

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 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 Vice-Chair Klassen

D. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Trustee Appointment

Recommended Motion:

"That Owen Riel, having provided the required proof of eligibility, be appointed by the Board to fill the current vacancy on the Board of Trustees, effective immediately, and serve for the remainder of the term ending November 14, 2026."

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Recommended Motion:

"That the Agenda be adopted."

3. Approval of Board Minutes

Pages 5-13

Recommended Motion:

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated March 24, 2026, be confirmed as submitted."

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

E. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026



1. Director's Recognition and Highlights

K. Pisek – Pages 14-15

a) Director's Recognition

- Ann Rigg, Math Facilitation Consultant, Curriculum Support Services

b) Director's Highlights

2. Educational Showcase

F. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

1. DSBN Student Achievement Plan Update

N. Sheard

G. DELEGATIONS

H. BOARD RECESS (OPTIONAL)

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

M. Miller – Pages 16-18

Recommended Motion:

"That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated April 8, 2026, be received."

2. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

E. Klassen/S. Mitchell – Pages 19-20

Recommended Motion:

"That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated April 9, 2026, be received."

3. Report of the Finance Committee

S. Barnett – Pages 21-35

Recommended Motions:

"That the report of the Finance Committee dated April 14, 2026, be received."

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

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

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"That the 2025-26 Interim Financial Report for the period ending February 28, 2026, and the corresponding changes in revenues and expenditures, be received."

"That the Summary of Accounts paid for the months of January, February and March 2026, totaling \$106,628,009 be received."

4. Report of the Policy Committee

K. Pisek – Pages 36-49

Recommended Motions:

"That the report of the Policy Committee dated April 14, 2026, be received."

"That Policy E-10: Staff Development be revoked."

"That Policy E-20: DSBN Employee Hiring Practices be approved as amended and adopted."

"That Policy D-07: Third Party Provision of Student Support Services by External Providers be approved as amended and adopted."

"That Policy D-10: Outdoor Education be revoked."

"That Policy F-05: Playspace Equipment be revoked."

"That Policy G-38: Complaint Resolution be deferred."

J. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

K. NEW BUSINESS

1. Change of June Board Meeting Date

Recommended Motion:

"That the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara scheduled for June 23, 2026, be changed to June 22, 2026."

2. Director's Performance Appraisal Committee (DPAC)

Committee membership for the 2026-2027 evaluation cycle to be confirmed.

L. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. Staff Reports

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

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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

The Board is to confirm appointments to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association.

Recommended Motions:

"That Trustee _____ be appointed OPSBA Delegate for the term beginning at the 2026 Annual Meeting and ending immediately prior to the 2027 Annual Meeting."

"That Trustee _____ be appointed OPSBA Alternate Delegate for the term beginning at the 2026 Annual Meeting and ending immediately prior to the 2027 Annual Meeting."

6. Ontario Student Trustees' Association Report

7. Future Meetings

Pages 50-51

- a) May Meeting Calendar
- b) May Days of Significance Calendars

M. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

No special meeting is required.

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

n/a

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 April 28, 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, MARCH 24, 2026

Public Session: 6:00 p.m. – 7:49 p.m. | Private Session: 7:34 -7:49 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

(*denotes approval received to attend electronically)

BOARD

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

STUDENT TRUSTEES

William Connor

INDIGENOUS STUDENT TRUSTEE

Barrett Dockstator

ADMINISTRATION

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

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer Reid

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Nate Burns, Lyka Yatco

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

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

2. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTING OF MEMBERS ABSENT

Chair Baggott called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted that Trustee Deanne MacIntosh was participating virtually. Student Trustee Jacklyn Saddler was absent. Trustee Lora Campbell was absent (approved leave).

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 Power Glen Public School choir, via video.

C. REFLECTIVE READING

Indigenous Student Trustee Barrett Dockstator provided a reflective reading.

D. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the Agenda be adopted.”
CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Sue Barnett

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated February 24, 2026, be confirmed as submitted.”
CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

In response to a question about the Ministry of Education’s Student and Family Support Office initiative, Director Pisek indicated that a report will be presented at a future Program and Planning committee meeting.

E. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS

1. Director’s Recognition and Highlights

a) Director’s Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions

Director Pisek recognized Adam Onclin and Victoria Leng-Marini, educators and representatives on the AI Steering Committee for their leadership and creating innovative tools to strengthen DSBN’s capacity to implement AI with integrity, equity, and impact – empowering educators and expanding opportunities for students.

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:

- Ramadan Celebrations
- DSBN Tech Skills Challenges
- Students in Action – DSBN STEM EXPO
- From Classroom Spark to Career Success - Spotlight on Aidan Hawkins, DSBN Planning Technician

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 Finance Committee

Moved by Sue Barnett

Seconded by Nancy Beamer

“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.”

CARRIED

Trustee Sue Barnett reported that the Multi-Year Capital Plan that outlines investments through 2026-2027 in school renewal, accessibility, program expansion, and major construction projects was received. The plan includes more than \$4M for accessibility and infrastructure repairs and projects total capital spending in 2026-2027 to exceed \$135M. In addition, the Award of Contracts Report for January and February 2026, and the 2025-2026 Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) annual plan was shared with the committee.

2. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Moved by Helga Campbell

Seconded by Mike Brousseau

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated March 11, 2025, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Helga Campbell shared 10 new cases were presented and approved for SAL and five cases have been discontinued due to the students returning to their classroom.

3. 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 March 12, 2026, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell shared that the committee received information about the process to enhance the DSBN’s public website for accessibility, content, and streamline navigation as well as gather feedback from stakeholders. Members were asked to give feedback on the Special Education Parent Guide and approved drafting a letter to the Minister of Education regarding elected trustees. A video was presented featuring an Eden High School student with Down syndrome and their successful transition to high school through the Secondary School to Community program.

J. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

In response to a question, Associate Director Veld confirmed that accessibility is considered for all new school builds, and that all three new elementary schools will be accessible.

K. NEW BUSINESS

1. TRUSTEE VACANCY APPOINTMENT PROCESS REPORT

Moved by Mike Brousseau

Seconded by Nancy Beamer

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026



“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.”

CARRIED

Chair Baggott expressed gratitude for Susan Jovanovic’s service as Trustee for this term.

General Counsel Jennifer Feren reminded the Board that the vacant seat must be filled within 90 days either by by-election or by appointment. If the Board proceeds by appointment, the Board may either select the next highest polling candidate (consistent with last year's practice) subject to confirmation of interest and ongoing eligibility or initiate an application process if required. She confirmed that staff are prepared to implement either process to meet the required timelines.

In response to a question, General Counsel Feren confirmed that the appointed trustee will fill the vacancy and assume the associated responsibilities for the remainder of the trustee term.

L. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. STAFF REPORTS

a) Determination and Distribution of Trustees – 2026

Moved by Helga Campbell

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

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

CARRIED

Moved by Deanne MacIntosh

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

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

CARRIED

Moved by Jonathan Fast

Seconded by Mike Brousseau

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026



"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"

CARRIED

Associate Director Veld explained that based on the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) population data (electoral group population 304,742) and the electoral quotient calculations, DSBN will continue to have 11 trustees for the October 2026 election. She stated that all three options to distribute the 11 trustees align with population and geographic considerations, reasonably represent low-population areas, and electoral quotients as close to whole numbers as possible. The distribution options presented for consideration include the current status quo, an alternative option prepared by staff to better meet the principles, and a third option requested by Trustee Beamer that was shared with trustees.

Trustees discussed the options presented, weighing community and geographic alignment, and the fairness of representation across municipalities and rural communities. Consideration was given to the electoral quotient calculations and key principals for distribution of trustees for each option as well as Ministry of Education Guidelines to ensure that the selected configuration best supports student needs and effective representation.

2. TRUSTEE INFORMATION SESSIONS

There was no Trustee information session.

3. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

There was no correspondence or communication.

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

Trustees shared information about celebrations and events within the DSBN.

Student Trustee Willam Connor noted that the next Student Senate meeting will be held on April 21, noted that the recipients for the Student Step-Up award for February were Kyla Sandy for her leadership in Indigenous student voice and Heidi Morris for her support of Muslim students and promoted the Student Senate Instagram account.

Indigenous Student Trustee Barrett Dockstator shared that during the fourth Indigenous Student Representative meeting, Senators focused on sharing stories and building leadership skills. Indigenous author Waubgeshig Rice, spoke about his upbringing and career path, highlighting Indigenous representation in media and the value of diverse post-secondary pathways and student reps participated in a discussion with teacher navigators to share their experiences and perspectives as Indigenous Student Representatives.

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

There was no Ontario Public School Boards' Association report.

6. Ontario Student Trustees' Association Report

There was no Ontario Student Trustees' Association report.

7. Future Meetings

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

Student Trustees left the meeting at 7:34 pm.

M. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Sue Barnett

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

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

CARRIED

Moved by Sue Barnett

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the Board return to Open meeting."

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 7:49 p.m.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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

Moved by Mike Brousseau

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“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

Moved by Nancy Beamer

Seconded by Helga Campbell

“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.”

CARRIED

P. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

KATE BAGGOTT

Chair

KELLY PISEK

Director of Education and Secretary

Director's Highlights

April 2026

DIRECTOR'S RECOGNITION

Ann Rigg | **Math Facilitation Consultant, Curriculum Support Services**

Among DSBN's most enduring contributions to student learning is the steady work of educators who shape not only classrooms, but the confidence and practice of everyone around them. Ann Rigg, Math Facilitation Consultant, is one such educator. As colleague and fellow Mathematics Consultant Shannon Caesar shares, "Her quiet, honest leadership not only improves teaching; it shifts the way people think."

Ann began her career as an Occasional Teacher, working across elementary and secondary panels before teaching at both Gordon and later Glynn A. Green Public School. Reflecting on their shared time together at Glynn A. Green, Superintendent of Student Achievement and Well-Being Mike Burns recalls how Ann made collaboration feel natural. "She made it easy to ask questions, to get and give feedback and to share knowledge. In doing so, she built confidence in others and encouraged us to learn together to better serve students."

Ann served as an elementary Instructional Coach before stepping into her current role as Math Facilitation Consultant in September 2023. Even in this final chapter of her DSBN career, colleagues note that she continues to embrace new learning with the same dedication and curiosity that has defined her work from the beginning.

At the heart of Ann's approach is a deep belief that educators and students can improve when they are supported within healthy, trusting environments. "You always get the same Ann," shared Brad Digweed, Curriculum Student Achievement Leader. "Steady, reflective and deeply consistent in how she supports others." As both an instructional coach and math consultant, Ann is known for building strong relationships and is widely respected for her professionalism, care and commitment to students.

Ann's influence is especially evident in her leadership within Mathematics Achievement Action Plan (MAAP) schools where she has supported teachers, mentored instructional coaches and partnered with administrators to strengthen classroom practice and improve outcomes for students. "She was never afraid of the hard work," shared Jaime Sinnett, Superintendent of Student Achievement and Well-Being who worked alongside Ann during her time as Plymouth Public School's Principal. "She empowered students by reinforcing her unwavering belief that they are all capable learners and mathematicians who can grow through effort and perseverance."

Beyond her direct work with schools, Ann has also made meaningful and lasting contributions through her involvement in the development of Math AQ courses. She played a key role in shaping the Vault Assessment tool, including the Springboard assessments – resources that will continue to support student learning for years to come.

Congratulations, Ann on receiving the Director's Recognition Award. As your colleague Shannon shares, "You leave behind a massive legacy, not through loud gestures but through the deep, genuine impact you have had on every coach, teacher and student fortunate to work with you."

Meet DSBN's 2026 Loran Scholar *Sougui Abakar from Thorold Secondary School*

Congratulations to Sougui Abakar, a Grade 12 student at Thorold Secondary School who was recently selected as a 2026 Loran Scholar. The Loran Scholars Foundation selects 36 exceptional youth from more than 5,400 applicants across Canada who have "demonstrated they have embraced the challenge of leaving the world better than they found it." The prestigious award includes a four-year comprehensive leadership enrichment program, tuition waivers at one of 25 university partners, a significant financial award and a network of peers and mentors.

Sougui is committed to building community; he helped establish Thorold's Black Student Association, Muslim Students' Association and Model United Nations Club, where he now serves as president. He has also supported efforts to restart the Mayor Youth Council and serves as co-chair.

"Our motto at Thorold Secondary School is 'seek the highest' and Sougui embodies this in everything he does," shared Principal Jessica Folino. "Sougui is truly a difference maker. His exceptional leadership and deep commitment to meaningful change will undoubtedly guide him toward continued success in his future endeavors."



"Receiving the Loran award means a lot to me. This doesn't just represent a recognition for what I have done but also for the values that I try to live by, like making a difference in my community, doing good acts of service, and growing as a leader which are the award's motto."

[Read more about Sougui and his journey in this article published by The Standard.](#)

DSBN HIGHLIGHTS

Spotlight on Student & Staff Learning

DSBN Hosts Jesse Wente

His message to youth: "You are enough"

This month, DSBN was thrilled to welcome Jesse Wente, celebrated author, speaker, advocate and one of Canada's most trusted voices on Indigenous rights and reconciliation. Held at Laura Secord Secondary School, the latest Indigenous Speaker Series event brought together students, staff, and community members for an evening of storytelling and engagement. Organized by DSBN's Indigenous Education team and Student Leadership Group, audience participation was encouraged through a live QR-code question submission and the evening concluded with everyone receiving a copy of Wente's national bestseller, "Unreconciled: Family, Truth, and Indigenous Resistance."



