

TUESDAY, MARCH 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
3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

B. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

C. REFLECTIVE READING

By Indigenous Student Trustee Barrett Dockstator

D. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Recommended Motion:

"That the Agenda be adopted."

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Pages 7-14

Recommended Motion:

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated February 24, 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 15-16

a) Director's Recognition

- Adam Onclin and Victoria Leng-Marini, Secondary AI Steering Committee Members

b) Director's Highlights

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026



2. Educational Showcase

F. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

G. DELEGATIONS

H. BOARD RECESS (OPTIONAL)

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Finance Committee

S. Barnett – Pages 17-45

Recommended Motions:

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated March 10, 2026, be received.”

“That the Multi-Year Capital Plan be received, and staff be authorized to proceed with all identified projects up to and including the 2026-27 year, subject to confirmation of necessary Ministry of Education approvals.”

“That the Award of Contracts Summary Report for the period ending February 28, 2026, be received.”

“That the Niagara Student Transportation Services 2025-26 Annual Plan be received.”

2. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

H. Campbell – Pages 46-48

Recommended Motion:

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated March 11, 2026, be received.”

3. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

E. Klassen/S. Mitchell – Pages 49-50

Recommended Motion:

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated March 12, 2026, be received.”

J. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

K. NEW BUSINESS

1. Trustee Vacancy Appointment Process Report

J. Feren – Pages 51-54

Recommended Motions:

“That the Trustee seat representing Fort Erie/Port Colborne is declared vacant.”

“That the District School Board of Niagara proceed to fill the Trustee Vacancy through the appointment of a qualified person.”

“That staff be directed to contact the highest ranking unsuccessful trustee candidate from the 2022 municipal election in the vacated electoral area to determine if the candidate remains interested and remains a qualified person as defined under the *Education Act* and the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.”

“That should the said unsuccessful trustee candidate from the 2022 municipal election remain interested and provide proof of eligibility under the *Education Act* and the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* no later than April 8, 2026, the Board shall appoint them to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees at the Board meeting to be held on April 28, 2026.”

“That should the highest ranking unsuccessful trustee candidate from the 2022 municipal election no longer remain interested or no longer meet the aforesaid eligibility requirement or fail to provide proof of eligibility by April 8, 2026, staff be directed to contact the next highest ranking unsuccessful candidate from the 2022 municipal election in the vacated electoral area to determine if the candidate remains interested and remains a qualified person as defined under the *Education Act* and the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.”

“That should the next highest ranking unsuccessful trustee candidate from the 2022 municipal election remain interested and provide proof of eligibility under the *Education Act* and the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* within two weeks from the date contacted, the Board shall appoint them to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees at the Board meeting to be held on April 28, 2026.”

“That should neither unsuccessful trustee candidates from the 2022 municipal election remain interested or no longer meets the eligibility requirements or fail to provide proof of eligibility under the *Education Act* and the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* by the dates required above, staff be directed to immediately post a Call for Applicants requesting applications for the position of Public School Board Trustee from candidates that meet the eligibility requirements under the

Education Act and Municipal Elections Act, 1996 and be directed to schedule a Special Meeting on or before May 26, 2026 for the purpose of the consideration and determination of the successful candidate from the eligible candidates to be appointed the Public School Board Trustee.”

L. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. Staff Reports

S. Veld – Pages 55-60

a) Determination and Distribution of Trustees – 2026

Recommended Motions:

“That the Report on the 2026 Determination and Distribution of District School Board of Niagara Trustees be received;

“That the District School Board of Niagara does not designate any municipality within the Board's area of jurisdiction as a low population municipality;

(Plus either Option 1 or Option 2)

OPTION 1 – 2026 TRUSTEE DISTRIBUTION ALIGNING WITH REGULATION AND MOE GUIDELINES RE: ELECTORAL QUOTIENT CLOSEST TO WHOLE NUMBERS (Table 2)

“That the distribution of District School Board of Niagara Trustees for the October 2026 elections be confirmed, as follows:

St. Catharines* / Thorold / Niagara-on-the-Lake	4
Niagara Falls	2
Welland* / Pelham / Wainfleet	2
Fort Erie* / Port Colborne	1
Grimsby* / Lincoln / West Lincoln	2”

*denotes lead municipality for municipal election

OR**OPTION 2 – 2026 TRUSTEE DISTRIBUTION CONSISTENT WITH 2022 TRUSTEE DISTRIBUTION (Table 1)**

"That the distribution of District School Board of Niagara Trustees for the October 2026 elections be confirmed, as follows:

St. Catharines* / Niagara-on-the-Lake	4
Niagara Falls	2
Welland	1
Fort Erie* / Port Colborne	1
Grimsby* / Lincoln	1
Pelham* / Thorold	1
West Lincoln* / Wainfleet	1"

*denotes lead municipality for municipal election

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 61-62
 - a) April Meeting Calendar
 - b) April 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)**

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026



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 March 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, FEBRUARY 24, 2026

Public Session: 6:07 p.m. – 7:41 p.m.

Private Session: 5:35 p.m. – 5:59 p.m., cont'd: 8:00 p.m. – 9:13 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), *Deanne MacIntosh, Shannon Mitchell

STUDENT TRUSTEES

William Connor, Jacklyn Saddler

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 Helga Campbell

Seconded by Sue Barnett

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

CARRIED

Chair Baggott called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:07 p.m. and noted that Trustee Lora Campbell was absent and Trustee Deanne MacIntosh was participating virtually.

