MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026

Public Session: 6:05 p.m. – 7:06 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, Owen Riel

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, 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

Chair Baggott called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:05 p.m. and noted that Trustee Deanne MacIntosh and General Counsel Jennifer Feren were 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 during a video performance of '*O Canada*' by the Burleigh Hill Public School choir and remained standing to honour the passing of a student.

C. REFLECTIVE READING

Vice-Chair Klassen provided a reflective reading.

D. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Trustee Appointment

Moved by Sue Barnett
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"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."
CARRIED

Director Pisek confirmed that Owen Riel has signed the required Declaration of Office.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Owen Riel
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the Agenda be adopted."
CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Moved by Deanne MacIntosh
Seconded by Mike Brousseau

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

4. 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 Ann Rigg, Math Facilitation Consultant, Curriculum Support Services for strengthening mathematics teaching and learning across the DSBN by shaping classroom practice and building confidence in educators. Her leadership in Mathematics Achievement Action Plan (MAAP) schools supported teachers, mentored instructional coaches, partnered with administrators, and reinforced that all students are capable mathematicians. Ann has also made lasting contributions through the development of Math AQ courses, playing a key role in creating assessment tools that will continue to support student learning for years to come.

b) Director's Highlights

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

- 2026 Loran Scholar – Thorold SS Student
- DSBN Hosts Jesse Wente
- AQ Courses for Staff
- Entrepreneurial Day
- Niagara Health Career Panel
- Wyn Zeigler at Martha Cullimore
- Aidan Taggart – Blue Jays

2. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASES

There was no educational showcase.

F. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

1. DSBN Student Achievement Plan Update

Superintendent Neil Sheard provided an overview of the DSBN Student Achievement Plan that reflects outcomes from the 2024-2025 school year. The plan focuses on core academic skills, student engagement, and student achievement. Highlights include EQAO results, student preparedness, and student well-being. The plan is updated annually using data from the previous school year and will be posted on the DSBN website.

G. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

H. BOARD RECESS

There was no recess.

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Helga Campbell

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

Superintendent Mat Miller reported that ten new cases were presented and approved for SAL.

2. 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 April 9, 2026, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell reported that the committee received a presentation on how the Transition Navigator role supports student transitions across DSBN. A video and highlights from the DSBN Special Olympics were shared that included the Special Olympics T-shirt contest winners and committee members voted on art submissions for Special Olympics cards. Two students from Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School introduced a pilot Special Olympics bocce ball tournament planned for May and Acting Chair Kathy Bell presented a draft letter from the DSBN SEAC to the Ministry highlighting the positive relationship between DSBN and its trustees. A video was presented highlighting the successful transition of a senior kindergarten student into grade one from Ferndale.

3. Report of the Finance Committee

Moved by Sue Barnett
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"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."

"That the 2025-26 Interim Financial Report for the period ending February 28, 2026, and the corresponding change 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."
CARRIED

Trustee Barnett reported that information was received about DSBN Schools as HUBS in the Community. The 2025–2026 Interim Financial Report to February 28, 2026, was presented which reflects a $1.0M increase in both revenue and expenditures due to Ministry Partnership and Priority Funds (PPF) funding and projects a balanced budget with no use of accumulated surplus. In addition, the Summary of Account Report was presented detailing recent cash-based expenditures across key cost centres.

4. Report of the Policy Committee

Moved by Mike Brousseau
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

"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."
CARRIED

Director Pisek reported that a total of six policies were reviewed. Of the six, three policies were revoked. Changes to policy E-20: DSBN Employee Hiring Practices include language and definitions from PPM 165 and policy D-07: Third Party Provision of Student Support Servicers by External Providers was broadened to reflect DSBN's external-provider agreement protocols. Policy G-38: Complaint Resolution was deferred pending ministry direction on the new Student and Family Support office.

J. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

In response to a question about OPSBA's initiative 'Take Your MPP to School Week,' Director Pisek indicated that Trustees wishing to arrange school visits are to reach out to the school principal directly.

K. NEW BUSINESS

1. CHANGE OF JUNE BOARD MEETING DATE

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Owen Riel

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

2. DIRECTOR'S PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (DPAC)

Chair Baggott confirmed DPAC membership for the 2026–2027 evaluation cycle: Kate Baggott, Sue Barnett, Elizabeth Klassen, Shannon Mitchell, and Owen Riel.

L. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. STAFF REPORTS

2. TRUSTEE INFORMATION SESSIONS

There was no Trustee information session.

3. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

There was no correspondence and communication.

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

Trustees shared information about participation at recent events.

Student Trustee William Connor reported on the recent senate meeting where senators had the opportunity to join a workshop run by staff advisors about 100% Culture. The Student Success group continued to plan for a fundraiser with the Education Foundation of Niagara discussing creative ways to raise money. The group recognized the following students for receiving the March Student Step-Up award; Katlynn O'Neal for her contributions to School Council and accomplishments in SOSSA for

Badminton, Meena Wong for co-founding and being the president of the Asian Heritage Club, and Keisha Asah, and Grace David for creating the Black Student Alliance group at Crossley.

Indigenous Student Trustee Barrett Dockstator reported that the Equity and Inclusion group worked on a project collecting student perspective on representation within DSBN schools. He provided key highlights from the fifth Indigenous Student Representatives meeting where Inuit Influencer, Braden Kadlun shared his experiences and discussed culture, and representatives discussed and elected Ivy Jones from Eden to be the Indigenous Student Trustee for the 2026-27 school year. In addition, Indigenous Student Trustee Dockstator ran a session about Indigenous Governance at a student senate lead conference.

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

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Mike Brousseau

Recommended Motions:
"That Nancy Beamer be appointed OPSBA Delegate for the term beginning at the 2026 Annual Meeting and ending immediately prior to the 2027 Annual Meeting."

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

6. Ontario Student Trustees' Association Report

There was no Ontario Student Trustees' Association report.

7. Future Meetings

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

M. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

There was no committee of the whole meeting.

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

n/a

O. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Owen Riel
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"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."
CARRIED

P. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

KATE BAGGOTT	**KELLY PISEK**
Chair	Director of Education and Secretary