AQ Courses for Staff

Professional learning for system-wide impact

In the 2025-2026 school year, 240 dedicated educators have deepened their professional learning through Additional Qualification (AQ) courses offered within our system. Designed and facilitated by DSBN educators using a blended learning model, these courses provide practical, classroom-ready strategies across both elementary and secondary panels, helping educators strengthen their instructional practice and better meet the needs of every learner. This work directly supports student learning, achievement and well-being across the system. Thank you to every educator and facilitator who has contributed their time and commitment. Your investment in professional growth reflects what we believe at DSBN - that with the right support, all students can succeed.



Entrepreneurial Day

Where passion meets possibility

Last month, secondary students from across DSBN came together for Entrepreneurial Day, a dynamic learning experience designed to help students explore how their interests and passions could translate into real-world business ideas. Coordinated by CSS in collaboration with Niagara community partners and local entrepreneurs, the event featured engaging speakers, interactive workshops, collaborative work time, and opportunities for students to connect with mentors. Students left feeling inspired and more confident about how their unique talents could evolve into future career pathways. Later this semester, those eager to take the next step will be able to pitch a business plan and access limited seed funding through a Ministry grant aimed at helping students bring their ideas to life.



Click the photo to
learn more!

Niagara Health Career Panel

Strengthening guidance through community partnership

DSBN recently hosted the Niagara Health Career Panel, an engaging professional learning opportunity for guidance counsellors, co-op teachers and Specialized High Skills Major (SHSM) leads to hear firsthand about the diverse and rewarding careers available in healthcare. Speakers from across Niagara Health shared real-world insights highlighting how varied and accessible healthcare pathways can be to help educators better support and guide students toward meaningful, in-demand careers. This partnership is a great example of how DSBN connects staff learning with community expertise to help students imagine and prepare for their future.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026

SAL MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present

Ann 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

Administration/Resource

Nadia LaSelva, Attendance Counsellor
Julie Zabor - Temp SAL Secretary
Jennifer McGugan – Safe Schools and Student Well-Being Coordinator

Guests

Roy Zucarello - VP, Thorold
Kimberley Landon - VP, Eastdale
Angela McClary - P, Port Colborne
Naomi Taylor - VP, A.N. Myer
Jennifer Edwards - VP, Welland Centennial
Mike Murray - VP, St. Catharines Collegiate
Anna Belanger - VP, St. Catharines Collegiate
Rhianna Dioguardi - VP, Stamford Collegiate

Regrets

Helga Campbell - Trustee

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE SAL COMMITTEE MEETING

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

B. CASES

226-37 JD DOB 08/16/2010

The student is currently enrolled in MEL3E. They will maintain connections with their school once a week and will connect with the school social worker. The student has applied to Access to Success and Step Niagara to gain employment skills. The school remains committed to supporting the student to facilitate progress toward enhanced participation and attendance.

JD has been approved for SAL.

226-038 KM DOB 02/22/2011

The student is currently enrolled in IDC30. They will maintain connections with their school's social worker and teacher weekly. The school remains committed to supporting the student in gaining credits and improving attendance.

KM has been approved for SAL.

226-039 PA DOB 10/07/2011

The student is not currently working on courses but has requested course work to support literacy. They will maintain connections with their school social worker and youth counsellor every Tuesday, while also allowing for time to connect with their peers. The school remains committed to supporting the student to volunteer at the onsite daycare as well as working toward enhanced participation and attendance.

PA has been approved for SAL.

226-040 CU DOB 09/06/2011

The student is working on GLS101 and may have the opportunity to recover their French course. They will maintain daily connection with their school by accessing Homework Help, and the school social worker. The school will support the student in gaining volunteer opportunities and remains committed to supporting the student to facilitate progress toward increased participation.

CU has been approved for SAL.

226-041 AT DOB 02/02/2011

The student is working on GLS101. They will stay connected to their school by using Homework Help two times a week, as well as working with the school social worker and the Indigenous Support Team. The school remains committed to supporting the student with learning supports and will facilitate progress towards enhanced participation and attendance.

AT has been approved for SAL.

226-042 AS DOB 10/28/2011

The student and family did not attend the meeting; therefore, the SAL plan was not approved.

226-043 JT DOB 07/30/2011

The student is working on AVI101 and IDC301. They will maintain connections with their school by attending period 2 and working in the school resources space or at home for period 3. School social

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work support has been offered. The school remains committed to supporting the student to facilitate progress towards enhanced participation and attendance.

JT has been approved for SAL

226-044 DM DOB 074/22/2009

The student is working on two online credits, GWL3ON and NBE3CN. The student is committed to graduating. The school remains committed to supporting the student to facilitate progress toward enhanced participation and attendance.

DM has been approved for SAL

226-045 KP DOB 11/24/2009

The student is working on IDC3O course. They will attend student success once or twice a week and maintain connections with their social worker, as well as community supports. The school remains committed to supporting the student to facilitate progress towards enhanced participation and attendance.

KP has been approved for SAL

226-046 ES DOB 12/09/2008

The student is working on IDC3O online. They will attend the school once a week to work in the resource room. The student and family will regularly connect with the school social worker and their community supports. The school remains committed to supporting the student to facilitate progress towards enhanced participation and attendance.

ES has been approved for SAL

226-047 VM DOB 03/11/2009

The student is not currently working on courses. They will maintain monthly meetings with the vice principal as well as maintain connections to community supports. The school remains committed to supporting the student securing a volunteer position that may lead to a future coop credit. Increased participation and attendance remain key objectives that the school continues to prioritize.

VM has been approved for SAL

C. CASE REVIEW

The Committee reviewed thirty-six (36) cases that had been brought forward previously. Of the thirty-six (36) cases heard, two (2) cases were discontinued.

D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present

Michelle Toy - 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 (Acting Chair) - Niagara Children's Centre, Victoria Everett - Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region

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

Regrets

Tessa Alexander – VOICE for Children Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Katie McKay – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Coalition.

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 5:32 p.m. Chair Morrice opened the meeting with the Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Flavia Orvitz

Seconded by Pattie Ferrie

“That the Agenda dated April 9, 2026, be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

3. STUDENT VOICE

Terri Beck, Student Achievement Leader for Special Education - Elementary, presented a video featuring a Senior Kindergarten student at Ferndale. The video illustrated the student's successful experience and demonstrated how the central Special Education Team collaborated with the school to facilitate a smooth transition to Grade 1.

4. SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF PRESENTATION

Matt Ezrin, Student Achievement Leader for Special Education - Secondary, and Nick Smith, Transition Navigator, delivered a presentation on the transition navigator role, which facilitates student transitions throughout the DSBN, including progression between grades, schools, and entry into post-secondary or community pathways. The Transition Navigator's initiatives are designed to promote coordinated, student-focused transition planning that actively involves both families and schools.