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 Smithville Public School choir, via video and remained standing for a moment of silence to honour the passing of a DSBN student and staff member.

C. REFLECTIVE READING

Student Trustee William Connor provided a reflective reading.

D. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Jonathan Fast

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Moved by Mike Brousseau

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated January 27, 2026, 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 Maira Berzins and Wendy Campbell, Finance Clerks, for their genuine care in supporting DSBN schools and the extraordinary impact they have on day-to-day financial operations across 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:

- 15 Years of Dedicated Service – Trustee Sue Barnett Recognized at PES 2026
- Belonging Begins with Kindness
- Minister of Education Visits DSBN
- Black History Month
- Round Dance

2. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASES

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

The Board received a presentation on the *Fabric of our Being* quilt project, an arts-based collaboration with local artist Nadine Williams, supported through a grant from the Ontario Arts Council, where students from Eden, St. Catharine's Collegiate, and West Niagara Secondary Schools, explored identity, heritage, and belonging. The student-created quilt symbolizes unity, resilience, inclusivity, and hope, and is a strong example of how creative expression can strengthen student voice and sense of belonging in schools.

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 Parent Involvement Committee

Moved by Susan Jovanovic

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

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

CARRIED

Trustee Susan Jovanovic shared that the committee discussed planning for future PIC events and recruitment. Information on the new Ministry of Education's police check requirements for volunteers, and the list of policies currently open for feedback were presented to the committee.

2. Report of the Policy Committee

Moved by Nancy Beamer

Seconded by Mike Brousseau

"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."

CARRIED

General Counsel Feren reported that a total of four policies were reviewed by the committee and highlighted the following changes, policy G-24: Onsite/Off-Site Evacuation and G-21: Advertising in Schools were presented with minimal changes, policy C-04: Community Planning and Facility Partnerships was presented with refined language to clarify that the scope of the policy is facility partnerships and to remove content that was operational, and policy G-10: Use of Identification Badges was presented with a recommendation to revoke. The final group of policies for this school year are open for feedback until April 1st.

3. Report of the Program and Planning Committee

Moved by Shannon Mitchell

Seconded by Sue Barnett

"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."

CARRIED

Trustee Jovanovic shared that the committee reviewed the 2026-2027 Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars. The committee also received updates on vaping prevention and detectors in secondary schools, the board's safe and ethical approach to generative AI in schools, and the system-wide Kindness Week Campaign. In addition, Special Education initiatives such as program reviews, improved learning spaces, and behaviour management training for administrators were presented.

4. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Moved by Helga Campbell

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

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

CARRIED

Trustee Helga Campbell reported that a total of four new cases were presented and approved for SAL.

5. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated February 12, 2026, be received."

CARRIED

Trustee Elizabeth Klassen shared that the committee received information from DSBN Deaf and Hard of Hearing Resource Department about staff training and support for students. An association presentation from VOICE about the programs and services offered to children who are deaf or hard of hearing, and the current list of policies open for vetting were presented. A video highlighting the success of a grade six student who uses a wireless assisted device from St. Davids Public School was presented.

J. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee Mike Brousseau requested consideration of an amendment to DSBN By-Laws and Rules of Order (item G-7) to extend agenda delivery timelines from 48 hours to five days prior to meetings. Chair Baggott referred the request to the Ad Hoc Governance Committee for consideration. Trustee Shannon Mitchell agreed to step aside from committee membership to allow for Trustee Brousseau's appointment to the Ad Hoc Governance Committee, which will meet at the call of the Chair.

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

Trustees discussed the importance of advocating directly to the Premier, the Minister of Education, local MPPs, and the Ombudsman of Ontario regarding potential changes to school board governance, including concerns about the future role of elected trustees. Discussions highlighted concerns related to the lack of public consultation and the importance of trustees sending individualized communications. Chair Baggott clarified that trustees do not require permission from the Chair to contact their local representatives.

In response to a question regarding a complaint mechanism, Director Pisek advised that by the end of March, school boards are required to submit a report to the Ministry of Education outlining how the Student and Family Support Office will be established by September 2026.

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

Trustees reported on several events across DSBN schools.

Student Trustees reported on the February Student Senate meeting where Senators focussed on ongoing inclusion and mental health initiatives, including social media campaigns and school-based activities promoting kindness week and positive well-being. The election process was reviewed in preparation for April's election, and the new Student Step-Up Awards project recognized students for their leadership and equity work in their schools. Indigenous Student Trustee Dockstator shared highlights from the recent Indigenous Student Representatives meeting where students participated in activities to engage in conversations about ways to make changes to create safer environments, how to advocate when faced with challenges, and increase Indigenous representation within schools.

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

There was no Ontario Public School Boards' Association report.

6. Ontario Student Trustees' Association Report

Highlights from the OSTA-AECO Education in Action conference were shared.

7. Future Meetings

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

M. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

“That the Board do now enter Committee of the Whole.”

CARRIED

The Board entered Committee of the Whole at 5:35 p.m.

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Sue Barnett

“That the Board return to Open meeting.”

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 5:59 p.m.

Moved by Sue Barnett
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the Board do now re-enter Committee of the Whole.”

CARRIED

The Board re-entered Committee of the Whole at 8:00 p.m.

Moved by Sue Barnett
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the Board return to Open meeting.”

