

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

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'

Heximer Public School choir will perform O'Canada via video

C. REFLECTIVE READING

By Trustee Helga Campbell

D. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Recommended Motion:

"That the Agenda be adopted."

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Pages 5-12

Recommended Motion:

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated June 23, 2025, be confirmed as submitted."

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

E. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS

1. Director's Recognition and Highlights

K. Pisek – Pages 13-15

a) Director's Recognition

- **Meghan Gillespie**, Outdoor Guide, DSBN Outdoor Education

b) Director's Highlights

2. Educational Showcase

F. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

G. DELEGATIONS

H. BOARD RECESS (OPTIONAL)

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Finance Committee

N. Westlake – Pages 16-23

Recommended Motions:

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated September 9, 2025, be received.”

“That the Award of Contracts Summary Report for the period ended August 31, 2025, be received.”

“That the Summary of Accounts paid for the month of June, July, and August 2025, totaling \$103,046,410, be received.”

“That the Capital Priorities Program 2025-26 report be approved.”

2. Report of the Audit Committee

N. Westlake – Pages 24-33

Recommended Motion:

“That the report of the Audit Committee dated September 9, 2025, be received.”

“That the Regional Internal Audit Status Report be received.”

3. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

E. Klassen / S. Mitchell – Pages 34-36

Recommended Motion:

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated September 11, 2025, be received.”

4. Report of the Parent Involvement Committee

S. Jovanovic / S. Mitchell – Pages 37-38

Recommended Motion:

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated September 11, 2025, be received.”

J. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

K. NEW BUSINESS

L. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. Staff Reports

2. Trustee Information Sessions

3. Correspondence and Communications

Page 39

a) Correspondence from the Canadian Cancer Society

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 40-41

a) October Meeting Calendar

b) October Days of Significance Calendars

M. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

1. Motion to Move to Committee of the Whole (Private Session)

Motion:

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

2. Motion to Return to Open Board (Public Session)

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Recommended Motion:

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

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025



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 September 23, 2025, 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

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025

Private Session: 6:15 p.m. – 6:24 p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. – 8:18 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD

Kate Baggott, Sue Barnett (Chair), Nancy Beamer, Mike Brousseau, Helga Campbell, Lora Campbell (virtual), Jonathan Fast, Susan Jovanovic, Elizabeth Klassen (Vice Chair), Deanne MacIntosh (virtual)

STUDENT TRUSTEES

Audrey Akharoh
Jacklyn Saddler

OFFICIALS

Kelly Pisek (Director of Education), Stacy Veld (Associate Director), Marian Reimer Friesen, Mary Anne Gage, Ann Gilmore, Simon Hancox, Fred Louws, Melanie Sendzik, Neil Sheard, Michael St. John, Darren VanHooydonk, Jennifer Feren, Milica Petkovic, Karen Bellamy

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer Reid

REGRETS

Clayton Mishibinijima, Shannon Mitchell

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Nate Burns, Ann Hamm

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Chair Barnett opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of the Traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples and welcomed guests.

2. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTING OF MEMBERS ABSENT

Chair Barnett called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 7:00 p.m. and noted that Trustee Lora Campbell and Trustee MacIntosh were attending virtually.

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025



There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Nancy Beamer
Seconded by Kate Baggott

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

CARRIED

Moved by Kate Baggott
Seconded by Helga Campbell

“That the Board return to Open meeting.”

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:24 p.m.

C. SINGING OF ‘O CANADA’

The Board stood as ‘*O Canada*’ was performed by Governor Simcoe Secondary School choir via video.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

There was no reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Trustee Appointment

Moved by Susan Jovanovic
Seconded by Kate Baggott

“That Michael Brousseau, 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 introduced Mike Brousseau who read the Declaration of Office.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Helga Campbell

“That the Agenda be adopted.”



CARRIED

3. Approval of Board Minutes

Moved by Kate Baggott

Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated May 27, 2025, be confirmed as submitted.”

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. Ratification Of Business Conducted in Committee of The Whole (Private Session)

Moved by Jonathan Fast

Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

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

CARRIED

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS

1. Director’s Report and Recognition

a) Director’s Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions

Director Pisek recognized Bryn Keyes for his extraordinary teaching career with the DSBN, building a legacy rooted in connection, inclusion, and a deep sense of belonging both in the gym and the classroom. He has made significant contributions to physical education and athletics, as co-founding of the DSBN Special Olympics. As he retires, Bryn is celebrated for his kindness, patience, and dedication, which have touched countless lives and created environments where every student feels seen and valued.