Teachers Andy Dermatis and Paul Ferrara presented a video and showcased highlights from the DSBN Special Olympics. SEAC was invited to review the winning entries from the DSBN Olympics T-Shirt Contest and vote on which Special Olympics cards should be developed from other outstanding art submissions. Additionally, two students from Sir Winston introduced the pilot Special Olympics Bocce Ball Tournament scheduled for May, which will involve nine elementary schools and more than 100 student participants.

5. **ASSOCIATION INFORMATION**

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

6. **TRUSTEE UPDATE**

Trustee Klassen provided an update on the March Board meeting.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Moved by Pattie Ferrie

Seconded by Kathy Bell

“That the letter from the District School Board of Niagara SEAC to the Ministry be received and sent as written.”

CARRIED

Acting Chair Kathy Bell presented a draft letter from the DSBN SEAC to the Ministry, which was prepared in response to correspondence from the Durham District School Board SEAC. The letter highlights the positive relationship between DSBN and its trustees. The committee approved sending the letter as written.

8. **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

There were no questions.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Next Meeting: May 14, 2026 – DSBN Education Centre, St. Catharines Room

MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026

Public Session 6:15 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Trustee Sue Barnett (Committee Chair), Trustee Michael Brousseau, Trustee Nancy Beamer (alternate for Trustee Helga Campbell)

ADMINISTRATION

Kelly Pisek (Director of Education), Stacy Veld (Associate Director of Education, Corporate Services), Nicky Westlake (Controller of Finance), Filomena Goldsworthy (Senior Manager, Community Education and Community Partnership Services).

TRUSTEE GUESTS

Vice Chair Elizabeth Klassen, Trustee Shannon Mitchell

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 6:15 p.m. Trustees Lora Campbell and Helga Campbell were absent.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Michael Brousseau

Seconded by Nancy Beamer

“That the agenda be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

D. DSBN SCHOOLS AS HUBS OF THE COMMUNITY

Associate Director of Education, Stacy Veld shared that the DSBN supports the use of schools outside of school hours for both board-sanctioned events and community program and activities. Permit and Rental Services administer all permits for afterhours use of DSBN

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

schools, including internal events and external rental by community members and organizations, through the Community Use of Schools (CUOS) program. The CUOS program continues to be a vital service enabling community access to DSBN facilities.

In addition, the DSBN works with many community partners to enhance services hosted at schools, including child care that support families across the region. As of April 7, 2026, for the 2025-26 school year, Permit and Rental Services has processed 2,015 permits externally and 8,786 permits internally.

For the 2025–2026 academic year, four new Before and After School Programs (BASP) have been deemed viable. These programs will be established at Westmount PS, Gainsborough PS, Bridgeview PS, Thundering Heights PS, and Briardale PS (effective 2026).

Filomena Goldsworthy, Senior Manager of Community Education and Community Partnership Services, provided responses to inquiries and reported that the total number of External Use hours to date stands at 1,234,877. Of this figure, 1.1 million hours are attributed to child care, while 96,000 hours result from after-hours community use. The allocation for child care is set for the year, but community use hours will continue to increase as the permit year extends through August 31, 2026. This total is expected to rise further.

Moved by Nancy Beamer

Seconded by Michael Brousseau

“That the DSBN Schools as HUBS in the Community Report be received.”

CARRIED

E. 2025-26 INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Controller of Finance Nicky Westlake presented the 2025-26 Interim Financial Report for the period ending February 28, 2026. The report provides a comparison of year-to-date actual revenue and expenditures to the prior year, explains key variances from budget, and forms a conclusion as to the projected surplus for the year.

Based on preliminary October 31, 2025 actual enrolment, the DSBN enrolment has increased by 444 average daily enrolment (ADE) from last year actual enrolment. Our second interim report indicates a decrease from our projection of 0.5% as a result of asylum-seeking students not arriving and slowing development in Niagara resulting in reduced kindergarten registration.

After the approval of the budget, the Ministry of Education announced additional funds for Partnership and Priority Funds (PPF) grants. This report includes an increase in revenue and expenditures of \$1.0M. The second Interim Financial Report projects a balanced budget with no use of accumulated surplus. This preliminary projection is based on actual spending to February 28, 2026.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Moved by Michael Brousseau

Seconded by Nancy Beamer

“That the 2025-26 Interim Financial Report for the period ending February 28, 2026, and the corresponding changes in revenues and expenditures, be received.”

CARRIED

F. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNT

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

Moved by Michael Brousseau

Seconded by Nancy Beamer

“That the Summary of Accounts paid for the months of January, February and March 2026, totaling \$106,628,009 be received.”

CARRIED

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. The next Finance Committee meeting date will be Tuesday, May 12, 2026. Time TBD.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026

Public Session – 5:30p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

(*denotes approval received to attend electronically)

TRUSTEE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Trustee Kate Baggott (Acting Committee Chair), Trustee Sue Barnett, Trustee Shannon Mitchell (Alternate for Trustee Deanne MacIntosh), Trustee Nancy Beamer (Alternate for Trustee Helga Campbell), Trustee Mike Brousseau (Alternate for Trustee Lora Campbell)

TRUSTEE GUESTS

Trustee Elizabeth Klassen

ADMINISTRATION

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

GUESTS

Stacy Veld (Associate Director of Education, Corporate Services), Breann Pyke (Executive Officer, Human Resources), Simon Hancox (Superintendent of Special Education), Mary Anne Gage (Superintendent of Student Achievement and Well-being)

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, Trustee Helga Campbell and Trustee Deanne MacIntosh were absent.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Trustee Beamer

Seconded by Trustee Barnett

“That the Agenda dated April 14, 2026, be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. E-10: Staff Development

Executive Officer Pyke presented Policy E-10 with a recommendation to defer until 2026-27. No public feedback was received. Upon review of the current policy and further discussion, the committee determined it would be better to revoke the policy in its current form and start fresh with a new policy to be brought forward in 2026-27.

Moved by Trustee Brousseau

Seconded by Trustee Barnett

“That Policy E-10: Staff Development be revoked.”

CARRIED

2. E-20: DSBN Employee Hiring Practices

Executive Officer Pyke presented Policy E-20 with minor changes to the language and structure of the policy based on feedback received. Upon review by the committee, the policy was further amended to include some contextual language and definitions pulled from Ministry of Education PPM 165, which speaks directly to school board teacher hiring practices.

Moved by Trustee Mitchell

Seconded by Trustee Beamer

“That Policy E-20: DSBN Employee Hiring Practices be approved as amended and adopted.”

CARRIED

3. D-07: Third Party Provision of Student Support Services

Superintendent Hancox presented Policy D-07: Third Party Provision of Student Support Services with revisions to the title and language within the policy to better describe the types of supports provided for students within schools and classrooms by external providers. No public feedback was received. Upon review by the committee, the policy was amended to further broaden the language referencing external providers and acknowledge DSBN’s protocol for establishing and implementing the service provider agreements.

