

MINUTES

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2026

Public Session: 6:00 p.m. – 7:44 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, Jacklyn Saddler

INDIGENOUS STUDENT TRUSTEE

Barrett Dockstator

ADMINISTRATION

Kelly Pisek (Chief Executive Officer), Karen Bellamy, Michael Burns, Sara De Divitiis, Jennifer Feren, Ann Gilmore, Simon Hancox, Mat Miller, Milica Petkovic, 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 6:00 p.m. and noted that Trustee Deanne MacIntosh was participating virtually. Trustee Lora Campbell was absent (approved leave).

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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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 West Niagara Secondary School choir.

C. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Shannon Mitchell provided a reflective reading.

D. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Sue Barnett

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the Agenda be adopted."

CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Moved by Mike Brousseau

Seconded by Nancy Beamer

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

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

E. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS

1. Director's Recognition and Highlights

a) Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions

Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Kelly Pisek recognized Sheneka Bryan, Brittany Heffernan and Rachel Sembaj for their compassionate work as Restorative Practices Youth Counsellors, supporting student well-being and strengthening school communities through restorative practices and relationship-based support. They help students navigate conflict, repair harm and rebuild connections, while reflecting DSBN's commitment to safe, inclusive and caring environments.

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CEO, Kelly Pisek recognized John Sherk, Home Build Coordinator, Technological Education for his outstanding contributions to technological education through his leadership of DSBN's SHSM Regional Construction Program, support of system-wide skills development, and commitment to creating meaningful hands-on learning opportunities for students. His mentorship and ability to engage students in skilled trades learning, has made a lasting impact on student confidence and achievement across the DSBN.

b) Director's Highlights

CEO Pisek along with members of the system leadership team provided recent highlights from across the system which included information about:

- DSBN Student Trustees
- Mental Health Week
- "We Are All In This Together"
- Kindergarten Open House
- Post-Secondary Pathways Fair
- Welland Art Show "Budding Artists"
- Thundering Heights Grand Opening
- Capital Priorities Program Announcement

2. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASES

Chair Baggott highlighted that students from Governor Simcoe Secondary School's Simbotics team, demonstrated their skills prior to the Board meeting and shared that the team is currently ranked 8th out of 3,000 teams.

F. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

There were no student achievement reports.

G. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

H. BOARD RECESS

There was no recess.

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Program and Planning Committee

Moved by Mike Brousseau
Seconded by Helga Campbell

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

CARRIED

Trustee Mike Brousseau reported that the committee received information on Additional Qualification Courses offered by DSBN, the implementation of the new Kindergarten Curriculum for September 2026, and the redesign of the DSBN website to improve access to high-value, time-sensitive information, and to reduce barriers for families, students and community members with a plan to launch in August 2026.

2. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Moved by Helga Campbell

Seconded by Owen Riel

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

CARRIED

Trustee Helga Campbell reported that 11 new cases were presented and approved for SAL. Fifty-five cases were reviewed that had been brought forward previously. Of these cases, two were discontinued, one due to successful engagement and another due to moving out of the area.

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 May 14, 2026, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Elizabeth Klassen reported that the committee received updates on Bill 101, *Putting Student Achievement First Act, 2026* and on the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario’s Report on Special Education Needs. An overview of the upcoming Introduction to Special Education for Kindergarten Families Webinar and a Transition Fair was provided and information about services offered by Niagara Training and Employment Agency Inc. and Niagara Support Services was presented. A video was presented highlighting a Greendale student’s successful use of blind/low vision supports and assistive technology.

4. Report of the Parent Involvement Committee

Moved by Owen Riel

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

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

CARRIED

Trustee Owen Riel reported that the committee received an update on Bill 101, *Putting Student Achievement First Act, 2026* and the DSBN website redesign where members were invited to review the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) webpage to provide feedback. The committee also reviewed the PIC Speaker Series, discussed initial planning for the 2026-2027 school year, and approved hosting a School Council Chair event in the fall.

J. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

CEO Pisek provided an update on recent Ministry directions arising from Bill 101, including immediate implementation of trustee expense requirements and the use of the title Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Trustees were also advised of Ministry direction related to Ontario Day, mandatory PA Day topics for 2026–2027, and the transfer of central bargaining responsibilities to CODE. It was noted that additional Ministry guidance on governance and accountability is still pending but will be shared when it is received. Discussion also took place regarding the potential need for Ad Hoc Governance Committee meetings to support planning and address matters currently on hold pending further direction.

Trustees raised concerns regarding student attendance expectations related to illness, the impact of ministry direction on student voice and well-being, and the lack of clarity around governance and leadership structures.

K. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

L. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. STAFF REPORTS

a) 2026/27 Ministry Funding Update

Moved by Jonathan Fast

Seconded by Owen Riel

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

CARRIED

Associate Director Veld provided an update on the 2026-2027 Ministry Funding, noting that it remains aligned with strategic priorities and includes targeted investments to strengthen supports for classrooms and students through Core Education Funding. She reported that enrolment remains stable with no redundancies, and that some one-time initiatives have been integrated into core funding, and that rising replacement costs continue to present challenges. The budget will be presented at the June Finance Committee meeting.

Trustees raised questions regarding the implementation and timing of classroom supply funding, eligibility for elementary teacher allocations, the source of classroom supply funding, and supports for students requiring assistive technology.

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 Trustees reported on recent student senate discussions and announced the appointment of Ivy Jones as the new Indigenous Student Trustee and Daisy Dong as the new Student Trustee for the 2026-2027 school year. Updates were provided on student engagement initiatives, leadership reflection activities, and student leadership recognition.

Indigenous Student Trustee Dockstator provided an update from the recent Indigenous Student Rep meeting where representatives discussed the importance of how students represent themselves, roles in Indigenous families, and how to be successful as an Indigenous Student Trustee.

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

Trustee Beamer reported on the regional meeting hosted by DSBN on May 2nd. Discussion focused primarily on the future structure and role of OPSBA.

6. Ontario Student Trustees' Association Report

There was no Ontario Student Trustees' Association report.

7. Future Meetings

- a) The June meeting calendar was provided.
- b) The June 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

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O. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Deanne McIntosh

Seconded by Helga Campbell

"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."

CARRIED

P. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

KATE BAGGOTT

Chair

KELLY PISEK

Chief Executive Officer and Secretary