Director Pisek recognized student Amairah Gayle, an inspiring student-athlete who balances high-level competition with academic success, exemplifying focus, discipline, and drive. Her recent accomplishment of earning two gold medals at OFSAA is a testament to her hard work and dedication. Amairah's leadership, humility, and sportsmanship make her an extraordinary role model, inspiring those around her.

Director Pisek recognized student Autumn Wartman for her dedication, enthusiasm and growth that led her to remarkable success in winning the gold medal at the prestigious Skills Canada National Competition in Saskatchewan for her crepe-making. Autumn stood out among hundreds of



competitors, earning her the only gold medal brought back to the Niagara Region from this year's national competition adding to her impressive collection of medals, including two DSBN Gold medals, two Skills Ontario Gold medals and a Skills Canada National Bronze. Autumn is an inspiration for future technological education students.

b) Director's Highlights

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

- Pride Month in Action
- Honouring Indigenous Voices
- Car Show at Martha Cullimore
- 20 Years of DSBN's Special Olympics

2. Educational Showcase

There was no educational showcase.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

There were no student achievement reports.

H. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

I. BOARD RECESS

There was no Board recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Program and Planning Committee

Moved by Susan Jovanovic

Seconded by Kate Baggott

"That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated June 3, 2025, be received."

CARRIED

Trustee Jovanovic shared that reports were presented on data from the Fall 2024 DSBN Student Census and an overview of DSBN's Education and Community Partnerships Programs (ECPP). The new 2025-2026 elementary Curriculum Support Services team structure and strategic priorities for supporting elementary schools were outlined and feedback on the new Kindergarten registration campaign was provided.



2. Report of the Audit Committee

Moved by Jonathan Fast

Seconded by Kate Baggott

“That the report of the Audit Committee dated June 9, 2025, be received.”

“That the Regional Internal Audit Status Report be received.”

“That the 7-month Specified Procedures Report for the period ending March 31, 2025, be received.”

“That KPMG LLP be appointed as DSBN external auditors for a one-year term commencing September 1, 2025.”

CARRIED

Associate Director Veld reported that the committee was presented with the Internal Audit Status report, the proposed Audit Plan for 2025-2026, and the seven-month audit procedures report that is based on the Ministry of Education reporting period ending March 31, 2025. Committee members completed the evaluation of external auditors form as per Ontario Regulation 361/10, and KPMG will continue as the external auditors for 2026.

3. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen

Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated June 12, 2025, be received.”

CARRIED

Vice Chair Klassen shared that the committee received information about the role of an Adaptive Learning Consultant, and the Special Education budget that will include increased Educational Assistant support, three specialized programs, increased Specialized School to Community classes, and a new Secondary Student Achievement Leader. A video was presented about a grade eight student from Diamond Trail and their positive contribution to the school culture.

4. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Moved by Helga Campbell

Seconded by Kate Baggott

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

CARRIED

Trustee Helga Campbell reported that 38 student cases were reviewed that were brought forward previously. Of the cases reviewed, 16 cases were renewed, and 22 cases were discounted. Of the 22



discontinued cases, five students are returning to school full time, four students graduated, eight students will be connected to Adult and Community Education, one student will participate in an Education and Community Partnership Program, and three were non-compliant.

5. Report of the Finance Committee

Moved by Jonathan Fast

Seconded by Nancy Beamer

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated June 9, 2025, be received.”

“That the Award of Contracts Summary Report for the period ending May 31, 2025, be received.”

“That the Summary of Accounts paid for the month of April and May 2025, totaling \$67,892,662 be received.”

“That the 2024-25 Interim Financial Report for the period ending April 30, 2025, and the corresponding changes in revenues and expenditures, be received.”

“That the 2025-26 Revenue and Expenditure Budget in the amount of \$666,751,504 be approved and the estimate forms be submitted to the Ministry of Education.”

“That the updated list of eligible schools for the Rural and Northern Education Allocation be approved.”