Moved by Trustee Barnett
Seconded by Trustee Beamer

“That Policy D-07: Third Party Provision of Student Support Services by External Providers be approved as amended and adopted.”
CARRIED

4. D-10: Outdoor Education

Superintendent Gage presented Policy D-10 with a recommendation to revoke as it is operational in nature. No public feedback was received.

Moved by Trustee Beamer
Seconded by Trustee Mitchell

“That Policy D-10: Outdoor Education be revoked.”
CARRIED

5. F-05: Playspace Equipment

Associate Director Veld presented Policy F-05 with a recommendation to revoke as the intent and framework for the purchase of playspace equipment is also contained within Policy G-19: Fundraising/Canvassing Initiated by Schools. Prior to revoking this Policy, the committee requested that Policy G-19 be brought to the committee in the 2026-27 cycle with enhanced language to address the specifics of playground funding by schools.

Moved by Trustee Barnett
Seconded by Trustee Brousseau

“That Policy F-05: Playspace Equipment be revoked.”
CARRIED

6. G-38: Complaint Resolution

General Counsel Feren presented Policy G-38 with a recommendation to defer in order for staff to gain clarity around the Ministry of Education direction for school boards to implement a new Student and Family Support Office and the ongoing role of Trustees. The deferral will allow this policy to reflect process changes that will occur as a result. Based on feedback received, staff will soften the tone of the policy to be more family friendly as well.

Moved by Trustee Beamer
Seconded by Trustee Brousseau

“That Policy G-38: Complaint Resolution be deferred.”
CARRIED

E. POLICIES SCHEDULED TO BE REVIEWED BY COMMITTEE IN 2026-27 CYCLE

(for information)

- A-11: Flag Protocol
- A-18: Environmental Sustainability
- B-01: Procurement of Goods and Services
- B-09: Privacy Management
- D-04: Elementary Interschool Athletic Program
- D-16: Prior Learning Assessment Recognition
- E-03: Health and Safety – Annual Review
- E-15: Workplace Violence and Harassment Prevention – Annual Review
- E-17: Performance Appraisal
- F-03: Facility Access, Key Control and Intrusion Alarm
- G-20: Sponsorships, Scholarships, Donations, Partnerships for Learning
- G-23: Transfer of Students from Elementary to Secondary Schools
- G-25: Co-Curricular Activities
- G-35: Copyright Provision
- G-40: Supporting Students with Prevalent Medical Health Conditions
- I-01: Guidelines for Retirement/Resignation Dates for Teachers

PLUS Additional Policies deferred from 2025-2026 or impacted by revoked policy:

E-10 – Staff Development

G-38 – Complaints Resolution

G-19 – Fundraising/Canvassing Initiated by School

F. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12p.m.

POLICY

SECTION:	STAFF - GENERAL	POLICY:	E-10
TOPIC:	STAFF DEVELOPMENT	PAGE:	1 of 1
REVIEW DATE:	November 2025	DATE:	November 2020
		REVISED:	

The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) encourages all employees to be life-long learners supported by Staff Development that is based on system, school and individual needs. The following definitions seek to clarify the key components of effective and comprehensive staff development:

- **Training**: Training provides specialized instruction to fulfil the basic needs required for competency in a specific job. Training is either legislated or mandated by DSBN, usually for the purposes of safety or accountability.
- **In-Service**: In-service provides individuals with both self-initiated and DSBN initiated opportunities to broaden their skills and become more effective in their respective, ever-changing jobs.
- **Professional Growth**: Professional Growth encompasses a wide variety of self-initiated activities that enhance growth in the individual's respective field.

Staff Development is offered and supported at DSBN, area, school and department levels.

The DSBN believes in supporting new staff through processes, including the following:

- **Induction**: Induction is a process for new employees (first two years) that includes all the activities that train and support new employees and it acculturates them to the mission and philosophy of their school/department and the DSBN. Induction encompasses orientation, mentoring, ongoing structured training, and other components.
- **Mentoring**: Mentoring is defined as a non-evaluative process which entails a role model in a "role-alike" position dialoguing to share knowledge, experiences, needs and strategies.
- **Orientation**: Orientation involves familiarization with the operational procedures of the school/department and the DSBN.

The DSBN supports the principle that workers should be multi-skilled, within parameters of Collective Agreements and job descriptions. Cross training helps to implement this principle:

- **Cross Training**: Cross training develops employees who can readily adapt to changes in job requirements and advancing technology. Cross training may be used as a strategy to enable employees to become more productive, prepared for new opportunities, as well as creating more flexibility within departments.

Supervisors/Managers facilitate communication and coordination of Staff Development opportunities for individuals and groups within the scope of their portfolio.

Recommend to defer

POLICY

SECTION:	HUMAN RESOURCES - GENERAL	POLICY:	E-20
TOPIC:	DSBN EMPLOYEE HIRING PRACTICES	PAGE:	1 of 2
REVIEW DATE:	April 2031	DATE:	April 2026
		REVISED:	

As approved by committee on April 14 2026

All hiring decisions will be made in accordance with applicable laws, including the Ontario Human Rights Code, and respective collective agreements.

The District School Board of Niagara believes in attracting, recruiting and retaining exemplary employees to prepare students for success now and in the future, and to reach their full potential regardless of their background or social identity. The DSBN recognizes that consistent hiring processes will allow the board to achieve and maintain a strong and diverse workforce. The DSBN is also committed to hiring practices that consider the following~~include~~:

Qualifications and Merit

- valuing applicants' demonstrated experience and commitment to creating a safe, inclusive, equitable, accessible, and high-quality learning environment.
- valuing applicants' additional experiences, skills, backgrounds, lived and work experience.

Diversity, Equity and Human Rights

- ensure that all employment policies and practices are anti-discriminatory.
- identify and remove barriers for Indigenous peoples and equity-seeking groups at each stage of the hiring process.

Employment Mobility

- providing equal opportunities to apply for positions for which they are qualified irrespective of where they are currently employed.

Fairness and Transparency

- support a fair and transparent hiring process

Monitoring and Evaluation

- monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the hiring policy and make adjustments as necessary.

The DSBN hiring practices will include steps to avoid inequitable representation of historically disadvantaged groups for all applicants. The Policy also supports DSBN's commitment to promoting equity, ~~valuing early career educators~~ and the prevention of conflict of interest in all hiring processes.

All teacher hiring shall be in accordance with Policy and Program Memorandum 165. Furthermore, any assignment of a teacher shall be made with due regard for the provision of the best possible program and the safety and well-being of the students as required under Ontario Regulation 298 Operation of Schools – General, including the requirement that it shall be made in accordance with the qualifications recorded on the teacher's certificate of qualification with the Ontario College of Teachers.

