

MINUTES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025

Public Session: 6:03 p.m. – 7:17 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

(*denotes approval received to attend electronically)

BOARD

Kate Baggott (Chair), Sue Barnett, Nancy Beamer, Mike Brousseau, Lora 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), Karen Bellamy, Jennifer Feren, Ann Gilmore, Simon Hancox, Milica Petkovic, Marian Reimer Friesen, Melanie Sendzik, Neil Sheard, Jaime Sinnett, Mike St. John, Teri Thompson, Stacy Veld (Associate Director)

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer Reid

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Nate Burns, Lyka Yatco

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

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

2. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTING OF MEMBERS ABSENT

Moved by Jonathan Fast

Seconded by Mike Brousseau

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

CARRIED

Chair Baggott called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:02 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 Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School choir, via video.

C. REFLECTIVE READING

There was no reflective reading.

D. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Nancy Beamer

Seconded by Sue Barnett

"That the Agenda be adopted."

CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Moved by Susan Jovanovic

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the Minutes of the Organization Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated November 18, 2025, be confirmed as submitted."

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated November 18, 2025, be confirmed as submitted."

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Associate Director Veld confirmed that Ontario school boards received correspondence about government funding for Nutrition Programs. Currently there are 13 agencies being funded through this government initiative. Niagara Nutrition Partners are looking to apply for funding in Niagara.

E. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS

1. Director's Recognition and Highlights

a) Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions

Director Pisek recognized Marian Reimer Friesen, Superintendent of Student Achievement and Well-Being, for her 30 years of dedication to education at the DSBN, demonstrating exceptional leadership, integrity, and commitment to student achievement and educator growth. Marian's significant achievements include leading system-wide improvements, developing foundational resources such as DSBN Math Scope and Sequence, and establishing inclusive programs like the ROUTES program to support Low German families. Her relationship-focused leadership and ability to inspire others to lead with purpose is admired and valued by colleagues and will leave a lasting impact on the DSBN.

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:

- YMCA Youth Peace Medal Recipients
- Bullying Awareness & Prevention Week/Kindness Week
- Memories & Milestones

2. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASES

a) A Story Worth Telling: James Morden PS Food Drive

Superintendent Marian Reimer Friesen introduced staff and students from James Morden Public School who shared information about a special initiative called Project Share.

Students explained that the Project Share campaign is led by students and focusses on giving back to the community through food collection and distribution across several impactful events such as Stuff the Bus, a Community Breakfast, Walk the Neighbourhood, and the school's Annual Food Drive.

During the campaign, author Eric Walters who was visiting the school, took interest in the campaign and was deeply inspired by the students' generosity. This act of kindness sparked the creation of the book *One Can*, co-written with Lana Button, celebrating the power of helping others.

Chair Baggott noted the recent appointment of Superintendent Mike St. John to the position of Director of Education at School District No. 73 in Kamloops-Thompson, British Columbia.

F. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

There were no student achievement reports.

G. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

H. BOARD RECESS

There was no recess.

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Mike Brousseau
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated November 20, 2025, be received.”
CARRIED

Vice Chair Klassen shared that the committee received an overview of the Secondary School to Community (SSTC) Program from the program leaders at Eastdale and heard a presentation about the collaboration of Outdoor Education and Special Education to develop the Special Education Day Outdoor Education Pilot that incorporates activities designed to accommodate all students. It was reported that the DSBN successfully secured funding through the Ministry of Education’s Removing Barriers Grant initiative. A video was presented about a grade nine Stamford Collegiate student highlighting her success in the Secondary School to Work program.

J. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

In response to Trustee Beamer’s inquiry about the effectiveness of Hallway Monitors to reduce vaping, Superintendent Gilmore confirmed that a report will be presented at a future Program and Planning meeting.

Trustee Barnett noted that by the end of the year businesses will not be able to mass recycle and asked that this topic be monitored.

K. NEW BUSINESS

L. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. STAFF REPORTS

There were no staff reports.

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 Trustee Connor shared that the recent Student Senate meeting focussed on bullying awareness, prevention, and student well-being, addressing concerns about the growing impact of mental health on students. Subcommittees brainstormed new initiatives, shared anti-bullying activities within their schools, discussed leadership opportunities, and strategies and available resources within the DSBN to create safe and inclusive spaces. Student Trustees shared information on Bill 33 to ensure senators are informed about upcoming changes within public school board systems across Ontario.

Indigenous Student Trustee Dockstator added that the Student Senate Equity subcommittee, emphasized proper representation for all students, including LGBTQIA+ and special needs students to ensure all students feel heard and seen especially during the holiday season. He reported that the Indigenous Education team hosted a Powwow to celebrate music, tradition and culture and reps will be participating in the panel at the upcoming Rise Up student conference on December 10.

Trustee Beamer noted that the E.L. Crossley junior girls' basketball team won SOSSA.

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

Chair Baggott shared highlights from the recent OPSBA meeting. Board members were asked to give feedback to Chair Baggott before December 18.

6. Ontario Student Trustees' Association Report

There was no Ontario Student Trustees' Association report.

6. Future Meetings

Chair Baggott noted that the next Board meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2026.

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

M. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

There was no special meeting.

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

There was no special meeting.

O. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Deanne MacIntosh

Seconded by Lora Campbell

“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.”

CARRIED

P. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

KATE BAGGOTT

Chair

KELLY PISEK

Director of Education and Secretary