CARRIED

Associate Director Veld reported that the committee was presented with the Award of Contracts Summary Report that included multi-year contracts for mobile devices and software licenses. The Summary of Accounts for April and May, and the third interim report for the 2024-2025 fiscal year with the updated financials were also provided. The proposed 2025-2026 budget was presented which highlighted an increase in enrolment from last year and is balanced without using any accumulated surplus. An updated list of eligible schools for rural and Northern education allocation was also presented to the committee.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

In response to a question regarding extreme heat, Director Pisek shared that schools have strategies in place and that communication is sent to families.

L. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. Staff Reports



There was no staff report.

2. Trustee Information Session

There was no trustee information session.

3. Correspondence And Communication

There was no correspondence or communication.

4. Student Trustee, Indigenous Student Trustee, Trustee Communications and School Liaison

Student Trustees shared that the “Pass It On” meeting took place where current student trustees and incoming student trustees discussed the importance of continuity and shared their experiences. Student Trustee Akharoh and Indigenous Student Trustee Mishibinijima were invited to the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association (OPSBA) Annual General Meeting to participate on a panel to share their experience as student trustees and discuss the importance of student voice. Student Trustee Akharoh expressed her sincere gratitude to the Board and System Leadership Team for the opportunity to serve as a student trustee and for allowing her to find her voice to advocate for fellow students.

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

Trustee Baggott reported on the most recent OPSBA AGM meeting and shared that Chair Barnett, Trustee Beamer, and Trustee Helga Campbell attended. Chair Barnett added that DSBN System Leadership Team members along with herself, Student Trustee Akharoh and Indigenous Student Trustee Mishibinijima presented at the AGM on *Governing for Student Success* and highlighted the importance of student voice. It was noted that the information on how the Indigenous Student Trustee is selected is valuable and should continue to be part of the process. Chair Barnett noted that Trustee Beamer accepted membership on the OPSBA Educational Planning Group.

6. Ontario Student Trustees’ Association Report

There was no report.

7. Future Meetings

- a) The September 2025 meeting calendar was provided.
- b) The September Days of Significance calendar was provided.

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Mike Brousseau

Seconded by Nancy Beamer



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025



“That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on June 23, 2025, 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

O. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

SUE BARNETT

Chair

KELLY PISEK

Director of Education and Secretary



Director's Highlights

September 2025

DIRECTOR'S RECOGNITION

Meghan Gillespie | **Outdoor Guide, Outdoor Education**

Meghan Gillespie has been at the heart of DSBN's Outdoor Education Campuses for the past 10 years. As one of the very first staff members, she has not only helped open the programs' doors, but also played a key role in shaping the inquiry- and exploration-based learning that thousands of youth have since enjoyed.

Among her teammates, Meghan is known for fostering a culture of kindness, trust and support. With her vast knowledge and experience as an outdoor guide, she has become a trusted mentor to every new staff member who joins the team. She patiently trains, supports and encourages others, ensuring team members feel welcome, included and set up for success.

In addition to developing essential safety practices, Meghan leads staff in the creation of specialized outdoor environmental programming for Earth Month and EcoSchools Canada each year. Her commitment to sharing her knowledge strengthens the team and safeguards consistency, ensuring programs remain strong and impactful year after year.

The effect of her enthusiasm and expertise is felt across the system. Reflecting on their class' experience playing, exploring and discovering in nature, one DSBN educator shared, "Meghan was absolutely incredible with our students. She was highly engaged throughout the day and always accessible, answering questions or providing a helping hand as needed. I would highly recommend visiting the Adventure Campus with other classes knowing that Meghan has such a great program prepared for the students. Overall, I couldn't have asked for a better guide to lead us through the day."

Meghan's colleagues echo this sentiment. Colleen Fast, Outdoor Education Supervisor, shared, "What truly sets Meghan apart is the way she works with students. Whether she's leading a group on a trail, teaching a skill or sparking curiosity in the natural world, Meghan has a gift for making every student feel seen, valued and inspired."

From team and leadership building on the low ropes course to outdoor survival skills, snowshoeing, geocaching, orienteering and exploring animal habitats, Meghan has helped create a series of memorable, hands-on learning opportunities that students regularly rave about. As one student shared, "When Meghan taught us geocaching in the woods, it felt like a real adventure. She made it so much fun, and I felt proud when I found my first geocache. Best field trip ever!"