CARRIED

Trustee Deanne MacIntosh left the meeting.

The Board returned to open meeting at 9:13 p.m.

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved by Michael Brousseau

Seconded by Nancy Beamer

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

CARRIED

Recorded Vote:

Kate Baggott	In favour	Sue Barnett	In favour
Nancy Beamer	In favour	Michael Brousseau	In favour
Helga Campbell	In favour	Jonathan Fast	In favour
Susan Jovanovic	Opposed	Elizabeth Klassen	In favour
Shannon Mitchell	In favour		

O. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Helga Campbell

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“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.”

CARRIED

P. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

KATE BAGGOTT

Chair

KELLY PISEK

Director of Education and Secretary

Director's Highlights

March 2026

DIRECTOR'S RECOGNITION

Victoria Leng-Marini & Adam Onclin | Innovation in AI at DSBN

DSBN has undertaken a thoughtful, system-wide approach to the implementation of Generative AI, led by the Secondary AI Steering Committee. Through the visionary leadership of educators like Victoria Leng-Marini and Adam Onclin, the board's approach to this powerful technology is grounded in the belief that students and educators require strong AI literacy to participate safely, ethically and effectively in an AI-enabled world. Here, we recognize the knowledge, guidance and innovation of two Committee members.

By spearheading whole-staff professional development initiatives, Victoria has fostered an environment that nurtures confidence and curiosity, meeting educators where they are in their learning journeys. She creates safe spaces that encourage open dialogue, increase participation and support staff to take risks and grow their practice.

Her commitment to innovation is evident in the meaningful AI tools she has developed, including an AI-supported, asset-based EQAO math student reflection tool that gives personalized feedback and clarifies next steps for learners. This tool strengthened conversations between students, teachers and caregivers while enabling teachers to focus more effectively on individual student needs.

Behind the scenes, Victoria developed an AI-supported in-school team referral system that honours teachers' professional judgement and streamlines administrative tasks. The resulting data helped school leaders identify school-wide trends, target interventions, and plan strategic professional learning. As Kelly Parlatore, Student Achievement Leader - Student Success/Guidance shares, "Victoria consistently models innovative, relational and student-centred leadership, showing how AI can enhance both teaching practice and school systems."

Adam's contributions have been transformative and deeply human-centred. He models responsible and ethical AI use through clear frameworks and professional learning that emphasizes safety, transparency and purpose. As Julia Dickson-Eckert, Instructional Consultant shares, "His guidance has helped staff and students understand how to use AI safely, transparently and in ways that enhance learning, rather than replace it."

Particularly impressive is Adam's ability to translate complex and abstract ideas into practical tools that support teachers and students. These include an AI-powered OSSLT feedback tool that provides students with instant, targeted support, improving learning outcomes (particularly for second-time writers) and easing assessment anxiety. He has also developed an AI tool that transforms DELF documents into conversation practice for students' oral exams and one that leverages STEP documents to support scaffolded accommodations ensuring multilingual learners can better access the curriculum. These innovations not only reflect a deep understanding of pedagogy, but the diverse needs of learners, demonstrating how AI can be both practical and compassionate in education.

Congratulations Victoria and Adam on receiving the Director's Recognition Award. Your leadership and thoughtful navigation of this rapidly evolving technology strengthens DSBN's ability to adopt and implement AI responsibly, empowering educators and opening doors for students now and well into the future.

Ramadan Celebrations

Celebrating & building community

Throughout Ramadan, schools across DSBN created meaningful opportunities for learning, celebration, and community connection. Community Iftars and student-led assemblies were complemented by classroom-based learning experiences that helped students deepen their understanding of Ramadan while honouring the diverse identities within our school communities. Many schools also partnered with families and community members to share traditions, stories, and food, enriching the learning experience for all. These gatherings brought students, families, staff, and community members together to celebrate culture and strengthen relationships across the system.



DSBN Tech Skills Challenges

Celebrating student skill and hands-on learning

More than 300 DSBN high school students showcased their talents this month at the 28th annual Technological Skills Challenge, held at Niagara College on March 4th and Castle Niagara on March 10th and 11th. Students from 16 secondary schools competed in hands-on events highlighting the technical, creative, and practical skills they have strengthened through classroom learning. Competitions spanned more than 30 skill areas including 3D animation, culinary arts, hairstyling, construction, welding and coding. Gold medalists will advance to the Skills Ontario Competition in early May while provincial champions will join Team Ontario, earning the opportunity to compete at the Skills Canada National Competition later that month. Thank you to the staff who coach, encourage and inspire and congratulations to the students whose hard work, dedication and skill were on full display.



Students in Action

DSBN's STEM Expo lights up young minds

More than 750 enthusiastic DSBN students from 51 schools in Grades 4 to 8 dove into two action-packed days of discovery at the third annual STEM Expo. Held March 12th and 13th, this event brought STEM to life through grade-specific challenges in science, technology, engineering, and math. Students tackled hands-on activities that pushed their problem-solving skills, ignited their creativity, and connected their classroom learning to real-world innovation. In the challenge *Grade 6 Flight*, for example, students built on six classroom lessons by creating and launching bottle rockets equipped with deployable parachutes. At the Expo, they took their learning a step further by designing and coding drones to navigate a series of real-world scenarios.