~~All hiring decisions will be made in accordance with applicable laws, including the Ontario Human Rights Code, and respective collective agreements~~

REFERENCES

[Ministry of Education PPM 165](#)
[Education Act, Ontario Regulation 298 – Operation of Schools – General](#)
[DSBN Policy E-02: Conflict of Interest](#)

POLICY

SECTION:	HUMAN RESOURCES - GENERAL	POLICY:	E-20
TOPIC:	DSBN EMPLOYEE HIRING PRACTICES	PAGE:	1 of 1
REVIEW DATE:	May 2026 April 2031	DATE:	May 2021 April 2026
		REVISED:	

As submitted to committee

All hiring decisions will be made in accordance with applicable laws, including the Ontario Human Rights Code, and respective collective agreements

The District School Board of Niagara believes in attracting, recruiting and retaining exemplary employees to prepare students for success now and in the future, and to reach their full potential regardless of their background or social identity. The DSBN recognizes that consistent hiring processes will allow the board to achieve and maintain a strong and diverse workforce. The DSBN is also committed to hiring practices that ~~include~~ consider the following:

- Qualifications and Merit
- Diversity, Equity and Human Rights
- Employment Mobility
- Fairness and Transparency
- Monitoring and Evaluation

The DSBN hiring practices will include steps to avoid inequitable representation of historically disadvantaged groups for all applicants. The Policy also supports DSBN's commitment to promoting equity, ~~valuing early career educators~~ and the prevention of conflict of interest in all hiring processes.

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~~All hiring decisions will be made in accordance with applicable laws, including the Ontario Human Rights Code, and respective collective agreements.~~

REFERENCES

~~Ministry of Education PPM 165 – Issued February 22, 2021~~ Ministry of Education PPM 165
[Education Act, Ontario Regulation 298 – Operation of Schools – General](#)
[DSBN Policy E-02: Conflict of Interest](#)

POLICY

SECTION:	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND STUDENT SERVICES	POLICY:	D-07
TOPIC:	THIRD PARTY PROVISION OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES <u>BY EXTERNAL PROVIDERS</u>	PAGE:	Page 1 of 1
REVIEW DATE:	<u>May 2026</u> <u>April 2031</u>	DATE:	<u>May-April 2024</u> <u>6</u>
		REVISED:	

As approved by committee on April 14 2026

The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) is committed to the provision of appropriate in-school support services for ~~individual students or groups of~~ students. The students who will receive this support, as well as the extent and scheduling of this support, are determined by the ~~service allocation processes of the~~ DSBN and Ministry ~~of Education~~ regulations.

Consistent with the DSBN's duty to provide appropriate and equitable services for students, parents/guardians are not permitted to purchase or otherwise provide ~~(e.g., use of a volunteer)~~ in-school or in-classroom student assistance, including personal support workers or other in-school professional services. Direct therapy to students is provided in the classroom only when delivered by Ontario Health at Home, as outlined in PPM 81.

~~There are two~~There are some circumstances which ~~may allow for the involvement of external providers~~lead to a decision that varies from this general policy:

- The DSBN ~~will work~~ co-operatively with other ~~approved publicly funded~~provincially funded and regulated community agencies, ~~(e.g., Family and Children's Services Niagara (FACS), Pathstone, Niagara Children's Centre)~~ including those ~~working with students with mental health and/or physical and/or developmental needs, in the provision of appropriate providing services~~ in-school and/or in-classroom ~~services~~. In partnership with the parent/guardian, these services supplement but not duplicate the programs and services provided for students by school personnel and Board staff, thereby allowing the student to participate more fully and more successfully in the instructional program of the school.

~~The DSBN acknowledges that in special cases, temporary rehabilitative support may be accessed with insurance claim monies, as authorized by a rehabilitation counsellor or other similar agent, regarding a specific individual. Eligibility for this service, including the selection and management of appropriate personnel, will be the responsibility of the DSBN. Such actions will be taken in consultation with the appropriate third party who will provide funding for the cost associated with the provision of such services.~~

- ~~Other supplemental support services provided by external providers may include observation, demonstration, assessment, treatment, counselling, and/or therapy activities that are distinct from activities implemented by DSBN staff. All third party external partnerships must respect the Board's collective agreements. Supplemental support services provided by external partners should complement, rather than replicate, DSBN staff work.~~

~~The DSBN Protocol for Agreement with External Agencies or Providers for the Provision of Services by Regulated Health Professionals, Regulated Social Services Professionals and Paraprofessionals provides the approval framework for establishing and implementing agreements with external agencies and providers. The approval, denial or termination of support services provided or funded by a third party shall, at all times, be at the sole discretion and direction of the DSBN.~~

Access and provision of personal information regarding a student from personnel employed as in-school support funded by a third party, shall be at the discretion of the School Administrator(s) acting in accordance with the *Education Act* and the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

The approval, denial or termination of supplemental support services provided or funded by a third party external providers shall, at all times, be at the sole discretion and direction of the Superintendent responsible for Third Party Services. external

References

ReferencesEducation Act

Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)

Ministry of Education PPM 149: Protocol for Partnerships with External Agencies for Provision of Services by Regulated Health Professionals, Regulated Social Service Professionals, and Paraprofessionals

Ministry of Education PPM 81: Provision of Health Support Services in School Settings

Protocol for Agreement with External Agencies for the Provision of Services by Regulated Health Professionals, Regulated Social Services Professionals and Paraprofessionals

POLICY

SECTION:	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND STUDENT SERVICES	POLICY:	D-07
TOPIC:	THIRD PARTY PROVISION OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES <u>BY EXTERNAL PROVIDERS</u>	PAGE:	Page 1 of 1
REVIEW DATE:	<u>May 2026</u> <u>April 2031</u>	DATE:	<u>May-April 2024</u> <u>6</u>
		REVISED:	

As submitted to committee

The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) is committed to the provision of appropriate in-school support services for ~~individual students or groups of~~ students. The students who will receive this support, as well as the extent and scheduling of this support, are determined by the ~~service allocation processes of the~~ DSBN and Ministry ~~of Education~~ regulations.

Consistent with the DSBN's duty to provide appropriate and equitable services for students, parents/guardians are not permitted to purchase or otherwise provide (e.g., use of a volunteer) in-school or in-classroom student assistance, including personal support workers or other in-school professional services. Direct therapy to students is provided in the classroom only when delivered by Ontario Health at Home, as outlined in PPM 81.

~~There are two~~There are some circumstances which ~~may allow for the involvement of external providers~~lead to a decision that varies from this general policy:

- The DSBN ~~will work~~s co-operatively with other ~~publicly funded~~provincially funded and regulated community agencies, (e.g., Family and Children's Services Niagara (FACS), Pathstone, Niagara Children's Centre) including those working with students with mental health and/or physical and/or developmental needs, in the provision of appropriate in-school and/or in-classroom services. In partnership with the parent/guardian, these services supplement but not duplicate the programs and services provided for students by school personnel and Board staff, thereby allowing the student to participate more fully and more successfully in the instructional program of the school.

