

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 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 Trustee Shannon Mitchell

D. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Recommended Motion:

"That the Agenda be adopted."

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Pages 4-11

Recommended Motion:

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated April 28, 2026, be confirmed as submitted."

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

E. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS

1. DSBN Recognition and Highlights

K. Pisek – Pages 12-14

a) DSBN Recognition

- Sheneka Bryan, Brittany Heffernan, and Rachel Sembaj, Restorative Practices Youth Counsellors
- John Sherk, Home Build Coordinator, Technological Education

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

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b) DSBN Highlights

2. Educational Showcase

F. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

G. DELEGATIONS

H. BOARD RECESS (OPTIONAL)

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Program and Planning Committee

M. Brousseau – Pages 15-23

Recommended Motion:

“That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated May 12, 2026, be received.”

2. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

H. Campbell – Pages 24-26

Recommended Motion:

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated May 13, 2026, be received.”

3. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

E. Klassen/S. Mitchell – Pages 27-28

Recommended Motion:

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated May 14, 2026, be received.”

4. Report of the Parent Involvement Committee

S. Mitchell / O. Riel – Pages 29-30

Recommended Motions:

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated May 14, 2026, be received.”

J. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

K. NEW BUSINESS

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

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L. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. Staff Reports

S. Veld – Pages 31-33

a) 2026/27 Ministry Funding Update

Recommended Motion:

“That the 2026-27 Ministry Funding Update be received.”

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 34-35

a) June Meeting Calendar

b) June 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 May 26, 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, 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



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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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 Went
- 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 Services 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 SOSA 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



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026



“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

Chair

KELLY PISEK

Director of Education and Secretary



DSBN Highlights

May 2026

DSBN RECOGNITION



Sheneka Bryan, Brittany Heffernan & Rachel Sembaj

Restorative Practices Youth Counsellors

Working alongside students and families, Sheneka, Brittany and Rachel provide relationship-focused support that encourages safety, inclusion, accountability and belonging. Through restorative practices, prevention strategies and responsive interventions, they help students address conflict, repair harm and rebuild relationships in meaningful ways. Congratulations Sheneka, Brittany and Rachel on receiving the DSBN Recognition Award.

“Restorative work creates space for truth, accountability and dignity at the same time. It doesn’t ignore harm, it transforms it.”

Sheneka began her career in the social services sector, working with a foster care agency before transitioning to education. She joined DSBN in 2021 as a Youth Counsellor, where she has supported students through both the priority school model and, more recently, restorative practices. In her current role, Sheneka works with students and staff following incidents of harm, creating space for all voices to be heard while supporting accountability without shame and helping to repair relationships. Through this work, she helps students reflect, rebuild connections, and see themselves in new ways, adding, “When we choose understanding over just punishment, people don’t just change their behaviour, they begin to see themselves differently. That’s the impact of restorative work.”

“This work is grounded in the belief that every young person deserves the chance to be seen beyond their mistakes and supported in building a different path forward.”

Firsthand knowledge of how many young people enter the youth justice system without having the opportunity, support or tools to make different choices earlier in life shaped Brittany’s career path and led her to pursue preventative, school-based work. In her current role, she focuses on facilitating restorative processes, shifting from disciplinary responses to relational ones where every voice is valued and every individual is given the opportunity to learn and grow. As Brittany shares, “Supporting youth before they become further entrenched in systems while helping to build inclusive and compassionate school communities is the most impactful work I can imagine doing.”

“When we focus on relationships first, we create the conditions where real change, healing, and belonging can happen.”

Rachel’s experience of working in a group home with dual-diagnosed adolescents shaped her understanding of empathy and the powerful impact that consistent, compassionate support can have on youth who may not have access to stable family care. Following a foundational 14-year chapter in her career at Youthdale Treatment Centres where she developed strong clinical skills, Rachel joined DSBN as a Youth Counsellor supporting the RISE program. This work focuses on social-emotional learning, crisis management and skill development while providing a safe and caring adult presence for students navigating significant challenges. In her current role, Rachel supports schools across the board in implementing restorative approaches, helping to foster growth, understanding and stronger school communities.

