

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 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'

John Brant Public School choir will perform O'Canada via video

C. REFLECTIVE READING

By Student Trustee Jacklyn Saddler

D. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Recommended Motion:

"That the Agenda be adopted."

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Pages 5-7, 8-16

Recommended Motion:

"That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated October 28, 2025, be confirmed as submitted."

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated October 28, 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 17-20

a) Director's Recognition

- **Martha Shaw**, Administrative Assistant, DeWitt Carter Public School

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

S. Veld – Pages 21-34

Recommended Motions:

"That the report of the Finance Committee dated November 11, 2025, be received."

"That the Summary of Accounts paid for the month of September and October 2025, totaling \$68,600,981 be received."

That the 2024-25 Year End Financial Report be received."

"That Borrowing Resolution 2025-04 authorizing the Board to borrow up to \$22,342,552 for the short-term financing of Ministry funded capital projects be approved"; and

"That Borrowing Resolution 2025-05 authorizing the Board to borrow up to \$5,643,476 for the short-term financing of Ministry funded capital projects be approved"; and

"That Borrowing Resolution 2025-06 authorizing the Board to borrow up to \$31,220,767 for the short-term financing of Ministry funded capital projects be approved".

2. Report of the Audit Committee

S. Veld – Pages 35-46

Recommended Motions:

"That the report of the Audit Committee dated November 11, 2025, be received."

“That the 2024-25 Annual Report of the Audit Committee be approved for submission to the Ministry of Education.”

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

3. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

H. Campbell – Pages 47-49

Recommended Motion:

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated November 12, 2025, be received.”

4. Report of the Parent Involvement Committee

S. Mitchell – Pages 50-51

Recommended Motion:

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated November 13, 2025, be received.”

J. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

K. NEW BUSINESS

L. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. Staff Reports

a) 2024-2025 Director’s Annual Report

K. Pisek – Page 52

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 53-54

a) December Meeting Calendar

b) December 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.”

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 November 18, 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

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2025

Public Session: 5:15 p.m. – 6:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

(*denotes approval received to attend electronically)

BOARD

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

STUDENT TRUSTEES

William Connor

INDIGENOUS STUDENT TRUSTEE

Barrett Dockstator

ADMINISTRATION

Kelly Pisek (Director of Education), Stacy Veld (Associate Director), Karen Bellamy

GUESTS

Jack Ammendolia, Watson and Associates Economists Ltd., Brad Teichman, Overland LLP

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer Reid

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Lyka Yako, Nate Burns

1. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTING OF MEMBERS ABSENT

Chair Barnett called the Special Meeting of the Board to order at 5:15 p.m.

2. EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CHARGES REPORT

Moved by Jonathan Fast

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the Education Development Charges (EDC) Report dated October 28, 2025, be received.”

CARRIED

Associate Director Stacy Veld shared that DSBN is proposing two Education Development Charges (EDC) by-laws; a by-law to be applied to the development of land in the former County of Welland, and a by-law to be applied to the development of land in the former County of Lincoln. She introduced Jack Ammendolia, consultant from Watson and Associates Economists Ltd., and Brad Teichman, legal counsel from Overland LLP.

Jack Ammendolia presented information on the public process for an EDC by-law which includes two public meetings, the Board's EDC Background Study released to the public and submitted to the Ministry of Education for review and approval, Board correspondence with area stakeholders, and an opportunity for stakeholders to give feedback. Information was provided on a school board's eligibility for EDC, the rate for EDC in the jurisdiction, and the terms in which an EDC by-law may be amended. Ammendolia added that the DSBN has met all the requirements and is waiting for approval from the Ministry of Education; once approved by the Ministry of Education, the EDC by-laws will be presented to the Board for approval on December 2, 2025.

Brad Teichman explained residential EDC, exemptions to an EDC, and payment of EDC charges. He shared that DSBN has been working on this initiative for the last two years. He stated that if the two proposed EDC by-laws are approved by the Board on December 2, both EDC by-laws will come into force on December 7, 2025.

In response to a question about amendments to an EDC by-law and the inclusion of non-profit, Jack Ammendolia stated that trustees can make an exemption, however the budget would need to be reduced to cover the costs from the non-profit site. Associate Director Veld indicated that consideration will be given to this before the by-laws are presented on December 2nd.

It was noted that amendments to a by-law may be made once per year.

3. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

4. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS SPECIAL MEETING

Moved by Helga Campbell

Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

"That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its Special Meeting held on October 28, 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

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

SUE BARNETT

Chair

KELLY PISEK

Director of Education and Secretary

MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2025

Public Session: 6:16 p.m. – 8:59 p.m. | Private Session: 8:34 p.m. – 8:59 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

(*denotes approval received to attend electronically)

BOARD

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

STUDENT TRUSTEES

William Connor, Jacklyn 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, Stacy Veld, Jennifer Feren, Milica Petkovic, Karen Bellamy

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer Reid

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Nate Burns, Lyka Yatco

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 Shannon Mitchell

“That the absence of Trustee Lora 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 6:16 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 Jacob Beam Public School choir, via video and took a moment of silence to honour the memory of a DSBN student.

C. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Jonathan Fast provided a reflective reading.

D. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Mike Brousseau

"That the Agenda be adopted."
CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Moved by Nancy Beamer
Seconded by Kate Baggott

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated September 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 Alexis Kleiman, Board Chair, Education Foundation of Niagara (EFN) and DSBN Computer Technician for her leadership, dedication, and innovative efforts to support student learning and well-being, including reviving Prom Project Niagara and expanding access to financial and medical support for students across the DSBN. Her community involvement spans multiple organizations, and she has received several awards for her impact, such as the Niagara 40 Under 40 and Women in Business Achievement Awards. Within DSBN, Alexis is valued for her technical expertise, mentorship, and collaborative approach, consistently enhancing educational experiences and supporting staff and students across the system.

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:

- National Day for Truth & Reconciliation
- DSBN Hosts Three Nolans
- K-12 Math Conference (OAME) at West Niagara Secondary School

2. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASES

There were no educational showcases.

F. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

There were no student achievement reports.

G. DELEGATIONS

1. J. Pakeman and N. Pakeman expressed concerns regarding the proposed boundary changes affecting St. David's Public School and Crossroads Public School.
2. L. Gollino expressed concerns regarding the proposed boundary changes affecting Oakridge Public School and Briardale Public School.
3. Z. Jakibchuk expressed concerns regarding the proposed boundary changes affecting Oakridge Public School and Briardale Public School.
4. L. Cripps expressed concerns regarding the proposed boundary changes affecting Oakridge Public School and Briardale Public School.

H. BOARD RECESS

The Board took a short recess.

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Moved by Deanne MacIntosh

Seconded by Kate Baggott

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated October 8, 2025, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Helga Campbell reported that the committee reviewed one new case that was approved for SAL. Fifteen cases that were brought forward throughout the 2024-2025 school year were reviewed. Of the fifteen cases, ten were renewed for the 2025-2026 school year. Five cases have been discontinued.

2. 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 October 9, 2025, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Shannon Mitchell shared that the committee welcomed new SEAC member, Tessa Alexander, representative from VOICE for Children Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing and reported that the committee received an overview of the Annual DSBN Budget for 2025-2026. A video featuring how the perseverance of a grade six student at Lockview Public School, combined with effective support, has enabled them to overcome challenges.

3. Report of the Program and Planning Committee

Moved by Susan Jovanovic

Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated October 20, 2025, be received.”

“That the boundary changes as shown in Appendix B for McKay PS and the new school in the Dain City Development be approved; and,

That the boundary change as shown in Appendix D for Bridgeview French Immersion programming be approved; and,

That the boundary changes take effect on the day after the Board of Trustees approval and students will attend the boundary schools commencing in 2027-28 school year.”

“That the Board of Trustees approve an elementary boundary change to transfer the area shown as on Appendix B from Oakridge PS to Briardale PS; and,

That the approved boundary changes take effect on the day after the Board of Trustees approval, and students in this area attend Briardale PS for the 2026-2027 school year.”

“That the Board of Trustees approve a boundary change to transfer the area shown as Zone A on revised Appendix A from St. Davids PS to Crossroads PS; and

That the approved boundary changes take effect on the day after the Board of Trustees approval and students in this area attend Crossroads PS for the 2026-2027 school year.”

Trustee Susan Jovanovic shared that the committee received a report on the DSBN Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy for 2026-2029 and outlined the priorities and goals for the school year. Information was shared about the significant growth in Niagara and schools at capacity. In addition, the committee received boundary change reports for South Welland, due to development in Dain City, which include the boundary for French Immersion at McKay Public School and Bridgeview Public School, Oakridge Public School and Briardale Public School, and St. David’s Public School and Crossroads Public School due to growth across the region and to address school capacity.

Director Pisek reported that boundary adjustments are required as population growth continues across the region. In recent years, boundary changes have occurred in Welland, Thorold, Port Colborne, and Niagara Falls. As a publicly funded organization, the Board is obligated to be fiscally responsible and to identify solutions that are both cost-effective and reasonable. This approach also strengthens the Board’s position when making business cases to the Ministry for new school construction. Director Pisek noted that the Planning Department provides accurate enrolment projections based on current and planned housing development. These projections, which have proven consistently reliable, inform the boundary recommendations and are intended to alleviate immediate capacity pressures while addressing future growth in these areas. Both the St. Davids and Oakridge school communities have expressed concern about their growing student populations and requested that the Board address these issues. These concerns were first raised two years ago. In response, the respective superintendents committed last spring to bringing forward recommendations to help alleviate capacity pressures.