~~The DSBN acknowledges that in special cases, temporary rehabilitative support may be accessed with insurance claim monies, as authorized by a rehabilitation counsellor or other similar agent, regarding a specific individual. Eligibility for this service, including the selection and management of appropriate personnel, will be the responsibility of the DSBN. Such actions will be taken in consultation with the appropriate third party who will provide funding for the cost associated with the provision of such services.~~

- Other supplemental support services provided by external partners may include observation, demonstration, assessment, treatment, counselling, and/or therapy activities that are distinct from activities implemented by DSBN staff. All third party external partnerships must respect the Board's collective agreements. Supplemental support services provided by external partners should complement, rather than replicate, DSBN staff work.

~~The approval, denial or termination of support services provided or funded by a third party shall, at all times, be at the sole discretion and direction of the DSBN.~~

Access and provision of personal information regarding a student from personnel employed as in-school support funded by a third party, shall be at the discretion of the School Administrator(s) acting in accordance with the *Education Act* and the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

The approval, denial or termination of supplemental support services provided or funded by a third party external partner shall, at all times, be at the sole discretion and direction of the Superintendent responsible for Third Party Services. external

References

~~References~~Education Act

Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)

Ministry of Education PPM 149: Protocol for Partnerships with External Agencies for Provision of Services by Regulated Health Professionals, Regulated Social Service Professionals, and Paraprofessionals

Ministry of Education PPM 81: Provision of Health Support Services in School Settings

POLICY

SECTION:	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND STUDENT SERVICES	POLICY:	D-10
TOPIC:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION	PAGE:	Page 1 of 1
		DATE:	November 2020
REVIEW DATE:	November 2025	REVISED:	

The DSBN recognizes the importance schools have in preparing our students to take their place as informed, engaged and empowered citizens who will be pivotal in shaping our schools, our communities, our country and our global environment.

Environmental education in our school's focuses on teaching and learning, student engagement, community connections and environmental leadership.

The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) is committed to the provision of opportunities for all students to experience learning in an outdoor natural environment. In addition to outdoor/educational programs at our schools, DSBN students have the opportunity to visit our DSBN Adventure and Living Campuses. These campuses provide students a broad range of outdoor experiential learning opportunities. The Outdoor programs offered at these facilities empower students through exploration and discovery to develop a connection to nature. Outdoor Education at the DSBN's Living Campus and DSBN Adventure Campus involves students in our natural environment in ways that develop environmental stewardship, encourage healthy living, and provide opportunities for students to develop skills in a variety of outdoor activities that enhance well-being and are environmentally sustainable. Implementation of both Environmental and Outdoor Education programs align to the Strategies and Actions as listed in the *"Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow"* document.

The DSBN believes that all students should have equal access to these opportunities and there should be no barriers to participation in any of the programs provided at our schools, at the DSBN outdoor campuses or through our community partnerships.

Reference:

Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow: A Policy Framework for Environmental Education in Ontario Schools, Ministry of Education, 2009

Recommend to revoke

POLICY

SECTION:	FACILITY SERVICES	POLICY:	F-05
TOPIC:	PLAYSPACE EQUIPMENT AND NATURALIZED LEARNING AND PLAY SPACES	PAGE:	1 of 1
REVIEW DATE:	May 2026	DATE:	May 2021
		REVISED:	

The Playspace Equipment and Naturalized Learning and Play Spaces Policy supports District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) schools with the creation of environments where students can develop physical fitness, motor control and social skills through the safe use and installation of outdoor activity equipment or naturalized learning and playspaces. Since playspace equipment and naturalized learning and play spaces are not funded provincially, the DSBN appreciates the partnership of parents/guardians and community groups who raise funds for purchase, installation, and ongoing repairs and maintenance of playspace equipment and naturalized learning and play spaces at schools.

Definitions:

Playspace equipment – a playstructure anchored to the ground or having natural stability, and not intended to be moved, that is for use in the play areas located on the playground.

Naturalized Learning and Play Space – may include the use of trees, boulders, tree stumps, pathways, trails, garden areas or benches to create outdoor classrooms or a social centre, and areas sheltered from the elements on the school property or in the early learning play area.

Parameters:

Safety considerations are paramount when purchasing playspace equipment. Therefore, schools are expected to act in accordance with the procedures of the DSBN, and in consultation with Purchasing and Facility Services, regarding the purchase, installation and maintenance of playspace equipment to ensure:

- Compliance with the DSBN Purchasing Policy and the Government of Ontario Broader Public Sector Procurement Directives.
- Installation is conducted by a reputable vendor with proof of insurance and WSIB coverage.
- New playspace equipment meets the current C.S.A. standards
- New playspace equipment installations are compliant with the Accessibility for Ontario with Disabilities Act (including site accessibility and ground level accessible equipment for student enjoyment).
- The Ground surfacing is appropriate and meets current C.S.A. standards.
- The use of native species in naturalized playspaces and no poisonous plants or invasive species shall be utilized in these spaces.
- The best value is derived for the community fund raising efforts.
- The playspace equipment is appropriately located and correctly installed.
- The total cost of ownership is considered: purchase, installation, certification and ongoing maintenance costs.
- If the equipment or naturalized learning and play space poses a safety hazard or is deemed unmanageable, and the school determines after consultation with Facility Services it is unable or unwilling to finance the repair costs, then it will be removed.

Responsibility for Playspace Equipment and Naturalized Learning and Play Spaces:

School Administrator(s) are responsible for the inspection and supervision, during normal school hours, of playspace equipment and naturalized learning and play spaces consistent with the appropriate procedures and other relevant DSBN guidelines, and consistent with the Education Act and Regulations.

References

Policy B-01: Purchasing Policy

Recommend to revoke

POLICY

SECTION:	SCHOOL OPERATIONS	POLICY:	G-38
TOPIC:	COMPLAINTS RESOLUTION POLICY	PAGE:	Page 1 of 3
		DATE:	February 2021
REVIEW DATE:	February 2026	REVISED:	

The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) is committed to encouraging a strong relationship with parents/guardians, students and community. The DSBN is committed to addressing public concerns in a fair, respectful and effective manner.

GENERAL INQUIRIES

In the normal course of business, the DSBN receives inquiries, questions and/or concerns via the DSBN reception, letters, email and social media. These inquiries, questions and/or concerns are redirected to appropriate supervisor who will then respond to the inquiry or facilitate a resolution or routinely disclose the information. In addition, the supervisor may also access and consult with central resources as part of the resolution process, including the equity and inclusion team and other departments such as human resources, facility services, legal services and information technology.

DEFINITION OF A COMPLAINT

A complaint is defined as any oral or written communication expressing dissatisfaction with the application of policies, procedures, programs, services or actions of staff, or Trustee or the DSBN. Those expressing an oral complaint will be required to put the complaint in writing, dating and signing the complaint to facilitate the investigation.