John Sherk

Home Build Coordinator, Technological Education

John Sherk’s career is defined by craftsmanship, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to student success. A highly respected carpenter, he brought real-world expertise to DSBN and used it to create meaningful, hands-on learning opportunities for students. In his central role in Technological Education, John supported educators across the system and led DSBN Skills Challenges, giving thousands of students the chance to build confidence, showcase their abilities, and explore pathways in the skilled trades. He was also a key member of the team that helped create the DSBN Living Campus, contributing to the design and development of outdoor classroom space as well as strengthening partnerships with local industry, colleges, and skilled trades organizations.

For more than eight years, John has led DSBN’s SHSM Regional Construction Program, working alongside students as they build a house while developing the technical skills, responsibility, and confidence they need for success beyond the classroom. Known for going above and beyond, he creates daily opportunities for mentorship and connection, ensuring every student feels supported. John is a true mentor who connects with students on their level, earning their trust and respect through authenticity, patience and genuine care. He is especially skilled at translating complex construction concepts, making learning approachable and engaging for students. As a former colleague shares, “John has a remarkable ability to reach students who may have felt overlooked in traditional settings, helping them rediscover their confidence, purpose and a pathway forward in the skilled trades. His influence extends far beyond technical skills as he instills pride, resilience, accountability and belief in each student’s potential.”

Congratulations, John on receiving the DSBN Recognition Award. Your passion, compassion and leadership have made a lasting impact on countless students and your contributions exemplify the very best of technological education and its power to change students’ lives.



DSBN Student Trustees

Thank you Barrett and Jacklyn!

DSBN Indigenous Student Trustee Barrett Dockstator and Student Trustee Jacklyn Saddler have demonstrated strong leadership and a deep commitment to representing their peers. Barrett's journey reflects quiet strength and personal growth, emerging from a reflective and observant student into a confident voice for Indigenous students, guided by courage, authenticity, and a strong sense of community. Jacklyn has brought passion and determination to her role, building meaningful connections with students across the system and translating their perspectives into thoughtful, actionable priorities. As Student Senator Ethan Godfrey shares, "Jacklyn and Barrett are truly an inspiration and we are proud to have them as our representatives. Everything they've done to implement initiatives - on their own, through Student Senate, and through their subcommittees - has been so impactful." Together, they have played an important role in ensuring student voice is heard, valued, and reflected in decision-making across DSBN. Thank you both!



Barrett Dockstator
West Niagara
Secondary School



Jacklyn Saddler
A.N. Myer
Secondary School



Mental Health Week

Everyday actions that support well-being

Inspired by "Come Together," the Canadian Mental Health Association's theme for Mental Health Week (May 4-10), and guided by our strategic priorities Belonging and Thriving, DSBN's Mental Health and Well-Being team encouraged schools to focus on connection and well-being through everyday acts of care and compassion. From classroom conversations and relationship-building activities to moments rooted in empathy and active listening, these efforts help students feel safe, seen, and supported. The care shown by dedicated staff, alongside strong partnerships with families and community organizations, play a vital role in strengthening mental health at school and home. Together, these shared efforts remind us that connection matters and that when we come together, we create spaces where every student feels accepted, valued, and safe to be themselves.

"We Are All In This Together"

PIC Speaker Series tackles stress with Ms. Jen

The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) recently welcomed parents and caregivers to a three-night speaker series featuring Ms. Jen Alexander, a nationally recognized leader in the movement to build trauma-sensitive schools. Across all three interactive sessions - held at Eden High School, Quaker Road Public School and online - participants explored how stress can show up differently for children and teens at home and at school. They also walked away with practical strategies to help support young people in building the skills they need to navigate life's everyday challenges. A special thank you to PIC for their ongoing commitment to providing learning opportunities that respond directly to the questions and concerns raised by families in our communities. Meaningful partnerships between families and schools continue to make a positive difference in the lives of students across our system.