Thank you, Meghan, for your steady, reliable presence. Your leadership, expertise and passion over the past decade have left a lasting mark on the Outdoor Education team. Your knowledge has shaped our programs, guided staff and inspired countless students to see themselves in new ways. Your dedication makes our team stronger, our programs richer and students' experiences more meaningful. Congratulations on receiving the Director's Recognition Award!



First-Day Smiles at DSBN

A warm welcome to new and returning students

Excitement and anticipation filled the air on September 2 as we welcomed over 43,000 students across our system. School staff thoughtfully prepared their spaces, ready to inspire and support every learner. Each school celebrated the first day in its own unique way, with the shared purpose of fostering belonging, sparking curiosity and setting every student on the path to success.

Thank you to our dedicated staff for working behind the scenes to create welcoming spaces for learning, growth and connection.

Adding to the back-to-school excitement, Bridgeview French Immersion Public School and Thundering Heights Public School opened their doors for the first time, marking an exciting milestone for students, staff, and their communities.

As Welland's first single-track French Immersion school, Bridgeview offers students the opportunity to engage in the French language every day.

Thundering Heights also opened this September, welcoming students from James Morden and Kate S. Durdan Public School communities into a bright, modern space. As DSBN's newest school in Niagara Falls, the energy was evident from day one - *Go Lightning!*

Students are settling in quickly, forming strong bonds and embracing new routines with enthusiasm. And through the *Lightning Leaders* school council initiative, student voice is already helping shape this exciting first year.



Thundering Heights Public School



Bridgeview Public School



Six students from Bridgeview strike a creative pose, spelling out 2025/26 with their hands.



DSBN HIGHLIGHTS (con't)



Together We Thrive!

Celebrating DSBN's newest teachers

Over the summer, DSBN proudly hosted *Together We Thrive*, a two-day welcome event designed to celebrate and support our newest elementary and secondary teachers. Ninety-two new educators gathered in the Education Centre Atrium on July 2 and 3 for an engaging start to their DSBN journey.

Throughout the event, 14 departments from across the system shared valuable resources. *Together We Thrive* emphasized the importance of building community, creating connections and helping our new teachers feel confident, supported and excited to begin their careers.

Gabby McKinnon, a new Greendale Public School teacher shared, "Every single person here made me feel so welcome and excited - not only from all the amazing resources, but kind conversations and big smiles as well."

"*Together We Thrive* really helped me understand what the DSBN is all about," added Jenna Webb who joined Gabby for a selfie.

Thank you to everyone who helped organize this fun, welcoming and inspiring event.

New Spaces, New Possibilities

Fitch Street & Quaker Road celebrate additions

Along with welcoming two new schools, the 2025-26 school year also marks the completion of two major renovations at Fitch Street and Quaker Road Public Schools.

Fitch Street Public School opened its doors to a beautifully refreshed space, designed with connection and community in mind. The changes - which include a brand-new gymnasium, 49-space childcare centre and upgrades throughout the building - help create an environment where students can thrive.

After months of watching the construction take shape, students and staff returned to a transformed Quaker Road. With all students learning together under one roof for the first time in years, the energy was electric as they stepped into bright hallways and explored 15 new classrooms.



MINUTES

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Public Session: 5:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

(*denotes approval received to attend electronically)

TRUSTEE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

ADMINISTRATION

Kelly Pisek (Director of Education), Stacy Veld (Associate Director of Education, Corporate Services), Nicky Westlake (Controller of Finance)

TRUSTEE GUESTS

Trustee Jonathan Fast, Trustee Deanne Macintosh*, Trustee Elizabeth Klassen*

RECORDING SECRETARY

Tamara Lockhart

A. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

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

B. CALL TO ORDER/NOTING OF MEMBERS ABSENT

Chair Barnett called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and noted that Trustee Lora Campbell was absent.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Mike Brousseau

Seconded by Helga Campbell

“That the agenda be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

D. AWARD OF CONTRACTS SUMMARY

Associate Director of Education Stacy Veld presented the Award of Contracts Summary with respect to contracts awarded that were equal to or greater than \$750,000 between June 2025–August 2025.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Moved by Helga Campbell

Seconded by Mike Brousseau

“That the Award of Contracts Summary Report for the period ended August 31, 2025, be received.”