From Classroom Spark to Career Success

Spotlight on Aidan Hawkins, DSBN Planning Technician

As a Grade 9 student at Port Colborne High School, Aidan Hawkins never would have guessed Geography would become his career and lifelong passion. But thanks to Jon Fletcher, Aidan's teacher who introduced students to GIS technology, Aidan discovered an interest that would shape his future career path. Reflecting on his time in secondary school Aidan said, "I was lucky to have Jon as my teacher, and I was inspired by using technology in his class."

With his teacher's support and encouragement, Aidan won a gold medal in the *Team of Two* GIS category at the DSBN Skills Challenges and went on to earn his first of three golds at Skills Ontario. This experience helped him see the real-world applications of GIS, which ultimately led him to a career as a Planning Technician with DSBN's Planning Services department.

According to Aidan, his role as a Planning Technician using spatial data "is super-exciting and can lead to quality decision-making." Today, he has been able to use his passion for GIS and spatial data to support DSBN projects like student enrollment projections, year-to-year projections for staffing needs, and even identifying areas of DSBN where new schools or additions may be beneficial. His work has been recognized in an article by the Environmental Systems Research Institute, ESRI Canada.

Aidan is inspired by giving back to future students. Last year he helped his former teacher with student coaching and hopes to be a judge at the upcoming Provincial Skills Challenges. "Having a great teacher and the opportunity to compete in the Skills Challenges made all the difference for me; I want to pay that forward and support today's students."



MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026

Public Session: 5:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

ADMINISTRATION

Kelly Pisek (Director of Education), Stacy Veld (Associate Director of Education, Corporate Services), Milica Petkovic (Public Relations Manager), Bob Dunn (Controller of Facility Services), Carrie Stasiak (Senior Manager of Construction), Sarb Sandhu (Executive Director, Niagara Student Transportation Services)

TRUSTEE GUESTS

Trustee Nancy Beamer, Vice Chair Elizabeth Klassen, Trustee Susan Jovanovic

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. Trustee Lora Campbell was absent.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Michael Brousseau

Seconded by Helga Campbell

“That the agenda be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

D. MULTI YEAR CAPITAL PLAN (MYCP)

Associate Director Veld presented the Multi-Year Capital Plan (MYCP) which outlines various capital projects within the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN). In developing the MYCP, needs were identified and prioritized from School Renewal, Accessibility Improvements, Additions and Alterations as well as Major Capital Construction projects.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Total capital spending in 2026-27 is projected to exceed \$135M representing the largest investment undertaken by the DSBN to date. The capital plan includes the continuation of renewal projects that were previously approved by Trustees including \$1.5M for security and intrusion system replacements, as well as \$26M for multi system upgrades at Welland Centennial, Thorold and Eastdale Secondary Schools.

The plan for 2026-27 includes the commencement of multi- system upgrades at Port Colborne High School and Central French Immersion Public School, with the St. Catharines Collegiate planned for 2028-2029. The interior renovations plan includes an allocation for a culinary program expansion at Governor Simcoe and Sir Winston Churchill Secondary Schools to provide a full Hospitality and Tourism curriculum and the opportunity for a student-run cafeteria during lunch hours. The plan has an allocation of funds included in the interior renovations to address any in year needs to support our Special Education program and students, this ensures that the DSBN can be responsive as emerging needs arise in our system. An additional \$30 million was allocated for Accessibility and RAAC-related projects currently underway at multiple schools.

Controller of Facility Services, Bob Dunn, and Senior Manager of Construction, Carrie Stasiak, provided updates regarding the MYCP, RAAC projects and responded to inquiries from Trustees.

Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Michael Brousseau

“That the Multi-Year Capital Plan be received, and staff be authorized to proceed with all identified projects up to and including the 2026-27 year, subject to confirmation of necessary Ministry of Education approvals.”

CARRIED

E. AWARD OF CONTRACTS SUMMARY REPORT

Associate Director Veld reported on contracts over \$750,000 awarded from January 1 to February 28, 2026. The summary provides details on each project including project name, the value of the contract awarded, the successful vendor, and the date of the award.

Moved by Mike Brousseau
Seconded by Helga Campbell

“That the Award of Contracts Summary Report for the period ending February 28, 2026 be received.”

CARRIED

F. NIAGARA STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES (NSTS) 2025-26 ANNUAL PLAN

Associate Director Veld shared the Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) 2025-26

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Annual Plan. NSTS presents this information to their Board of Directors at their annual meeting. The annual plan was shared with Trustees for information regarding NSTS' plan for next year and updates from the past fiscal year.

The Executive Director of NSTS, Sarb Sandhu, reported on organizational changes within the NSTS team, bus operator contracts, the Ministry funding model, and student safety considerations.

Moved by Michael Brousseau
Seconded Helga Campbell

"That the Niagara Student Transportation Services 2025-26 Annual Plan be received."

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:54p.m. The next Finance Committee meeting date will be Tuesday, April 14, 2026. Time TBD.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026

SAL MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present

Anne Gilmore - Superintendent of Student Achievement and Well-Being
Mat Miller – Acting Superintendent of Student Achievement and Well-Being
Caroline Graham - John Howard Society of Niagara
Helga Campbell - Trustee

Administration/Resource

Nadia LaSelva, Attendance Counsellor
Julie Zabor - Temp SAL Secretary
Trisha Miller – Administrative Assistant

Guests

Norbert Kuebbeck - VP, Greater Fort Erie School
Erica Dorinzi - VP, Greater Fort Erie School
Jennifer Edwards - VP, Welland Centennial
Julie Volcanseck - VP, Laura Secord
Roy Zucarello - VP, Thorold
Jonathan Cairns - VP, Stamford Collegiate Secondary School
Julie Aquilina - VP, Eden

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE SAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Acting Superintendent Mat Miller called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

B. CASES

226-30 RB DOB 09/09/2010

The student is currently enrolled in CIVCAR eLearning. They will maintain connections with their school's vice principal monthly. The school remains committed to supporting the student to facilitate progress toward enhanced participation and attendance.