Kindergarten Open House

Welcoming families to the DSBN community

This month, incoming Kindergarten students and their families were welcomed into DSBN elementary schools for a preview of the learning journey ahead during Kindergarten Open House (May 4-7). This annual event offers families a meaningful opportunity to explore their child's home school, tour classrooms, meet staff and ask questions as they prepare for this exciting milestone. Thank you to staff, students and volunteers for your time, care and dedication in creating positive and memorable experiences for our youngest learners.



Post-Secondary Pathways Fair

Students and families explore what's next

May marked an exciting occasion for DSBN with the launch of our first-ever Post-Secondary Pathways Fair! Held over two days at Brock University, the Fair brought together colleges, universities, apprenticeship programs and employers to help students explore the wide range of opportunities available after graduation. Grade 11 students from across DSBN attended during the school day, while families were welcomed to an evening fair on May 4, creating meaningful opportunities for conversation and discovery. Thank you to everyone who helped make this first-time event a success - we look forward to making the Fair a valuable annual experience for students and families.



TUESDAY, MAY 12TH, 2026

Public Session: 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

(*denotes approval received to attend electronically)

TRUSTEE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Trustee Nancy Beamer, Trustee Mike Brousseau, Trustee Owen Riel

ADMINISTRATION

Kelly Pisek (Director of Education)

Neil Sheard (Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well Being)

Sara De Divitiis (Acting Superintendent of Student Achievement & Well Being)

Milica Petkovic (Public Relations Manager)

TRUSTEE GUESTS

Trustee Elizabeth Klassen

RECORDING SECRETARY

Alison Vegh

A. SELECTION OF CHAIR

Trustee Michael Brousseau was acclaimed Chair of the Program & Planning Committee

B. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Chair Brousseau opened the meeting with an Acknowledgment of the Traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples.

C. CALL TO ORDER/NOTING OF MEMBERS ABSENT

Chair Brousseau called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. and noted that Trustee Fast and Trustee MacIntosh were absent.

D. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: Nancy Beamer

Seconded by: Owen Riel

"That the agenda be approved as presented."

CARRIED



E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Additional Qualification (AQ) Courses 2025/2026

Superintendent Sara Dedivitiis provided an overview of DSBN's Additional Qualification (AQ) course offerings for the 2025–2026 school year.

Across the District School Board of Niagara, educators demonstrate a strong commitment to ongoing professional learning through provincially recognized AQ courses, tracked and certified by the Ontario College of Teachers. DSBN has strategically invested time, resources, and expertise to become an approved AQ provider, enabling the board to design, write, and deliver its own AQ courses that align directly with system priorities and student needs, including Indigenous Education, Equity and Inclusive Education, Special Education, English Language Learners, Literacy, Mathematics, French, and Computer Studies. A new Kindergarten AQ is anticipated for Fall 2026.

2. New Kindergarten Curriculum – System Implementation

Superintendent Sara Dedivitiis shared an update on DSBN's preparation for the implementation of the new Kindergarten Curriculum in September 2026. To ensure system readiness, DSBN established an implementation plan beginning in January, with a focus on family engagement, professional learning, resource development, and leadership support. Key highlights include recent Kindergarten Open Houses, a social media campaign for incoming families, administrator professional learning, and four after-school educator professional learning sessions, the most recent of which attracted over 450 registrants. This intentional and coordinated planning will help to ensure that our newest students and families will experience a smooth transition, and that all schools will be prepared to provide supportive, inclusive, and responsive learning environments that give our youngest learners a strong foundation for success.