CARRIED

E. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

Controller of Finance Nicky Westlake presented the Summary of Accounts report stating the report summarizes the cash outflow of expenditures paid during the months of June, July, and August 2025. The summary highlights the costs associated with employee benefits, constructions/repairs & maintenance, transportation, utilities, professional services, information technology purchases, and other non-salary expenditures. Employee Benefits have significantly decreased compared to the prior year as a result of Bill 124.

Moved by Helga Campbell

Seconded by Mike Brousseau

“That the Summary of Accounts paid for the month of June, July, and August 2025, totaling \$103,046,410, be received.”

CARRIED

F. CAPITAL PRIORITIES PROGRAM 2025-26

Associate Director Veld presented the Capital Priorities Program 2025-26. The Ministry of Education confirmed that they are committed to finding solutions to speed up the construction of new schools. The 2025-26 Capital Priorities Program has been encouraged to support shovel ready business cases for new schools.

Associate Director Veld shared that the District School Board of Niagara's (DSBN) submissions include as the first priority a new 513 pupil place elementary school with 49 licensed childcare spaces to serve the Town of Fort Erie. The new school is scheduled to open September 2028. Shared in the capital priorities last year as future growth, the Board will now be requesting a 9 classroom addition at Glynn A Green PS in Pelham for a total of 585 pupil places and a 8 classroom addition at Oakwood PS in Port Colborne for a total pupil place of 467 and a 22 room addition to Greater Fort Erie Secondary School in Fort Erie for a projected capacity for 1,250 students.

Also included in the Board's future growth plans is the identification of 4 new elementary schools with childcare spaces in Niagara Falls, Port Colborne, and St. Catharines.

Moved by Mike Brousseau

Seconded by Helga Campbell



FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

“That the Capital Priorities Program 2025-26 report be approved.”

CARRIED

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

The next meeting is Tuesday, November 11th at 5:30 p.m.



MINUTES

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Public Session: 6:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

(*denotes approval received to attend electronically)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Board Chair Sue Barnett (Committee Chair), Trustee Kate Baggott, Trustee Jonathan Fast, Aung Oo (External Member), Spencer Lee (External Member)

ADMINISTRATION

Kelly Pisek (Director of Education), Stacy Veld (Associate Director of Education, Corporate Services), Nicky Westlake (Controller of Finance)

TRUSTEE GUESTS

Trustee Mike Brousseau, Trustee Susan Jovanovic, Trustee Deanne Macintosh* Trustee Elizabeth Klassen*

GUESTS

David Marks (KPMG), Andrea Eltherington (RIAT Manager)

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

Associate Director of Education Stacy Veld called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
Quorum was met.

C. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR 2025-26

Associate Director Veld explained that Ontario Regulation 361/10 requires Audit Committees to elect a Chair at the first Audit Committee meeting of the new fiscal year. Nominations were received for Board Chair Sue Barnett and Trustee Jonathan Fast. Trustee Fast declined the nomination. Board Chair Barnett has accepted the nomination and was declared Chair of the Audit Committee for the 2025-26 fiscal year.



AUDIT COMMITTEE PUBLIC SESSION

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Moved by Kate Baggott
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

D. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Kate Baggott
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“That the agenda be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

E. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST RE: AGENDA

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

F. ANNUAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORM

Controller of Finance Nicky Westlake explained that in accordance with Regulation 361/10 all Committee members are required to complete the Conflict-of-Interest form at the first meeting of the fiscal year and return to the Associate Director of Education’s office.

G. AUDIT COMMITTEE SELF-ASSESSMENT

Controller of Finance Nicky Westlake noted that all Committee members are to conduct a yearly self assessment. Responses are to be sent to the Associate Director of Education’s office and kept on file for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

H. REGIONAL INTERNAL AUDIT STATUS REPORT

Regional Internal Audit Manager Andrea Eltherington presented the Internal Audit Status Report. The RIAT Training Plan was presented, and it was confirmed that all members have completed the training required to maintain their designation.

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Kate Baggott

“That the Regional Internal Audit Status Report be received”.