At the request of a trustee, the Board agreed to consider and vote for each proposition separately as permitted by the Board By-Laws and Rules of Order.

Proposition 1

“That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated October 20, 2025, be received.”

CARRIED

Proposition 2

“That the boundary changes as shown in Appendix B for McKay PS and the new school in the Dain City Development be approved; and,

That the boundary change as shown in Appendix D for Bridgeview French Immersion programming be approved; and,

That the boundary changes take effect on the day after the Board of Trustees approval and students will attend the boundary schools commencing in 2027-28 school year.”

CARRIED

Proposition 3

“That the Board of Trustees approve an elementary boundary change to transfer the area

shown as on Appendix B from Oakridge PS to Briardale PS; and,
That the approved boundary changes take effect on the day after the Board of Trustees approval, and students in this area attend Briardale PS for the 2026-2027 school year.”

CARRIED

A recorded vote was taken.

Trustee Kate Baggott - Opposed
Trustee Susan Jovanovic - Opposed
Trustee Shannon Mitchell – In Favour
Trustee Helga Campbell – In Favour
Trustee Nancy Beamer – In Favour
Trustee Mike Brousseau – Opposed
Trustee Elizabeth Klassen – In Favour
Trustee Jonathan Fast – In Favour
Trustee Deanne MacIntosh – Opposed
Chair Sue Barnett – In Favour

Total number of votes in favour: 6 Total number of votes opposed: 4.

In response to questions around the transition process for Oakridge PS and Briardale PS, and the alternate school request process for Oakridge PS, Director Pisek noted that students currently in grade seven at Oakridge PS will have the opportunity to apply for an alternate school request in accordance with Board Policy (without transportation) and that the process would not be applied for younger siblings. Director Pisek explained that a transition committee composed of parents and staff will be created to help guide the transition for those impacted. In addition, Director Pisek confirmed that support will be provided to any family new to the area to ensure they understand the transition process.

Proposition 4

“That the Board of Trustees approve a boundary change to transfer the area shown as Zone A on revised Appendix A from St. Davids PS to Crossroads PS; and
That the approved boundary changes take effect on the day after the Board of Trustees approval and students in this area attend Crossroads PS for the 2026-2027 school year.”

CARRIED

In response to a question about alternate school requests for St. Davids PS, Director Pisek noted that families will have the opportunity to apply for an alternate school request in accordance with Board Policy (without transportation).

J. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

K. NEW BUSINESS

L. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. STAFF REPORTS

a) Staffing 2025-2026 Report

Superintendent Mike St. John shared that the DSBN increased the complement of teaching staff to accommodate student enrolment for the 2025-2026 school year and that there were no staff lay-offs across any employee group. He noted that a total of 118 permanent Elementary Teachers, including both full-time and part-time positions, 106 elementary Long Term Occasional (LTO) teaching positions, 23 permanent Secondary Teacher positions, and 115 Secondary LTO positions were filled. As well, the Educational Services team increased to complement the increased enrolment and to replace staff due to retirements and resignations.

2. TRUSTEE INFORMATION SESSIONS

There was no Trustee information session.

3. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

There was no correspondence received.

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

Student Trustees shared highlights from the recent student senate meeting which included finalizing the Student Senate Group agreements, outlining how senators collaborate and engage as a team, engaging in workshops to deepen the understanding of student voice and how to effectively collect student voice through interactive, hands-on discussion. Subcommittees, Connections and Engagement, Student Success, and Equity, focused on initiatives to better serve students across the DSBN, including how to help students academically, increase school engagement, creating applications to inform students about community events, and discussing proper representation in schools.

In addition, information on the first Indigenous Education Council meeting was shared, where members reviewed Indigenous Education websites and discussed ways to improve them. Indigenous Student Representatives shared their perspectives and suggestions for changes. On November 6th and 7th, Indigenous Student Representatives will participate in a symposium for grade seven and eight students to highlight opportunities and supports available to Indigenous Students entering high school. Additionally, the first meeting for Indigenous Student Representatives is scheduled for November 13th.

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 November meeting calendar was provided.
- b) The November Days of Significance calendar was provided.

M. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Kate Baggott
Seconded by Mike Brousseau

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

Moved by Sue Barnett
Seconded by Kate Baggott

“That the Board return to Open meeting.”
CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 8:59 p.m.

