and education efforts. These include curriculum-based learning, professional development for staff delivered through provincial health organizations, and the use of evidence based mental health resources. DSBN continues to collaborate with community agencies to support student learning about vaping, addiction, and healthy decision making.

3. Gen AI: From Vision to Action

Superintendent Melanie Sendzik shared DSBN's approach to Generative AI.

AI literacy is an important skill for students and DSBN is committed to supporting the safe, ethical, and effective use of Generative AI. The DSBN will continue to explore curriculum embedded uses of AI, collaborate with provincial partners, and review the systemwide rollout planned to assess its impact on learning and equity. This work reflects the Board's deliberate, transparent, and evidence-informed approach, centered on student and staff success.

PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026



4. Kindness Campaign

Public Relations Officer, Milica Petkovic presented Belonging Begins with Kindness Social Media Campaign.

Canada marks Kindness Week each February to highlight the importance of kindness, connection, and belonging. This year's theme, "**Belonging Begins with Kindness**," is supported through early communication, optional school resources, and a coordinated social media campaign featuring daily themes. These efforts celebrate everyday acts of kindness and reinforce the DSBN's commitment to well-being, inclusive school climates, and a culture where belonging begins with kindness—every day, in every school.

5. Special Education Update

Superintendent Simon Hancox provided a Special Education update.

To strengthen secondary structures, a dedicated Student Achievement Leader position focused on Special Education Needs for Grades 9–12 was added for the 2025–2026 school year. This year's review focuses on SSTC programming and includes targeted consultation, professional development, and capital improvements at key locations across the board. The Early Intervention Program at Connaught School continues to support students transitioning from Kindergarten to Grade 1 through individualized instruction, planned integration, and close collaboration with classroom teams. These efforts help students return to their home schools with greater readiness and confidence.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

None

F. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

G. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

SAL MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present

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

Administration/Resource

Nadia LaSelva, Attendance Counsellor
Tara Scully - Temp SAL Secretary
Trisha Miller – Administrative Assistant

Guests

Julie Volcansek - VP, Laura Secord Secondary School
Kristen Toyne - VP, Westlane Secondary School
Jonathan Cairns - VP, Stamford Collegiate 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 Superintendent Ann Gilmore.

B. CASES

226-024 KM DOB 12/17/2010

The student is currently working on IDC30 and checking in once a month with the vice principal and accessing relevant community support services. The school will maintain collaboration with the student to facilitate progress toward enhanced participation and attendance.

KM has been approved for SAL.

226-025 CR DOB 24/4/2010

The student is currently enrolled in a Comm Tech class and attending daily for 1 period. 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.

CR has been approved for SAL.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

226-026 AR DOB 11/01/2011

The student is working on two courses NAC10 and GLC 20H and attending an AM schedule. They will maintain connections with their school 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.

AR has been approved for SAL.

226-027 ED DOB 30/07/2008

The student is working on IDC20, and they will maintain connections with their school social worker and accessing relevant community support services. The school remains committed to supporting the student to facilitate progress toward enhanced participation and attendance.

ED has been approved for SAL.

C. CASE REVIEW

The Committee reviewed nineteen (19) cases that had been brought forward previously.

D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 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, Barb Wilson-Inclusion Action in Ontario, Catharine Hodson - Niagara Children's Centre School Authority, Kathy Bell-Niagara Children's Centre, Patty Ferrie - Inclusion West Niagara, 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

Regrets

Shannon Mitchell - Trustee, District School Board of Niagara

Recording Secretary

Trish Miller, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent

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 Kathy Bell

Seconded by Patty Ferrie

"That the Agenda dated February 12, 2026, be approved as presented."

CARRIED

3. WELCOME NEW SEAC MEMBER

Chair Morrice welcomed new SEAC member Barb Wilson, representative of Inclusion Action in Ontario.

4. STUDENT VOICE

Terri Beck, Student Achievement Leader for Special Education, presented a video featuring a successful sixth grade student at St. Davids Public School. The student uses a wireless assisted device that improves speech understanding in noise by transmitting sound directly from a speaker's microphone to a listener's receiver, hearing aid, or cochlear implant. They bridge the distance and overcome background noise, offering clear audio in classrooms, meetings and homes. These accommodations have promoted greater independence and

illustrate how perseverance, combined with effective support, enables the student to overcome challenges.

5. SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF PRESENTATION

Student Achievement Leader Terri Beck introduced Sara Moffat, DSBN Itinerant Teacher from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Resource Department. Sara explained that her department offers extensive support for students, which includes help with personal and SEA Equipment, as well as assistance during transitions throughout the school day and between DSBN schools or other school boards. She also trains staff to effectively support students with their equipment. The team's essential role in supporting transitions for deaf and hard of hearing students greatly contributes to both smooth transitions and fostering a strong sense of belonging within their school communities.

6. ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION

Tessa Alexander, representing VOICE, provided an overview of the organization's history as well as its events, programs, and services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. She also provided valuable insights and key considerations regarding supporting children with hearing loss.

7. SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT

Superintendent Simon Hancox reminded SEAC members to submit responses to the previously distributed budget survey by February 20, 2026. He also addressed the policies currently open for feedback on the DSBN website, with specific emphasis on D-07 Third Party Provision of Student Support Services and G-38 Complaint Resolution. Members were encouraged to forward their feedback to Jennifer McGugan by April 1, 2026, so it may be compiled on behalf of SEAC.

8. ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

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

9. TRUSTEE UPDATE

Trustee Klassen provided an update on the January Board meeting.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

11. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

In response to a question, Superintendent Hancox shared that, moving forward, SEAC minutes will be published under the SEAC agenda on the website after they have been received by the Board of Trustees at the next Board meeting following the SEAC meeting date.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm

Next Meeting: March 12, 2026 – Grimsby Lincoln Room

MAR2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10 Finance 5:30 pm	11 SAL 1 pm	12 SEAC 5:30 pm	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Regular Board Meeting 6 pm	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

MARCH 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Bangladeshi Heritage Month Irish Heritage Month Hellenic Heritage Month Persian Heritage Month						
01 Ramadan* (Feb 18-Mar 19) Ayyam-i-Ha	02 Ala - 19 Days of Fasting (Mar 2-20) Black Mental Health Day	03 Purim*	04 Holla Mohalla (Mar 4-6) Holi	05	06	07
08 International Women's Day	09	10 Harriet Tubman Day	11	12	13	14
15	16 Neurodiversity Celebration Week (Mar16-22)	17 Irish Heritage Day	18	19 Chaitra Navratri (Mar 19-27) Eid Al-Fitr* (Mar 19-20) Saka New Year (Nyepl)	20 Nowruz (Nawruz, Novruz, Navruz) Ostara or Spring Equinox	21 Naw-Ruz Baha'i New Year International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination World Down Syndrome Day
22 Neurodiversity Celebration Chaitra Navratri (Mar 22-27) World Water Day	23 World Atheist Day	24	25 Feast of Annunciation International Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Slavery	26 Sri Rama Navami	27	28
29	30	31 Pesach/Passover (Mar 31- Apr 9) National Indigenous Languages Day Trans Day of Visibility				

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.*