CARRIED

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at 6:30pm



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present

Linda Morrice (Chair)-Pathstone Mental Health, Brianne Freiwat-Bethesda, Flavia Orvitz-Autism Ontario, Louise Middleton-Down Syndrome Niagara, Kylee Daley-Niagara Children's Centre, Catherine Hodson-Niagara Children's Centre School Authority, Kaori Hiruta – Community Living St. Catharines

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, Katie Seminerio – Student Achievement Leader ECPP and CTEP, Tracey Krysa – Senior Manager Special Education, Shannon Mitchell - Trustee, District School Board of Niagara, Elizabeth Klassen-Trustee, District School Board of Niagara

Guests

Sue Barnett - Trustee, District School Board of Niagara
Susan Jovanovic - Trustee, District School Board of Niagara

Recording Secretary

Jennifer McGugan – Safe Schools and Student Well-Being Coordinator

1. WELCOME

Quorum was established and the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Superintendent Hancox welcomed attendees and asked for introductions. Trustee Mitchell opened the meeting with the Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples.

2. ELECTION OF SEAC CHAIR/VICE CHAIR

With no volunteers for Chair or Vice Chair, Linda Morrice will continue as Chair. Superintendent Hancox encouraged anyone interested in the Vice Chair role to contact Linda Morrice for details.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Shannon Mitchell

Seconded by Kaori Hiruta

“That the Agenda dated September 11, 2025, be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There was no new business.

5. ORIENTATION

The SEAC Orientation handbook has been sent to all members by email. The handbook will be revised when necessary and given to any new members.

6. FUTURE MEETINGS

There are ten SEAC meetings scheduled for the 2025-26 year. Of these, three meetings—December 11, 2025; January 8, 2026; and February 12, 2026—will be conducted virtually, while the remaining sessions are planned as in-person events. If you are unable to attend a meeting, please respond with the name of your organization's alternate representative who will participate on your behalf.

7. STUDENT VOICE

Superintendent Hancox introduced a video about the June 2025 DSBN Special Olympics, emphasizing DSBN's commitment to fostering joy and belonging for students with special education needs.

8. SUMMER LEARNING

Terri Beck shared highlights from this year's special education summer learning programs that included DSBN Summer Heat and program partnerships with Niagara Children's Centre, Bethesda and Learning Disabilities Association Niagara. Camps focused on literacy, numeracy, social and recreation skills.

9. SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT

Superintendent Hancox shared that the 2025-26 Special Education Plan and Parent Guide was emailed to the Committee. Feedback continues to be reviewed and incorporated where appropriate in accordance with Ministry guidelines. Efforts are ongoing to implement committee suggestions as feasible.

Superintendent Hancox shared that this year his role is dedicated to Special Education. The leaders of the Special Education Team, Terri Beck (SAL-Special Education - Elementary), Matt Ezrin (SAL-Special Education – Secondary), Katie Seminerio (SAL – ECPP and CTEP), and Tracey Krysa (Senior Manager of Special Education) were introduced, and they each outlined their roles and responsibilities briefly.

Tracey Krysa discussed the successful transition from IEP Online to Aspen IEP, emphasizing the collaborative effort with IT and Special Education teams, resulting in an enhanced, user-friendly platform fully integrated with real-time student data. Terri Beck highlighted the comprehensive preschool transition process, supporting 243 students with dedicated central team involvement, and ongoing efforts in early EA allocation planning to ensure students are well-supported from day one. Matt Ezrin shared the central multidisciplinary team's focus on supporting transitions for students entering Grade 9, noting that transitions and pathways for students with special education needs will be a central focus this year, starting with the Secondary School to Community program.

The committee discussed the importance of transitions, specifically the transition out of secondary school.

10. ASSOCIATION PRESENTATIONS AND UPDATES

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

11. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

There were no questions.

12. ADJOURNMENT

SEAC MINUTES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025



The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Next Meeting: October 9, 2025



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members

Melissa Lofquist (Co-Chair), Ryan Morris, Ray Darukhanawalla, Lisa Mooney (Community Member), Jon Cairns (Administrator), Carolyn Jonovich (Administrator), Darren VanHooydonk (Superintendent), Shannon Mitchell (Trustee), Susan Jovanovic (Trustee)

Regrets

Amber Hughes (Co-Chair), Stacia Heaton

Recording Secretary

Elisha von Wuthenau, Administrative Assistant to Darren VanHooydonk

A. WELCOME

Chair Lofquist began the meeting with an Acknowledgment of the Traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Ryan Morris

Seconded by Ray Darukhanawalla

"That the Agenda be adopted."