Anonymous or pseudonymous complaints or material, unless it is believed that such complaint or material references an illegal, abusive or protection matter, or is otherwise believed to be relevant in law will not be considered, copied, distributed, repeated, responded to or entertained by the DSBN. In consultation with the appropriate Superintendent, anonymous or pseudonymous complaints or material of an illegal, abusive or protection matter will be referred to the appropriate party or parties such as the police and/or Family and Children Services. Anonymous or pseudonymous written complaints received by staff, excluding those which it is believed refer to an illegal, abusive or protection matter will be shredded.

PROCESSING OF COMPLAINT

Complaints will not be processed, where the complainants are members of the public who have had a recent opportunity to comment on a Board of Trustee's decision or a similar complaint by the individual has already been processed, or where another process is in place to hear complaints, such as public meetings.

Complainants, who persist in opposing rules, routines and functions of a school or the DSBN, to the point of complaints being malicious, frivolous, vexatious or harassing of staff, will be advised that such action will not be condoned or tolerated.

PROCESS FOR RESOLVING COMPLAINTS OF PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) ON SCHOOL BASED MATTERS

From time to time, a parent/guardian may contact the Education Centre or Trustees for further discussion relating to a school issue. A parent/guardian should be directed to follow the process outlined below in the hope that the issue can be resolved at the school level. In order to assist individual complainants regarding the appropriate process, it is important to listen to see if the question relates to a classroom concern, a school-wide concern, or district wide DSBN concern.

If a parent/guardian has a concern about a school matter, the following steps (which may require one or more meetings at each step) should be followed by the parent/guardian:

Step 1: Review of the issue with the student's Teacher

Step 2: Review of the issue by the School Administrator(s)

Step 3: Review of the issue by the Superintendent of Education

Step 4: Review of the issue by the Director of Education or Designate

Recommend to defer

POLICY

SECTION:	SCHOOL OPERATIONS	POLICY:	G-38
TOPIC:	COMPLAINTS RESOLUTION POLICY	PAGE:	Page 2 of 3
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Representative of the Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

From time to time, a parent/guardian may believe or feel that they need support in order that they can adequately address their child's interests. This support may be necessary while the parent/guardian is attending meetings with the staff employed by the DSBN.

A parent/guardian has the right to have a representative of their choosing in attendance at meetings with staff, except where there may be a conflict of interest or as noted below. Any costs/expenses associated with such a representative are the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Principals, staff and the parent/guardian will be notified in advance of a meeting as to who is anticipated to be in attendance.

A representative supporting the parent/guardian must agree, at the outset of or in advance of the meeting, to respect and maintain the confidentiality of any matter discussed at a meeting between parent/guardian and staff.

Matters that should not be discussed with Staff

Although the subject matter of meetings between parent/guardian and staff (including meetings at which a representative or a parent/guardian is present) may be fairly broad, these meetings will generally relate to the education of the parent's/guardian's student at the school in question. However, there are certain matters that staff are unable to discuss with the parent or guardian.

Such matters that cannot be discussed include, for example, personal details or disciplinary measures concerning other students, and personal details related to staff or performance issues related to staff.

In the event that discussion cannot be limited to the subject matter that led to the meeting (generally the education of the parent's/guardian's student at the school in question), as necessary, staff will bring closure to any meeting which becomes a discussion of personal details concerning other students or personal details about staff or issues relating to staff performance.

Role of Trustees

A parent or guardian may contact Trustees at any time. Trustees will facilitate the communication process between the parent/guardian and the appropriate staff and provide information and direction. Trustees shall direct the parent or guardian to the process which should be followed in resolving any concerns or to the appropriate person or step in the process (dependent on the steps the parent/guardian has already undertaken to resolve the concerns at the time the Trustee is contacted) but shall not act as a representative of the parent or guardian.

Members of the public may contact Trustees for further discussion relating to other types of issues and decisions of the Board of Trustees. Trustees will then contact the Chair of the Board, Vice Chair, or the Director of Education in order to facilitate further discussion of the issue.

Role of School Councils

School councils are not forums to discuss individual parent/guardian-teacher-student issues. Any of these matters brought to a school council member or any school council meeting will be referred immediately to the school Administrator.

APPEAL TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: DELEGATIONS

Recommend to defer

POLICY

SECTION:	SCHOOL OPERATIONS	POLICY:	G-38
TOPIC:	COMPLAINTS RESOLUTION POLICY	PAGE:	Page 3 of 3
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If not satisfied with the outcome of the above complaint process, individual complainants may also make a written request to the Chair of the Board to make a delegation to the Board of Trustees. Any approved delegation will be conducted in accordance with DSBN Board By-Laws and Procedures on Delegations and depending on the nature of the issue may be dealt with at an in camera private session or in the open Board meeting.

References:

Policy D-09: Framework for the Provision of Special Education Services
 Policy D-12: Home Use of Equipment Purchased Through the Special Equipment Amount (SEA)
 Policy D-13: Applied Behaviour Analysis
 Policy E-09: Human Rights
 Policy G-02: Safe Schools
 Policy G-13: Use of Physical Intervention with Students
 Policy G-15: Student Medical Information
 Policy G-16: Administering Emergency Health Services to Students
 Policy G-17: Provision of Health Support Services to Students
 Policy G-28: Student Discipline
 Policy J-01: Transportation Policy

Recommend to defer

MAY 2026

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

01

02

03

04

05

06

07

08

09

10

11

12

Finance
P & P
5:30 pm

13

SAL 1:00 pm

14

SEAC
PIC
5:30 pm

15

16

17

18

19

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21

22

23

24

25

26

Regular
Board Meeting
6:00 pm

27

28

29

30

31

MAY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Asian Heritage Month Dutch Heritage Month Armenian Heritage Month Vision Health Month Sexual Assault Prevention Month					01 National Youth Week (May1-7) Beltane Vesak Day (Buddha Day)	02 Twelfth Day of Ridvan
03 Occupational Health & Safety Week (May3-9) World Press Freedom Day	04 Mental Health Week (May4-10)	05 African World Heritage Day National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit	06	07	08	09
10 Jordan's Principle Mother's Day	11 International Awareness Day for Chronic Immunological and Neurological Diseases International Nurses Day	12	13	14 Apraxia Awareness Day Ascension Day (Western)	15 International Day of Families Malcolm X Day Nakba Day	16 World Education Support Personnel Day
17 International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia	18 Queen Victoria Day	19	20	21 Ascension Day (Eastern) World Day for Cultural Diversity	22 Shavout* (May22-23)	23 Declaration of the Ba'b
24 Pentecost Day	25 Africa Day International Missing Children's Day	26 Day of Arafat*	27 Eid al-Adha* (May 27-30)	28 Ascension of Baha'u'llah	29	30
31 National AccessAbility Week						

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.*