RB has been approved for SAL.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026

226-031 JP DOB 11/08/2010

The student is currently enrolled in SNC2P and MFM2P eLearning. They will maintain connections with their school's social worker and the vice principal monthly. The school remains committed to supporting the student to facilitate progress toward enhanced participation and attendance.

JP has been approved for SAL.

226-032 LS DOB 01/06/2011

The student is currently enrolled in CIV/CAR. They will maintain connections with their school social worker and student success teacher every other Thursday, while also accessing relevant community support services. The school remains committed to supporting the student to facilitate progress toward enhanced participation and attendance.

LS has been approved for SAL.

226-033 MT DOB 14/06/2009

The student is working on IDC20. They will maintain connections with their school social worker and student success teacher every other Thursday, while also accessing relevant community support services. The school remains committed to supporting the student to facilitate progress toward enhanced participation and attendance.

MT has been approved for SAL.

226-034 MNM DOB 29/04/20110

The student is not currently working on courses; they are collaborating with the John Howard Society to secure employment that will allow them to earn COOP credits. They will maintain connections with their school social worker while also accessing relevant community support services. The school remains committed to supporting the student to facilitate progress towards enhanced participation and attendance.

MNM has been approved for SAL.

226-035 RS DOB 22/06/2009

The student is working on IDC20 and HHG4M. They will maintain connections with their school social worker while also accessing relevant community support services. The school remains committed to supporting the student to facilitate progress towards enhanced participation and attendance.

RS has been approved for SAL.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026

226-036 JR DOB 08/10/2009

The student is working on GLS40 and DC030 courses. They will maintain connections with their school social worker every Friday while also accessing relevant community support services. The school remains committed to supporting the student to facilitate progress towards enhanced participation and attendance.

JR has been approved for SAL

226-037 KW DOB 20/05/2008

The student is working on Learning and Basic Skills. They will maintain connections with their school 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.

KW has been approved for SAL

226-038 AR DOB 08/10/2010

The student is working on GLE eLearning course. They will maintain connections with their social worker. The school remains committed to supporting the student to facilitate progress towards enhanced participation and attendance.

AR has been approved for SAL

C. CASE REVIEW

The Committee reviewed thirty-five (35) cases that had been brought forward previously. Of the thirty-five (35) cases heard, five (5) cases have been discontinued, and student's have transition plans in place.

D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:40pm.

THURSDAY, MARCH 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, 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

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 Brianne Freiwat

Seconded by Pattie Ferrie

“That the Agenda dated March 12, 2026, be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

3. STUDENT VOICE

Matt Ezrin, Student Achievement Leader for Special Education - Secondary, presented a video highlighting a student with Down's Syndrome at Eden High School. The video shared how the student was initially nervous about the transition to secondary school, but through the support of the Secondary School to Community Program, he has adjusted well. He now enjoys meaningful friendships, participates actively in school activities, and benefits from the supportive environment and resources provided by the program.

4. SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF PRESENTATION

Milica Petkovic, DSBN Public Relations Manager, delivered a presentation outlining the process to enhance the accessibility of DSBN's public website for students, staff, and the wider community. With the growth of the board and the increasing volume of information available, a key focus is to remove barriers to access. This initiative is interdepartmental, involving departmental reviews and IT data to ensure alignment with web

accessibility guidelines. The website is being designed to meet the second level of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines international standard, enabling users to find and act on information quickly and easily. Importantly, input from all stakeholders—including staff, students, parents, and the community—is being actively sought throughout the process. The primary goals are to improve navigation, streamline content, and reinforce the board’s commitment to equity and inclusion.

5. SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT

Superintendent Simon Hancox indicated that updates will be made to the Special Education section of the public website and highlighted the location of the Special Education Parent Guide on the site. He requested that the committee review sections of the guide and provide feedback regarding elements that are effective for families, areas lacking clarity, any missing components, and suggestions to enhance clarity, tone, and accessibility.

6. ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

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

7. TRUSTEE UPDATE

Trustee Mitchell provided an update on the January Board meeting.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Morrice reported that DSBN SEAC received correspondence from the Durham District School Board SEAC, advocating for the Ontario government to retain elected trustees and uphold local governance. The committee recommended that DSBN SEAC proceed with drafting a letter to send to the Minister of Education.

9. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

In response to a question, Superintendent Hancox explained the protocol for reviewing Board committee minutes. Following each committee meeting, the minutes are presented to the Board at the subsequent meeting. As all trustees serving on committees are also members of the Board, any inaccuracies or omissions can be promptly identified and addressed during the Board meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm

Next Meeting: April 9, 2026 – DSBN Education Centre, St. Catharines Room

Trustee Vacancy Appointment Process

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

BACKGROUND:

As Trustees are aware from filling a Trustee Vacancy in 2025, upon a Trustee Vacancy during the Trustee's term, the Board of Trustees must choose how to fill the vacant seat for the balance of the term.