CARRIED

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

No business arising from the minutes in September.

D. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Lofquist restated the ongoing commitment of the committee to focus on recruitment for additional committee members representing the entire region. One of the goals of the upcoming School Council Chair event is to promote PIC and recruit interested Council members.

Discussion was had regarding the PIC Co-Chairs to determine if a committee vote for a new Chair was required at this time. Superintendent VanHooydonk will ensure the by-laws are followed appropriately and if needed members will be asked to submit interest and a vote will be held in the following weeks.



PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025



Moved by Ray Darukhanawalla

Moved by Lisa Mooney

“That members will submit interest and a vote will be scheduled at a later date.”

CARRIED

E. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent VanHooydonk reviewed the schedule for PIC meetings for the 2025-2026 year.

Policy A-12 School Councils is scheduled for review in December. The committee was encouraged to review the policy and submit any feedback on the DSBN website.

Expenses for the end of last year were provided to the committee and the budget for 2025-2026 was presented.

The newly created PIC promotion video was viewed, and the committee was asked for feedback and suggestions for how and where to utilize the video.

F. GUEST PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION – Robyn Scheubel

Principal Robyn Scheubel presented planning information to assist with the upcoming *Chairing with Confidence – A Learning Event for School Council Leaders* on October 29th. The committee reviewed the agenda and breakout sessions. The committee agreed that transportation should not be a barrier, and Administrators will be encouraged to be proactive supporting their council members to get to the event, with support by PIC.

G. TRUSTEE’S REPORT

Trustee Jovanovic and Trustee Mitchell did not have a report due to the meeting proceeding the September Board meeting.

The Parent Involvement Committee meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Next meeting – October 29th – Parent Council Event

Location – DSBN Education Centre





Canadian
Cancer
Society

August 7, 2025

District School Board of Niagara
191 Carlton Street
St. Catharines, ON L2R 7P4

To the District School Board of Niagara,

On behalf of the Canadian Cancer Society, please accept our sincerest gratitude for your incredible support of the Wheels of Hope program. Your generosity in hosting our Wheels of Hope fleet vehicle on your lot has enabled countless individuals living with cancer to access safe, reliable and affordable transportation to and from their treatments.

To celebrate this vital program, we have created "Wheels of Hope Day" taking place on September 17, to celebrate the incredible donors, volunteers, community partners and staff who make this essential program possible! We will be featuring Wheels of Hope on our social media. This is our special opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you – thank you for touching the lives of so many people in your community and helping to ensure that no one ever has to face cancer alone.

We are pleased to present you with the enclosed certificate acknowledging the critical role you have played in powering this integral community program.

Sincerely,

Andrea Seale
Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Cancer Society



OCT 2025

SAT

04

11

SEAC
5:30 pm

18

Program &
Planning
5:30 pm

25

31

Regular Board
Meeting 6:00 pm

OCTOBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Women's History Month Islamic Heritage Month Hispanic Heritage Month LGBT History Month Dwarfism Awareness and Acceptance Month		Autism Awareness Month National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month Learning Disabilities Awareness Month Down Syndrome Awareness Month		Germain Heritage Month Hungarian Heritage Month Korean Heritage Month K-12 Cyber Awareness Month		
			01 Durga Puja Festival (Oct 1-2)	02 Yom Kippur*	03	04 National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women
05 World's Teacher's Day	06 Harvest Moon Festival World Cerebral Palsy Day World Day of Bullying Prevention	07 Sukkot* (Oct 7-13) Pavarana	08	09 Karva Chauth (Oct 9-10)	10 World Mental Health Day	11 International Day of the Girl National Coming Out Day
12	13 Thanksgiving Day	14 Shemini Atzeret* (Oct 14-15)	15 International Pronouns Day Simchat Torah*	16	17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	18 Diwali (Oct 18-23)
19	20 Installation of Holy Scriptures of Guru Granth Sahib Ji	21	22 Birth of Bab	23 Birth of Baha'u'llah	24 Dress Purple Day	25 International Dwarfism Awareness Day
26	27	28	29	30	31 Samhain Halloween	

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.