3. Improving Access, Clarity, and Connection: A refresh of dsbn.org

Public Relations Manager Milica Petkovic shared an update on the redesign of the dsbn.org website, aimed at improving access to high-value, time-sensitive information and reducing barriers for students, families, staff, and community members. Informed by user navigation data, the redesign prioritizes high-demand content and applies user-centred design best practices, with accessibility aligned to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) Level AA. Planned enhancements include consistent page layouts, built-in translation tools, and a streamlined homepage (featuring six main headings with refined sub-menus) and a

PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026



consistent footer. A phased approach, with a planned August launch, allows for feedback, content auditing, and continued development of site structure, design, and accessibility.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.



WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026

SAL MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present

Mat Miller - 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 - SAL Secretary
Trisha Miller – Administrative Assistant

Guests

Kimberley Landon - VP, Eastdale
Jennifer Edwards - VP, Welland Centennial
Victoria Leng-Marini - VP, West Niagara
Beau Daniels - VP, West Niagara
Rhianna Dioguardi - VP, Stamford Collegiate
Tracey Sacco - P, Laura Secord
Leslie Brophy - VP, Governor Simcoe

Regrets

Ann Gilmore - Superintendent of Student Achievement and Well-Being

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE SAL COMMITTEE MEETING

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

B. CASES

226-048 SSD DOB 07/11/2011

The student is currently looking for summer employment. They will maintain connections with their school by regularly checking in with the Vice Principal. The student is accessing community private therapy. The school remains committed to supporting the student to facilitate progress toward enhanced participation and attendance.

SSD has been approved for SAL.



226-049 KT DOB 04/13/2011

The student is currently enrolled in IDC3O. They will maintain connections with the school youth worker, teacher and community supports. The school remains committed to supporting the student in gaining credits and improving attendance.

KT has been approved for SAL.

226-050 AN DOB 09/10/2009

The student is currently enrolled in ENG4U. The student will also enroll in a summer school credit. They will maintain connections with the school youth worker and teacher. The school remains committed to supporting the student in gaining credits and improving attendance.

AN has been approved for SAL.

226-051 AMW DOB 11/30/2011

The student is currently enrolled in ENL1W. They will maintain connection with their school every other week and with the school youth worker. The school remains committed to supporting the student in gaining credits and improving attendance.

AMW has been approved for SAL.

226-052 PS DOB 09/19/2011

The student is working on ENL1W. They will maintain connection with their school on a weekly basis and continue with the community supports already in place. The school remains committed to supporting the student in gaining credits and improving attendance.

PS has been approved for SAL.

226-053 BC DOB 06/15/2011

The student is currently working on GLS10 and enrolled in MAT1L. They will maintain connection with their school and continue with the community supports already in place. The school remains committed to supporting the student in gaining credits and improving attendance.

BC has been approved for SAL.

226-054 KJ DOB 02/01/2009

The student is working on GLE10. They will maintain connection with their school on a weekly basis and continue with the community supports already in place. The school remains committed to supporting the student to facilitate progress towards enhanced participation and attendance.

KJ has been approved for SAL.



226-055 BR DOB 10/02/2009

The student is working on IDC30. They will maintain connection with their school and continue with the community supports already in place. The school remains committed to supporting the student to facilitate progress toward enhanced participation and attendance.

BR has been approved for SAL.

226-056 IH DOB 10/29/2009

The student is working on NBE3C course. They will maintain connection with their school on a weekly basis and continue with the community supports already in place. The school remains committed to supporting the student to facilitate progress towards enhanced participation and attendance.

IH has been approved for SAL.

226-057 WSG DOB 03/22/2010

The student is working on IDC30, MEL 3E and ENG 3E and will be completed by the end of June. They will maintain connection with their school on a weekly basis and continue with the community supports already in place. The school remains committed to supporting the student to facilitate progress towards enhanced participation and attendance.

WSG has been approved for SAL.