Under the *Education Act*, if the office of a member of the board becomes vacant before the end of the member's term, there are two options for the board to fill the vacancy:

- By-election
- Appointment (either by requesting applications or offering the position to runner up from the past election if they remain interested and qualified)

In May 2025, the Board chose to fill that vacancy by Appointment of the Runner Up, who remained interested and provided proof that he remained eligible as a public school board Trustee.

If the Board wishes to follow the same process with the current Trustee Vacancy, the first step is to enquire if the runner up from the prior election would be agreeable to an appointment. If the runner-up remains interested, they would be required to provide proof that they remain eligible under the *Education Act* and *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* to fill the position and provide a Declaration signed in front of a Commissioner of Oaths before they could be appointed.

Staff are prepared to initiate the enquiry of the runner up the day after the Board meeting and the required documentation to confirm eligibility is ready. If the runner up confirms they remain interested, they would be provided the eligibility documentation with a required submission date of April 8, 2026, which gives them 2 weeks to complete. This would lead to an appointment at the April 28, 2026 Board meeting (which is within the 90 day schedule required under the *Education Act*).

If the runner up is no longer interested or no longer qualified (which would be clear no later than April 8, 2026), staff propose that the next runner up be contacted to determine if they remain interested and remain eligible to serve. The next runner up would also be provided 2 weeks to complete the eligibility submission (no later than April 22, 2026). This timing would also permit the next runner up to be appointed at the April 28, 2026 Board Meeting.

REPORT TO BOARD

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Where neither runner up remains interested or is no longer qualified, the Board could initiate an application process requesting applications of qualified candidates and choose an replacement candidate from submitted applications. This would lead to an appointment at the May 26, 2026 Board Meeting (which is within the 90 day schedule required under the *Education Act*).

Recommended Motions:

“That the Trustee seat representing Fort Erie/Port Colborne is declared vacant.”

“That the District School Board of Niagara proceed to fill the Trustee Vacancy through the appointment of a qualified person.”

“That staff be directed to contact the highest ranking unsuccessful trustee candidate from the 2022 municipal election in the vacated electoral area to determine if the candidate remains interested and remains a qualified person as defined under the *Education Act* and the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.”

“That should the said unsuccessful trustee candidate from the 2022 municipal election remain interested and provide proof of eligibility under the *Education Act* and the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* no later than April 8, 2026, the Board shall appoint them to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees at the Board meeting to be held on April 28, 2026.”

“That should the highest ranking unsuccessful trustee candidate from the 2022 municipal election no longer remain interested or no longer meet the aforesaid eligibility requirement or fail to provide proof of eligibility by April 8, 2026, staff be directed to contact the next highest ranking unsuccessful candidate from the 2022 municipal election in the vacated electoral area to determine if the candidate remains interested and remains a qualified person as defined under the *Education Act* and the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*.”

“That should the next highest ranking unsuccessful trustee candidate from the 2022 municipal election remain interested and provide proof of eligibility under the *Education Act* and the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* within two weeks from the date contacted, the Board shall appoint them to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees at the Board meeting to be held on April 28, 2026.”

“That should neither unsuccessful trustee candidates from the 2022 municipal election remain interested or no longer meets the eligibility requirements or fail to provide proof of eligibility under the *Education Act* and the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* by the dates required above, staff be directed to immediately post a Call for Applicants requesting applications for the position of Public School Board Trustee from candidates

REPORT TO BOARD

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

that meet the eligibility requirements under the *Education Act* and *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and be directed to schedule a Special Meeting on or before May 26, 2026 for the purpose of the consideration and determination of the successful candidate from the eligible candidates to be appointed the Public School Board Trustee.”

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Feren
General Counsel

Date: March 24, 2026

For further information, please contact Jennifer Feren, General Counsel

REPORT TO BOARD

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Appendix A - Timeline

PROCESS		
TIMELINE:	APPOINTMENT OF HIGHEST RANKING RUNNER UP	
	Commencement Date for Appointed Trustee	As of April 28, 2026
	Term of Service	From date candidate is sworn in, effective through November 14, 2026
	APPOINTMENT OF NEXT HIGHEST RANKING RUNNER UP (if required)	
	Commencement Date for Appointed Trustee	As of April 28, 2026
	Term of Service	From date candidate is sworn in, effective through November 14, 2026
	IF RUNNERS UP NOT INTERESTED OR NOT ELIGIBLE	
	Call for Applications	- Posted immediately after both runners up decline or fail to remain eligible or fail to provide proof by the submission date - Closing three weeks after Call for Applications posted
	Special Meeting	To be held no later than immediately before the May 26, 2026 Board Meeting
	Commencement Date for Appointed Trustee	As of May 26, 2026
	Term of Service	From date candidate is sworn in, effective through November 14, 2026

DETERMINATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF TRUSTEES – 2026

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

REPORT BACKGROUND

The election to and representation of school board Trustees is governed by the *Education Act* and Regulation 412/00 (Elections to and Representation on District School Boards). The Act and Regulation set the method for determining the number of Trustees and how the number should be distributed across municipalities. The Ministry of Education Trustee Determination and Distribution Guide for Ontario District School Boards, 2022 (MOE Guidelines) also directs the process for Boards.

