MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

Public Session: 6:00 p.m. – 7:14 p.m. | Private Session: 7:05 p.m. – 7:14 p.m.

ATTENDANCE
(*denotes approval received to attend electronically)

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

STUDENT TRUSTEES
William Connor, Jaclyn Saddler

INDIGENOUS STUDENT TRUSTEE
Barrett Dockstator

ADMINISTRATION
Kelly Pisek (Director of Education), Simon Hancox, Mary Anne Gage, Ann Gilmore, Marian Reimer Friesen, Melanie Sendzik, Neil Sheard, Jaime Sinnett, Michael St. John, Teri Thompson, Darren VanHooydonk, Nicky Westlake, Jennifer Feren, Milica Petkovic, Karen Bellamy

RECORDING SECRETARY
Jennifer Reid

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.

2. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTING OF MEMBERS ABSENT

Moved by Nancy Beamer
Seconded by Mike Brousseau

"That the absence of Trustee Helga Campbell be approved under section 228(1)(b) of the Education Act."
CARRIED

Chair Barnett called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:00 p.m.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

B. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

The Board stood as '*O Canada*' was performed by Heximer Public School choir, via video and took a moment of silence to honor the memory of a DSBN student.

C. REFLECTIVE READING

There was no reflective reading.

D. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Mike Brousseau
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

"That the Agenda be adopted."
CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Moved by Susan Jovanovic
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated June 23, 2025, 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

Director Pisek recognized Meghan Gillespsie for her longstanding dedication to DSBN's Outdoor Education Campuses. For over a decade, Meghan has played a key role in shaping meaningful, nature-based learning experiences for thousands of students. Her thoughtful leadership, genuine kindness, and commitment to mentoring new staff have made a lasting impact.

b) Director's Highlights

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

- First-Day Smiles at DSBN- A warm welcome to new and returning students
- Together We Thrive! Celebrating DSBN's newest teachers
- New Spaces, New Possibilities – Fitch Street & Quaker Road celebrate additions

2. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASES

There were no educational showcases.

F. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

There were no student achievement reports.

G. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

H. BOARD RECESS

The Board took a short recess.

Student Trustee Jacklyn Saddler arrived at 6:21 pm.

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Finance Committee

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Kate Baggott

"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."

CARRIED

Controller Finance, Nicky Westlake reported that the committee was presented with the 2025-2026 Capital Priorities Program that included the Board's future growth plans for four new elementary schools with childcare spaces. The Award of Contracts Summary report for contracts awarded greater than $750, 000 between June 2025 to August 2025 and the Summary of Accounts for expenditures paid from June 2025 to August 2025 were presented to the committee.

2. Report of the Audit Committee

Moved by Deanne MacIntosh
Seconded by Lora Campbell

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

"That the Regional Internal Audit Status Report be received."
CARRIED

Controller of Finance, Nicky Westlake shared that Chair Barnett was nominated and declared Chair of the Audit Committee for the 2025-2026 fiscal year and that committee members completed the annual Conflict-of-Interest form as required under Regulation 361/10. In addition, the Internal Audit Status Report was presented to the committee.

3. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

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

Trustee Shannon Mitchell shared that Linda Morrice will continue as Chair for the 2025-2026 school year and reported that information was presented on summer learning programs. The 2025-2026 Special Education Plan and Parent Guide was shared with committee members and a video about the June 2025 DSBN Special Olympics was presented to the committee.

4. Report of the Parent Involvement Committee

Moved by Susan Jovanovic
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated September 11, 2025, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Susan Jovanovic shared that the committee discussed recruitment strategies for additional committee members and if a vote for a new co-chair was required. The committee was asked to provide feedback on policy A-12: School Councils that is up for review and for how to roll out the new PIC promotion video. The agenda for the PIC conference being held on October 29 was reviewed and discussed to help prepare members for the event.

J. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

Discussion addressed operational matters, including admission fees for spectators at sporting events, the implementation of the Hall Mentoring program, and clarification of terminology used during emergency response situations at schools, specifically “Hold and Secure” and “Lockdown.”

K. NEW BUSINESS

L. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. STAFF REPORTS

There were no staff reports.

2. TRUSTEE INFORMATION SESSION

There was no Trustee information session.

3. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

a) The Board received correspondence from the Canadian Cancer Society.

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

Student Trustees shared highlights from the recent Student Senate meeting, where senators discussed the goals and visions for this school year, increasing awareness for supports available to students within the DSBN and brainstormed on how to address vaping within schools and make positive changes. In addition, Senators had the opportunity to network with each other and discuss how to increase student knowledge about the role of a senator. Indigenous Student Trustee Dockstator reported that the Indigenous student representative’s guideline is being updated for clarity and shared information about the 3 Nolans event scheduled for September 29 at Laura Secord Secondary School.

Trustees shared information about celebrations and events within the DSBN.

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

There was no Ontario Public School Boards’ Association report.

6. Ontario Student Trustees' Association Report

There was no Ontario Student Trustees' Association report.

7. Future Meetings

a) The calendar of October 2025 meetings was provided.
Note: A Special Meeting of the Board will be held on October 28 at 5:15 p.m. to fulfill the requirement for a public meeting regarding Education Development Charges.

b) The October Days of Significance calendar was provided.

The Board took a short recess.

M. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Deanne MacIntosh
Seconded by Lora Campbell

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

Moved by Kate Baggott
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"That the Board return to Open meeting."
CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 7:14 p.m.

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

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Kate Baggott

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

O. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"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."
CARRIED

P. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

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SUE BARNETT	**KELLY PISEK**
Chair	Director of Education and Secretary