226-058 TS DOB 06/05/2008

The student is working on IDC30 and will enroll in summer school credit. They will maintain connection with their school on a weekly basis and continue with the community supports already in place. The school remains committed to supporting the student to facilitate progress towards enhanced participation and attendance.

TS has been approved for SAL.

C. CASE REVIEW

The Committee reviewed fifty-five (55) cases that had been brought forward previously. Of the fifty-five (55) cases heard, two (2) cases were discontinued.

D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.



THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present

Michelle Toy - Pathstone Mental Health, , Flavia Orvitz - Autism Ontario – Niagara Chapter, Patty Ferrie – Inclusion West Niagara, Tessa Alexander – VOICE for Children Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Barb Wilson-Inclusion Action in Ontario, Catharine Hodson - Niagara Children's Centre School Authority, Kathy Bell (Acting Chair) - Niagara Children's Centre, Cynthia Nyaundi and Leya Poulouski - NSS-NTEC.

Administration/Resource

Simon Hancox - Superintendent of Student Achievement and Well-being, Terri Beck - Student Achievement Leader Special Education Elementary, Matt Ezrin – Student Achievement Leader Special Education Secondary, Tracey Krysa – Senior Manager Special Education, Elizabeth Klassen - Trustee, District School Board of Niagara,

Regrets

Brianne Freiwat – Bethesda Services
Shannon Mitchell - Trustee, District School Board of Niagara
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 5:36 p.m. Acting Chair, Kathy Bell, opened the meeting with the Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Tessa Alexander
Seconded by Flavia Orvitz

"That the Agenda dated May 14, 2026, be approved as presented."

CARRIED

3. STUDENT VOICE

Terri Beck, Student Achievement Leader for Special Education – Elementary, presented a video featuring a Grade 6 student at Greendale Public School. The video highlighted the student's successful use of blind/low vision supports and assistive technology. In addition to learning Braille and core subjects, the student is actively involved in setting his own goals and demonstrates exceptional adaptability at school.

4. SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF PRESENTATION



Director Pisek provided an update on changes to education in Ontario arising from Bill 101, including key legislative and policy changes and their implications for school boards, operations, and student learning. She noted that SEAC will remain unchanged and that boards are awaiting further direction from the Ministry of Education regarding implementation expectations. Director Pisek also advised that the Government of Ontario released the 2026–27 Budget and most recently the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario's Report on Special Education Needs, which can be found [here](#). More information will be shared at the June 18, 2026, SEAC meeting.

Superintendent Hancox announced that Terri Beck, Student Achievement Leader for Special Education – Elementary, will be transitioning to a school administrator role at a Fort Erie school, and that Catherine Hodson will be returning to DSBN as Student Achievement Leader for Special Education – Elementary. He also provided a brief overview of the upcoming the Introduction to Special Education for Kindergarten Families Webinar and directed the committee to look at the Special Education events page on the DSBN website for registration information for the webinar and the upcoming Transition Fair on May 20, 2026.

Matt Ezrin provided an update on the Transition Fair. There are several agencies participating and over 40 families registered. There will be two sessions, 1-3 pm and 4-6 pm. Momentum Choir will be performing at the event.

5. **ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION**

Cynthia Nyaundi and Leya Poulouski from Niagara Training and Employment Agency Inc. – Niagara Support Services provided an overview of the services offered by their agency.

6. **ASSOCIATION INFORMATION**

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

7. **TRUSTEE UPDATE**

Trustee Klassen provided an update on the April Board meeting.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was received from both the Huron Superior Catholic District School Board and the Hastings Prince Edward District School Board and were shared with the committee.

9. **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

In response to a question, Matt Ezrin provided an update on the Bocce Ball Tournament hosted by Westlane and Sir Winston Churchill Secondary Schools in partnership with Special Olympics Ontario. The events were held in May and involved the participation of 150 students. The SEAC committee requested that a DSBN Recognition Card be sent to acknowledge the DSBN staff and students who organized the event.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:52pm.