In accordance with the Act and Regulation, the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) must pass resolutions for the Determination and Distribution of Trustees by March 31, 2026, in preparation for October 26, 2026, municipal and school board elections. The Determination & Distribution Report (D&D Report) must also be submitted to the Ministry of Education, the Election Clerks of all municipalities within the DSBN jurisdiction, and the Secretary of each school board that is wholly or partially within the DSBN's jurisdiction.

The information that follows explains the legislative process to determine the number of Trustees and how to determine the distribution of Trustees across the municipalities.

DETERMINATION OF NUMBER OF TRUSTEES

The starting point is determining the number of Trustees who will serve the Board. By default, the number of Trustees is deemed to be the number that existed in the 2006 general election (s. 58.1 (10.0.1) of the *Education Act*). In 2006, DSBN had 11 Trustees and there are no applicable circumstances under legislation that would cause this number to change this year.

Each election year, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) produces population data and prepares and sends a Population of Electoral Group Report (PEG Report) to each school board, which informs whether there has been a population change. MPAC also sends the PEG Report to the Ministry of Education and the election clerk of each municipality.

While the Regulation permits a Board to designate low population area (where supported by the data in the PEG Report), designating low population areas does not change the total number of Trustees under

the calculation but simply directs the distribution to a higher number of Trustees to be elected for a different municipality. Throughout history, DSBN has not designated any low population areas.

Based on the PEG report, the 2026 electoral group for the DSBN is 304,742. MPAC determines the electoral group which includes all persons entitled to vote at elections of the members of the board and are supporters of the board (including any of their dependents who are eligible to vote) as of January 1st. Under the Regulation, where the electoral group is between 250,000 to 399,999, 11 Trustees are allocated to the Board. The allocation of 11 Trustees remains unchanged for the 2026 election.

Under the Regulation, the number of Trustees can be increased up to 7 additional Trustees if the Board's density calculation results are less than 4.00. As DSBN's Board Density is 161, there is no increase triggered. See Board Density calculation below as set out in the Regulation:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Board Density} &= \# \text{ of electors} / \text{Board Area (Table 1)} \\ &= 304,742 \text{ electors} / 1,883 \text{ km}^2 \\ &= \underline{\underline{161}} \end{aligned}$$

Number of additional members based on Board Density (Table 3) = 0

The 2026 Electoral Quotients for each municipality are calculated below:

	<u>Electoral Group</u>	<u>Electoral Quotient</u>
St. Catharines	84,959	3.06
Niagara Falls	55,571	2.01
Welland	33,371	1.21
Fort Erie	23,740	0.86
Grimsby	19,358	0.70
Lincoln	17,231	0.62
Niagara-on-the-Lake	13,182	0.48
Port Colborne	12,503	0.45
Pelham	13,049	0.47
Thorold	15,897	0.57
West Lincoln	11,041	0.40
Wainfleet	4,840	0.18
TOTAL	<u><u>304,742</u></u>	<u><u>11.00</u></u>

Following the process required in the *Education Act* and its Regulations, DSBN will continue to be represented by 11 Trustees in the 2026 election.

DETERMINING THE DISTRIBUTION OF TRUSTEES

Where a Board has jurisdiction in more than one municipality, the Board is responsible for allocating the elected Trustee positions over the Board's area of jurisdiction.

Under the Regulation and MOE Guidelines, Boards consider these key principles when considering the distribution of Trustees:

- Municipalities with low populations should receive reasonable representation
- To the extent possible, the identification of low population municipalities should permit the establishment of geographic areas that coincide with school communities, although they do not need to be adjacent communities
- The sum of the Electoral Quotients in each geographic area should be as close as possible to a whole number (e.g., if an Electoral Quotient =1.6, the distribution rule would require a board to look at other possible combinations of municipalities to result in a quotient closer to a whole number)

The resulting Electoral Quotients for Niagara have changed since the last election in 2022. Six of our 12 municipalities (Niagara-on-the-Lake, Port Colborne, Pelham, Thorold, Wainfleet and West Lincoln) comprise less than 0.6% of the total English Language Public District School Board electors for Niagara and therefore, necessitate an allocation that combines geographic areas to produce the distribution of Trustees.

Calculating the Electoral Quotient based on the same geographic combinations of municipalities used since amalgamation would create the Trustee distribution option for the 2026 election in the below table (Table 1). If the Trustee distribution remains status quo, the St. Catharines/Niagara-on-the-Lake geographic area and the West Lincoln/Wainfleet geographic area no longer align with the principles listed above as the Electoral Quotient is not as close as possible to a whole number (see yellow highlighting in the below table). Under the above-noted principles, the distribution rule would require a Board to look at other possible combinations of municipalities to result in an Electoral Quotient closer to a whole number.

TABLE 1

MUNICIPALITY	2026 Electoral Group Population		Combined Areas	Electoral Quotient	# of Trustees
	#	% of Total			
St. Catharines	84,959	27.88%			
Niagara-on-the-Lake	13,182	4.33%	32.20%	3.54	4
Niagara Falls	55,571	18.24%	18.24%	2.01	2
Welland	33,371	10.95%	10.95%	1.20	1
Fort Erie	23,740	7.79%			
Port Colborne	12,503	4.10%	11.89%	1.31	1
Grimsby	19,358	6.35%			
Lincoln	17,231	5.65%	12.01%	1.32	1
Pelham	13,049	4.28%			
Thorold	15,897	5.22%	9.50%	1.05	1
West Lincoln	11,041	3.62%			
Wainfleet	4,840	1.59%	5.21%	0.57	1
TOTAL NIAGARA	304,742	100%	100%	11.00	11