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

Moved by Mike Brousseau
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

“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 Mike Brousseau
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

“That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on October 28, 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 8:59 p.m.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2025



SUE BARNETT
Chair

KELLY PISEK
Director of Education and Secretary

Director's Highlights

November 2025

DIRECTOR'S RECOGNITION



Martha Shaw

Administrative Assistant, DeWitt Carter Public School

Martha Shaw's career has been defined by dedication, creativity and an unwavering commitment to students, staff and families.

She began her journey with DSBN as a Library Assistant at Ridgeway-Crystal Beach Secondary School before moving into secretarial roles at Port Colborne High School and Princess Elizabeth Public School. In each role, Martha has consistently pursued opportunities to expand her expertise, demonstrating her commitment to professional growth and lifelong learning. Her passion has enriched the experiences of students participating in DSBN's Continuing Education and Summer School programs for over a decade, where Martha's mentorship has fostered meaningful engagement.

In 2014, Martha joined DeWitt Carter Public School where she quickly became the heart of the school community. As Parent and School Council Chair Melissa Lofquist shared, "Martha's dedication and love for DeWitt Carter has no bounds. She knows the name of every student in the school and has the unique ability to bring out the best in all of them. Our school council would not be able to achieve our goals and enrich students' lives without her constant leadership, dedication and hard work."

Martha's reputation for ensuring seamless day-to-day operations is well established. Whether navigating complex financial audits, coordinating events or managing daily administrative tasks, her organizational skills are second to none. Former Principal Todd Acaster shared, "Martha is the epitome of organization. There was never a time when we felt we were not ready for something. Martha always thought two steps ahead."

Dave Howell, DeWitt Carter's current Principal, echoes this sentiment, sharing "Martha gives 100% to the school. She is efficient in all areas of her role, from greeting and signing out students to handling registration, finances, Aspen and EasyConnect – no small feat in a school with a single Administrative Assistant. What truly sets Martha apart, however, is the added value that she brings to students and staff."

For years, Martha has organized the much-anticipated annual movie day before the winter break, a process she starts as early as August to secure the school's booking. Tracy Lubeck, Elementary Teacher at DeWitt Carter notes, "She coordinates it all on her own, making sure students and staff get a drink and popcorn while watching the movie, an experience some of our students only get to enjoy that one day a year. She fundraises on her own to keep it affordable for all our families, ensuring every child can participate regardless of financial circumstances."

Martha takes immense pride in her work and is known for devoting her own time to enhance the school environment for both students and staff. Following renovations at DeWitt Carter, she worked after school and on weekends to source items, refinish furniture and decorate the staffroom, creating a cozy, relaxed and welcoming space for all staff to enjoy.

Martha is also deeply invested in student success and well-being. She advocated for the installation of a greeter's window to warmly welcome students and families and regularly provides snacks for those who arrive late, ensuring no student starts the day hungry. She listens and mentors students, actively participates in school events and is consistently the first to arrive and the last to leave, often working through her lunch break.

Martha's extraordinary commitment to students and staff is endless and deeply appreciated. As one Grade 8 student who has been at DeWitt since Kindergarten shared, "Mrs. Shaw works very hard. She's always here, never away. She helps a lot around the school by taking attendance, planning the field trips and all sorts of things like that!"

Martha truly embodies the DeWitt Carter motto: "Make it a great day for yourself and someone else" – every day. Through her tireless efforts, genuine care and remarkable talent, she not only fulfills her role, but elevates it, helping to create a school culture where everyone feels safe, supported and inspired. Congratulations on receiving the Director's Recognition Award, Martha and thank you for the profound impact you have had on so many.

DSBN’s Take Me Outside Challenge
Celebrating five years of participation

This year marked the 5th Annual DSBN Take Me Outside Week (TMO) Challenge - a celebration of outdoor learning across our system.

Twenty-two schools participated in the school-wide challenge, with every educator at those schools teaching outdoors for at least one hour during Take Me Outside Week. In addition, individual teachers from all 96 elementary and secondary schools took part in the individual challenge. In total, over 20,000 students and educators participated across the DSBN.

From math, literacy, scavenger hunts and biodiversity studies to nature walks, cooperative games, and creative projects, learning moved beyond the classroom in creative and impactful ways. Students explored micro forests, adopted trees and even designed miniature national parks, engaging deeply with both the environment and curriculum.

This year also welcomed 80 first-time participants and saw 236 educators sign up for the year-long TMO Learning Challenge, pledging to teach outdoors at least once a week throughout the school year.

Thank you to every educator who embraced outdoor teaching and learning this week. Your leadership in taking your teaching outside continues to deepen students’ curiosity, resilience, and connection to the natural world.



October 20-24

More than 20,000 DSBN students and educators embraced the outdoors as part of our annual learning challenge.