Next Meeting: June 18, 2026 – DSBN Education Centre, St. Catharines Room

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members

Melissa Lofquist (Co-Chair), Ryan Morris (Co-Chair), Amber Hughes, Ray Darukhanawalla, Lisa Mooney, Kelly Goulding, Sarah Richert, Stacia Heaton, Melissa Roberts, Jon Cairns (Administrator), Carolyn Jonovich (Administrator), Michael Burns (Superintendent)

Trustee Committee Members

Owen Riel

Guests

Kelly Pisek (Director of Education), Andrina Tait

Recording Secretary

Elisha von Wuthenau, Administrative Assistant to Michael Burns

A. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

B. WELCOME

Chair Lofquist welcomed everyone to the meeting and facilitated introductions.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Ray Darukhanawalla

Seconded by Amber Hughes

“That the Agenda be approved.”

CARRIED

D. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Kelly Pisek, Director of Education, presented updates regarding Bill 101, Putting Student Achievement First Act. The committee was also provided an opportunity to ask questions regarding the impact to the DSBN.



E. GUEST PRESENTATION – Milica Petkovic, Public Relations Manager

Milica Petkovic presented an overview of the dsbn.org website redesign, a cross-departmental initiative underway in the 2025-2026 school year aimed at making the site more welcoming, intuitive, and accessible for students, staff, families, and the broader community. The presentation highlighted a user-centered approach, recognizing that many audiences rely on the public-facing website for timely, high-value information. Following the presentation, committee members were invited to review the PIC webpage and share feedback to strengthen ongoing engagement with DSBN.

F. CHAIR REPORT

The PIC Speaker Series with Ms. Jen Alexander was reviewed. A summary of the expenses and registration numbers was provided. The committee indicated they received positive feedback at the events.

Initial planning for 2026-2027 events was brought forward. A motion was proposed to host the School Council Chair event in the fall, allowing two participants per school. A sub-committee has been established to start planning in more detail.

Moved by Sarah Richert

Seconded by Ray Darukhanawalla

“That the PIC committee will host a School Council Chair event in the fall.”

CARRIED

An additional motion was proposed to determine how the remaining funds for the 2025-2026 year will be utilized.

Moved by Kelly Goulding

Seconded by Sarah Richert

“That the remaining funds from this year’s budget be allocated toward the School Council Chair event and associated expenses.”

CARRIED

F. TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee Riel shared some exciting things that have been happening within the DSBN over the past few months, including: the fourth annual RISE Up Conference, high school open houses, the visit from Education Minister Paul Calandra to three DSBN schools, Technological Skills Challenge for secondary students, STEM Expo for grade 4-8 students and a great presentation for the Indigenous Speaker Series featuring Jesse Wenthe.

The Parent Involvement Committee meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Next meeting – September 2026 (date tbd) at Thundering Heights Public School.



Tuesday, May 26, 2026

2026-27 Ministry Funding Update

Consistent with the Board's strategic plan priorities, the 2026–2027 budget is being developed to further strengthen supports in schools. As the classroom staffing process nears completion, current plans provide for increased staffing in several key areas, including classroom teachers, educational assistants, lunchroom supervisors, and food technicians. In addition, projected retirements are expected to result in vacancies, creating opportunities for the Board to recruit for these positions.

Staff continue to refine the expenditure budget and remain on track to present the proposed final budget to Trustees in June.