Multiple scenarios have been calculated to ensure that the principles are met. Some combinations included:

- Combine Grimsby, Lincoln, West Lincoln & Wainfleet – did not improve the whole number for St. Catharines/NOTL
- Stand alone: St. Catharines, NF, Welland, FE, combine PC, West Lincoln and Wainfleet – left NOTL as a stand alone that cannot exist as it would not round to a whole number
- St. Catharines stand alone, combine NF & NOTL, combine Grimsby, Lincoln, West Lincoln & combine FE, PC & Wainfleet – reduced Trustee complement to 10
- St Catharines, Thorold & NOTL, and combine Pelham, West Lincoln, Wainfleet – reduced Trustee complement to 10
- St. Catharines stand alone, combine NF, FE & NOTL and combine PC, West Lincoln & Wainfleet – reduced Trustee complement to 10
- St. Catharines stand alone, combine NF & NOTL and combine Welland & FE and combine PC, West Lincoln & Wainfleet – reduced Trustee complement to 10

As noted above, the alternate geographic area combinations that were calculated (except for the combination in Table 2 below), did not improve the required principle that the Electoral Quotient be as close as possible to a whole number and/or resulted in the need to reduce the number of Trustees for the DSBN to 10.

The chart below is a combination staff could determine that results in 11 Trustees with each combined Municipality calculating to the nearest Electoral Quotient.

TABLE 2

MUNICIPALITY	2026 Electoral Group Population		Combined Areas	Electoral Quotient	# of Trustees
	#	% of Total			
St. Catharines	84,959	27.88%	37.42%	4.12	4
Thorold	15,897	5.22%			
Niagara-on-the-Lake	13,182	4.33%			
Niagara Falls	55,571	18.24%	18.24%	2.01	2
Welland	33,371	10.95%	16.82%	1.85	2
Pelham	13,049	4.28%			
Wainfleet	4,840	1.59%			
Fort Erie	23,740	7.79%	11.89%	1.31	1
Port Colborne	12,503	4.10%			
Grimsby	19,358	6.35%	15.63%	1.72	2
West Lincoln	11,041	3.62%			
Lincoln	17,231	5.65%			
TOTAL NIAGARA	304,742	100%	100%	11.00	11

Regarding Trustee Distribution, staff have provided two options for consideration. The first option (reflected in Table 2) aligns with the key principles under the Regulation and MOE Guidelines.

As the MOE Guideline confirms that Boards are responsible for allocating their elected Trustee positions over their area of jurisdiction by combining local municipalities into a number of geographic areas and allocating their Trustees to these geographic areas, staff have included the status quo (reflected in Table 1) to show an additional option (albeit not reflecting one of the key principles of combining toward whole number Election Quotients).

RECOMMENDED MOTIONS

"That the Report on the 2026 Determination and Distribution of District School Board of Niagara Trustees be received;

"That the District School Board of Niagara does not designate any municipality within the Board's area of jurisdiction as a low population municipality;

(Plus either Option 1 or Option 2)

OPTION 1 – 2026 TRUSTEE DISTRIBUTION ALIGNING WITH REGULATION AND MOE GUIDELINES RE: ELECTORAL QUOTIENT CLOSEST TO WHOLE NUMBERS (Table 2)

"That the distribution of District School Board of Niagara Trustees for the October 2026 elections be confirmed, as follows:

St. Catharines* / Thorold / Niagara-on-the-Lake	4
Niagara Falls	2
Welland* / Pelham / Wainfleet	2
Fort Erie* / Port Colborne	1
Grimsby* / Lincoln / West Lincoln	2"

*denotes lead municipality for municipal election

OR

OPTION 2 – 2026 TRUSTEE DISTRIBUTION CONSISTENT WITH 2022 TRUSTEE DISTRIBUTION (Table 1)

"That the distribution of District School Board of Niagara Trustees for the October 2026 elections be confirmed, as follows:

St. Catharines* / Niagara-on-the-Lake	4
Niagara Falls	2
Welland	1
Fort Erie* / Port Colborne	1
Grimsby* / Lincoln	1
Pelham* / Thorold	1
West Lincoln* / Wainfleet	1"

*denotes lead municipality for municipal election

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Veld

Associate Director of Education, Corporate Services

APR 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08 SAL 1:00 pm	09 SEAC 5:30 pm	10	11
12	13	14 Finance Policy 5:30 pm	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Regular Board Meeting 6:00 pm	29	30		

APRIL 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sikh Heritage Month			01 Pesach/Passover (Mar 31- Apr 9)	02 Memorial to Christ's Death World Autism Day: Celebrate the Spectrum	03 Good Friday	04
05 Easter Sunday	06 Easter Monday	07 World Health Day	08 Internation Day of Pink	09	10 Holy Friday (Orthodox)	11
12 Easter (Orthodox)	13	14 Bengali New Year (Noboborsho, Pohela Boishakh) Puthandu (Tamil New Year) Solar New Year (Mesha Sankranta) Vaisakhi Sikh New Year Yom HaShoah* (Holocaust Remembrance Day)	15	16	17	18
19 Akshaya Tritya	20	21 First Day of Ridvan	22 Earth Day (International Mother Earth Day)	23	24 Armenian Genocide Memorial Day	25
26	27	28 National Day of Mourning	29 Ninth Day of Ridvan	30		

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.