DSBN HIGHLIGHTS (con't)

Skilled Trades & Technology at DSBN

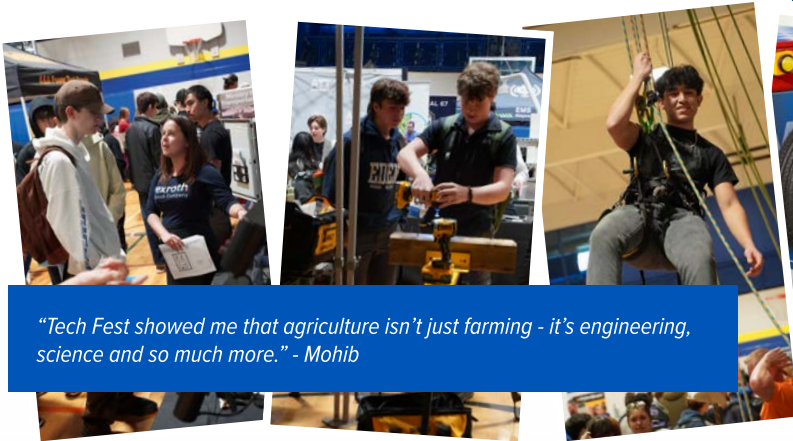
Hands-on experience and career insight

November 2nd to 8th marked National Skilled Trades & Technology Week, providing an opportunity to highlight three recent events that exemplify how DSBN is helping students discover their passions, develop practical skills and explore a variety of career paths in skilled trades and technology.

On October 23, more than 1,500 students from across DSBN attended the 4th annual Trades and Tech Fest at E.L. Crossley Secondary School. With 65 booths representing skilled trades and technology sectors, students were able to explore diverse career opportunities, connect directly with employers and imagine their futures.



Grade 12 students had the opportunity to explore a variety of career paths at the 4th annual Trades & Tech Fest at E.L. Crossley Secondary School



"Tech Fest showed me that agriculture isn't just farming - it's engineering, science and so much more." - Mohib

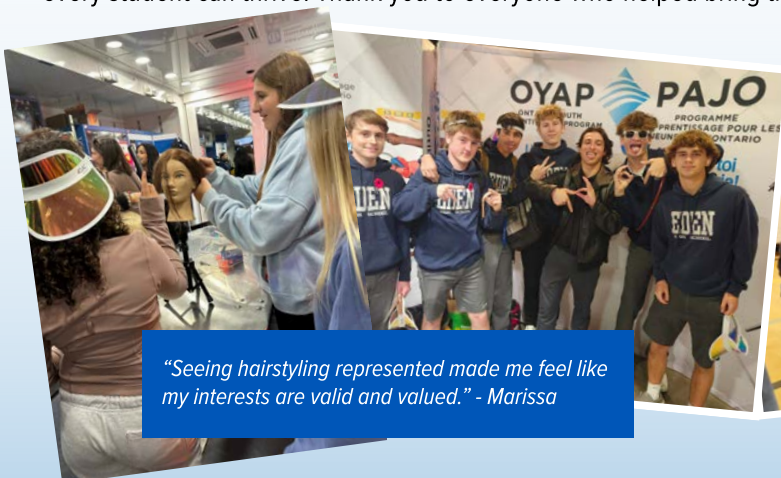


"We get to talk face to face with employers and gain the confidence you need to put your resume out there and network. It's also amazing to see female representatives and be able to ask about their experiences." - Kate

That same week, students from Stamford, St. Catharines Collegiate, Thorold and Westlane Secondary Schools took part in the Young Women in Trades Bootcamp, where experienced Enercare technicians led three rotating, hands-on workshops. Students learned practical skills including installing a faucet and building a toilet (plumbing), using measuring and fabrication tools for gas piping systems (HVAC) and wiring an outlet box and light fixtures (electrical) - all before lunch!

More recently, on November 5, 120 DSBN students from eight secondary schools attended the Level Up! Skilled Trades Career Fair in Hamilton. There, they joined peers from across Ontario to explore over 140 skilled trades through interactive exhibits, hands-on activities and conversations with industry professionals.

Together, these events reflect our system-wide commitment to experiential learning, career exploration, and creating opportunities where every student can thrive. Thank you to everyone who helped bring these enriching experiences and events to life for our students.



"Seeing hairstyling represented made me feel like my interests are valid and valued." - Marissa



"These events expand your thinking of what's possible." - Octavia

Chairing with Confidence

An evening of building engaged school councils

On October 29, the DSBN Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) proudly hosted a conference for 120 school council chairs from across the region. Called *Chairing with Confidence*, the event was designed to build capacity, foster meaningful connections, and express appreciation to the dedicated individuals who have stepped into the vital role of school council chair.