ENROLMENT

DSBN is projecting stable enrolment for the 2026–27 school year. As a result of this stability, no staff were declared redundant through the staffing process. Enrolment projections are informed by historical averages, including data from Niagara Region Public Health, historical retention rate trends, and pupil yield factors associated with ongoing housing development across Niagara.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Schools Boards receive funding from the Ministry of Education through the Core Education Funding (Core Ed) model and is comprised of six funding pillars and 29 allocations. Core Ed is made up of the following six funds:

- **Classroom Staffing Fund (CSF):**
The Classroom Staffing Fund supports the majority of staff that work in classrooms, including teachers, early childhood educators (ECEs) in kindergarten classrooms and some educational assistants (EAs). Note that the primary source of funding for EAs is the Special Education Fund.
- **Learning Resources Fund (LRF):**
The Learning Resources Fund supports the costs of staffing typically required outside of the classroom to support student needs, such as teacher-librarians / library technicians, guidance counsellors, mental health workers, school management staff as well as non-staffing classroom costs, such as learning materials and classroom equipment.



REPORT TO BOARD

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

- **Special Education Fund (SEF):**
 - The Special Education Fund supports positive outcomes for students with special education needs. This funding is for the additional costs of the programs, services and/or equipment these students may require.
- **School Facilities Fund (SFF):**
 - The School Facilities Fund supports operating (including cleaning and utilities), maintaining, renovating and renewing school buildings. It also provides additional support for students in rural and northern communities.
- **Student Transportation Fund (STF):**
 - The Student Transportation Fund supports the transportation of students between home and school.
- **School Board Administration Fund (SBAF):**
 - The School Board Administration Fund supports governance and administration costs for the operation of the school board, including its board offices and facilities, as well as for parent engagement activities.

NEW INVESTMENTS AND FUNDING FOR 2026-27

The Board is expected to receive several targeted funding enhancements intended to support classroom learning conditions, strengthen access to curriculum-aligned resources, address ongoing operating cost pressures, and reflect labour-related funding adjustments.

The Board will receive funding to support eligible elementary teachers in the purchase of additional classroom supplies beyond those currently provided at the school level. This investment is intended to reduce teacher out-of-pocket expenses and ensure more consistent access to essential classroom materials. Under this initiative, \$750 will be made available for each eligible elementary teacher, including \$450 in new funding and \$300 reallocated from existing funding, to support purchases through a Vendor of Record arrangement.

The Board will also receive additional funding to support the acquisition of high-quality, curriculum-aligned learning resources across subjects and grade levels. This investment is intended to promote greater consistency in classroom resources and to further support effective teaching and student learning across the system.

In recognition of rising operating costs, the Board will benefit from a two per cent increase to the non-staff portion of the School Operations Allocation benchmark within the School Facilities Fund. This adjustment will assist the Board in managing increased costs associated with electricity, natural gas, facility insurance, and other non-staff operating expenses.

The Supports for Students Fund negotiated in the last round of bargaining will be maintained. These resources will be administered in accordance with applicable central and local collective



REPORT TO BOARD

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

agreement requirements and, where appropriate, in consultation with local bargaining partners.

RESPONSIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS ALLOCATION TRANSFERRED TO CORE ED

Several funding streams previously provided through separate transfer payment programs are being restructured into new components within the provincial Core Education Funding framework. For the District School Board of Niagara, these changes do not represent new investments, as the Board has historically received funding in each of these areas. Rather, they reflect a reorganization of existing funding mechanisms.

RECOMMENDED MOTION

“That the 2026-27 Ministry Funding Update be received.”

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Veld, Associate Director of Education, Corporate Services



JUN 2026

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



JUNE 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Pride Month Filipino Heritage Month Portuguese Heritage Month National Indigenous History Month Italian Heritage Month Men's Mental Health Month						
	01 National AccessAbility Week (May31-Jun 6) Ontario Day	02	03	04	05 World Environment Day	06
07	08	09	10	11	12 World Day Against Child Labour	13
14	15	16	17 Islamic New Year*	18 Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji	19 Juneteenth	20 World Refugee Day
21 Father's Day Litha or Summer Solstice National Indigenous Peoples Day (Canada)	22	23 National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism	24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist St. Jean Baptiste Day	25 Somali Heritage Week (June 25-30)	26 Ashura*	27 Multiculturalism Day
28	29	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.