Participants engaged in three thoughtfully curated workshops: *Building Inclusive, Engaged Councils*, *Conducting Effective and Meaningful Meetings* and *Fundraising and Finance*. Each session offered practical strategies and insights to help chairs lead effectively within their school communities.

One participant shared that they had arrived feeling nervous, having just stepped into the role of school council chair. By the end of the evening, they felt empowered and equipped, ready to lead with confidence and clarity. This feedback reflects the core intention of the event: supporting parent leaders and amplifying their voices as partners in education.

Thank you to all school council chairs for your commitment, leadership, and collaboration. And thank you to the PIC Committee for creating an evening that strengthens connections and supports vibrant, inclusive school communities.



Walking Together

Building mutual respect during Treaties Recognition Week

From November 2nd to 8th, students and staff across the DSBN observed Treaties Recognition Week, an annual observance that highlights the importance of treaties, living agreements that define rights, responsibilities, and relationships.

Throughout the week, more than 100 students from E.L. Crossley, St. Catharines Collegiate, and Stamford Collegiate engaged in meaningful activities organized by the DSBN Indigenous Education Team. Students either explored the Landscape of Nations Memorial in Queenston Heights Park or engaged in a central teaching about the Two Row Wampum Belt, a powerful symbol of treaty relationships. These learning experiences welcomed both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, fostering an understanding of what it means to be treaty partners.

The Two Row Wampum Belt represents an agreement built on peace, friendship, and trust. Its imagery shows two vessels - the Indigenous canoe and the settler ship - traveling side by side along the same waterway. Each moves forward without interfering in the other's path, yet both are committed to journeying together respectfully.

This teaching is especially significant during Treaties Recognition Week because it reminds us that treaties are about coexistence and collaboration. They call on us to honour these principles in our daily lives and relationships.

Students approached the learning with enthusiasm and respect. They actively participated, deepened their understanding of their roles as allies, and reflected on the importance of walking together in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect. Many shared that the experience helped them see the enduring relevance of treaties and the responsibility we all share in upholding them.



MINUTES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025

Public Session: 6:45 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Board Chair Sue Barnett (Committee Chair), Trustee Michael Brousseau, Trustee Helga Campbell

ADMINISTRATION

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

TRUSTEE GUESTS

Trustee Susan Jovanovic, Trustee Nancy Beamer, Vice Chair 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 6:45 p.m. and noted that Trustee Lora Campbell was absent.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Helga Campbell

Seconded by Mike Brousseau

“That the agenda be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

D. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

Controller of Finance Nicky Westlake presented the Summary of Accounts stating the report summarizes the cash flow of expenditures paid during the months of September and October 2025. The summary highlights the costs associated with employee benefits,

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 11, 2025

constructions/repairs & maintenance, transportation, utilities, professional services, information technology purchases and other non-salary expenditures. The timing of these expenditures is reported on a cash-basis and does not include accruals for accounting purposes.

Controller Westlake noted significant variances. Employee Benefits and Transportation expenses, normally paid at October's month end, were delayed until November 2, 2025, due to an online banking outage. Construction/Repairs & Maintenance costs rose by \$12M from last year, primarily for major school projects completed over summer which included Thundering Heights PS, Bridgeview PS, and the additions at Gainsborough PS and Quaker Road PS. Information Technology spending increased \$1M as part of the Computer Refresh Program, with computers purchased and received in August and paid for in October.

Moved by Helga Campbell

Seconded by Mike Brousseau

"That the Summary of Accounts paid for the month of September and October 2025, totalling \$68,600,981 be received."

CARRIED

E. 2024-25 YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT

Associate Director of Education Stacy Veld presented the 2024-25 Year End Financial Report. The report represents a comparison of year-to-date actual revenue and expenditures from budget and builds on the interim reports presented through the fiscal year.

An adjustment of \$5.1M was made at year end to recognize revenue related to Bill 124 funding received in September 2025. Core Education Funding includes an increase of \$17M related to Bill 124 and collective agreement benchmark funding. Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets is underbudget by \$16.8M, which is consistent with the decrease in revenue for Amortization of Deferred Capital Contributions. This decrease is the result of adjustments to useful life of assets and timing of the completion of projects.

Moved by Mike Brousseau

Seconded Helga Campbell

"That the 2024-25 Year End Financial Report be received."

CARRIED

F. SHORT-TERM FINANCING OF MINISTRY FUNDED CAPITAL PROJECTS

Associate Director Veld presented the Short-Term Financing of Ministry Funded Capital Projects Report stating that the Ministry of Education (MOE) has approved funding totalling \$59,206,795 supporting School Condition Improvements, accessibility improvements and to replace Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC).

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 11, 2025

Moved by Helga Campbell

Seconded Mike Brousseau

“That Borrowing Resolution 2025-04 authorizing the Board to borrow up to \$22,342,552 for the short-term financing of Ministry funded capital projects be approved”; and

“That Borrowing Resolution 2025-05 authorizing the Board to borrow up to \$5,643,476 for the short-term financing of Ministry funded capital projects be approved”; and

“That Borrowing Resolution 2025-06 authorizing the Board to borrow up to \$31,220,767 for the short-term financing of Ministry funded capital projects be approved”.

CARRIED

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m. The next Finance Committee meeting date is to be determined.

MINUTES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025

Public Session: 5:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

(*denotes approval received to attend electronically)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

DSBN ADMINISTRATION

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

TRUSTEE GUESTS

Trustee Mike Brousseau, Trustee Susan Jovanovic, Vice Chair Elizabeth Klassen, Trustee Nancy Beamer, Trustee Deanne Macintosh*

GUESTS

David Marks (KPMG), Daniel Glasbergen (KPMG), Don Luce (Regional Internal Auditor)

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 AND WELCOME

Chair Sue Barnett called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
Quorum was met.

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Kate Baggott

Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“That the agenda be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

AUDIT COMMITTEE PUBLIC SESSION

Tuesday, November 11, 2025

D. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

E. ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Associate Director Veld stated that Ontario Regulation 361/10 requires the Audit Committee to provide an annual report to the Ministry of Education. Associate Director Veld confirmed the following audit engagements were in progress in 2024-25 and were completed as at August 31, 2025; Continuing Education, Back Up Disaster and Recovery and IT Security 2.

Moved by Spencer Lee

Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“That the 2024-25 Annual Report of the Audit Committee be approved for submission to the Ministry of Education.”

CARRIED

F. REGIONAL INTERNAL AUDIT STATUS REPORT

Regional Internal Auditor (RIA) Don Luce stated the Charter must be re-signed when there are changes in the make-up of the committee (such as a change in Director of Education, Chair of the Audit Committee or the Regional Internal Audit Manager) so that all parties understand the role and mandate of the regional internal audit team. With the change in the Audit Committee chair in September 2025, the charter has been re-signed.

RIA Luce provided an update regarding the search for a new auditor. The initial round of recruitment has concluded without a successful candidate, therefore the position has been reposted and will remain open until December 2025.

Moved by Kate Baggott

Seconded by Jonathan Fast

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

CARRIED

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2026.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2025

SAL MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present

Ann Gilmore, Superintendent of Student Achievement and Well-Being
Caroline Graham - John Howard Society of Niagara
Sandra Orr - Student Achievement Leader

Administration/Resource

Nadia LaSelva, Attendance Counsellor
Laura Livingston - SAL Secretary
Trisha Miller - Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Guests

Naomi Taylor, VP, A.N. Myer Secondary School
Jonathan Cairns, VP, Stamford Secondary School
Julie Volcansek, VP, Laura Secord Secondary School
Erica Dorinzi- VP, Greater Fort Erie Secondary School
Katie Allen, VP, E.L. Crossley Secondary School

Regrets

Helga Campbell, Trustee
Kim Landon, VP, Eastdale

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE SAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Student Achievement Leader Sandra Orr called the meeting to order at 1 pm.

B. Cases

226-002 AU DOB 09/06/2011

The student is working on GLE10 course and has a part-time job that will be linked to coop.
The student will remain connected with the school social worker and community supports.

AU has been approved for SAL

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2025

226-003 DAB DOB 30/09/2010

The student is working on CHV/GLC 20 and IDC 30. The student will remain connected to a social worker at their school and with community support services.

DAB has been approved for SAL

226-004 BF DOB 25/02/2011

The students' academics are on hold currently. The student will remain connected to a social worker at their school and a referral has been submitted for day treatment program.

BF has been approved for SAL

226-005 MD DOB 27/08/2010

The student is working on IDC301 (asynchronous). The student will remain connected to a social worker at their school and a referral has been submitted for day treatment program.

MD has been approved for SAL

226-006 EC DOB 08/10/2001

The student is working on GLS10 and CGC1W and will continue to work with community supports services.

EC has been approved for SAL

226-007 MH DOB 07/03/2010

The student is working on IDC, CIV/CAR (online) and attends homework help 1x a week. The student will remain connected to a social worker at their school and to outside community support services.

MH has been approved for SAL

226-008 HM DOB 22/07/2008

The student is working on IDC and YMCA schools' job program. The student will remain connected to a social worker at their school and to outside community support services.

HM has been approved for SAL

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2025

226-009 JLSC DOB 19/12/2008

The students' academics are on hold currently. The student will remain connected to a social worker at their school and to community support services.

JLSC has been approved for SAL

226-010 KTF DOB 14/03/2009

The students' academics are on hold currently. The student will remain connected to a social worker at their school and to community support services.

226-011 CG DOB 28/02/2009

The student is working on IDC at school 2x a week. The student will remain connected to a social worker at their school and community support services.

226-012 SM DOB 06/06/2008

The student is working on IDC and working on community hours. The student will remain connected to community support services.

C. CASE REVIEW

The Committee met to review twelve (12) cases that have been brought forward throughout the 2024/2025 school year. Of the twelve (12) cases heard, eleven (11) have been renewed and the students will continue with their SAL plans in the 2025/2026 school year. One (1) case has been discontinued. This student has transition plans in place.

D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:15p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2025

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members

Melissa Lofquist (Co-Chair), Ryan Morris (Co-Chair), Amber Hughes, Jon Cairns (Administrator), Carolyn Jonovich (Administrator), Darren VanHooydonk (Superintendent), Mike Burns (Acting Superintendent)

Trustee Committee Members

Shannon Mitchell, Nancy Beamer (designated alternate)

Recording Secretary

Elisha von Wuthenau, Administrative Assistant to Darren VanHooydonk

A. WELCOME

Chair Lofquist welcomed everyone to the meeting.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Amber Hughes

Seconded by Ryan Morris

“That the Agenda be approved.”

CARRIED

C. CO-CHAIR ACCLAIMED

Ryan Morris accepted the acclaimed position of Co-Chair.

D. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent VanHooydonk introduced Mike Burns, who will be Acting Superintendent effective November 17, 2025.

Superintendent VanHooydonk presented the PIC budget, indicating what has been spent to-date and the remaining funds for the 2025-2026 year.

The committee was encouraged to review the School Council policy on the DSNB website. It is open for feedback and will be reviewed at the December policy committee meeting.

E. CHAIR’S REPORT

Chair Lofquist welcomed the guests who joined the meeting and encouraged them to consider joining the committee. She presented the feedback received from the Chairing

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2025



with Confidence event in October, indicating that comments were positive with the suggestion of more time in the breakout sessions. She also discussed the plans for increased recruitment for the PIC committee and presented a new member application form. The committee discussed different ways to share information regarding PIC through Council Chairs and Administration. The committee submitted a request for more details shared with families regarding our safe school practices, specifically Lock and Learns and Lockdowns procedures. Acting Superintendent Burns will bring the suggestions forward. Chair Morris brought forward a request to create a template for School Council Chairs, to use across the board for year end reporting. Acting Superintendent Burns will speak with finance to determine requirements and a sub-committee will be formed. Co-Chairs Morris and Lofquist indicated that plans need to be determined for the remaining 2025-2026 year. The committee reviewed the three events hosted over the past year: PIC Conference, Greg Wells Speaker Series and Charing with Confidence. After thoughtful discussion the committee decided to offer a keynote speaker with a small group of breakout sessions to unpack the speaker's content. To ensure barriers are removed, daycare will be offered at this event. Acting Superintendent Burns will share suggested speaker clips for the committee to review and provide feedback. Once a decision is made, a sub-committee will be formed to start the planning process. Dates and locations are still to be determined.

F. TRUSTEE'S REPORT

Trustee Mitchell reviewed the Director's report with the committee.

The Parent Involvement Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

Next meeting – February 19, 2026, location – tbd

2024-2025 Director's Annual Report

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

INFORMATION

The Education Act requires that the Director of Education reports annually to the Board of Trustees on the activities of the system for the prior academic year. This reporting requirement enhances accountability and transparency by sharing the Board's achievements and progress.

The 2024-2025 Director's Annual Report is complete and available on the Board's website under the Publications section: <https://www.dsbni.org/about/publications/directors-annual-report>

Aligned with the goals of the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan, the report is presented as an interactive online resource. It highlights accomplishments across our schools, celebrates the successes of our students, staff, and school communities, and reinforces the Board's commitment to student achievement.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Pisek
Director of Education

DEC2025

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

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FRI

SAT

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Regular Board
Meeting 6:00 pm

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P & P
Policy
5:30 pm

SAL
1:00 pm

SEAC
5:30 pm

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DECEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Universal Human Rights Month						
	01 Rosa Parks Day World AIDS Day	02 International Day of the Abolition of Slavery	03 International Day of Persons with Disabilities	04	05	06 National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
07	08 Bodhi Day (Buddha Enlightenment)	09	10 Human Rights Day	11	12	13
14	15 Hanukkah* (Dec. 15 -22)	16 Posadas Navidenas (Dec. 16-24)	17	18 International Migrants Day	19	20
21 Yule or Winter Solstice	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day Tulsi Pujan Diwas	26 Kwanzaa (Dec. 26-31) Boxing Day	27
28	29	30	31			

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.