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David Thompson, Chairperson

Jackie Young, Director of Education

Item# 2.9

The November 24, 2015 **Public Session Meeting** of the Near North District School Board was held at 6:00 p.m. at the Head Office of the Near North District School Board, 963 Airport Road, North Bay, ON P1C 1A5

Trustees Present:

David Thompson, Chair
Michelina Beam
Jim Beatty, Vice-Chair
Al Bottomley
Paul Moffat
Louise Sargent
Randy Sheppard
Zack Scott – Student Trustee

Administrative Staff Present:

Jackie Young, Director of Education
Jeff Hewitt, Superintendent of Support Services
Craig Myles, Superintendent of Student Success
Roz Bowness, Superintendent of Schools
Liz Therrien, Superintendent of Business
Amanda Meighan, Executive Officer
Sue Walker, Executive Assistant

Trustees Present in Parry Sound:

Corine Green

Administrative Staff Present in Parry Sound:

Tim Graves, Superintendent of Schools

Regrets:

Administrative Regrets:

Absent:

Carol Stevens

Public (North Bay)

Parker Robinson

Public (Parry Sound)

Dave Bartlett
Glen Hodgson

Call to Order

Chairperson Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Attendance

Attendance indicated that 8 Trustees plus the Student Trustee were present for this meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

15-11-08 Moved by Randy Sheppard, seconded by Michelina Beam
That the Board approve the agenda as presented for the Public Session meeting of November 24, 2015.

CARRIED

Minutes from Previous Meetings of the Near North District School Board

15-11-09 Moved by Jim Beatty, seconded by Corine Green
That the Board approve the minutes as presented for the meetings held:

- October 26, 2015
- October 27, 2015

CARRIED

Celebrating Near North District School Board Success:

Widdifield Secondary School presented on the new WSS Garden Courtyard
Board Chair David Thompson introduced Widdifield staff member Carol Henschel and students Chris Witmer and Dan Landry.

The new garden courtyard began with a small group of students wishing to gain volunteer hours over the summer months. From there it transformed into a Pathways Program then extended to other groups of students who all worked together to make the courtyard happen. The TD Bank has helped with many contributions over the years. Speak-up Grants and school fundraisers have also contributed to the construction of the garden. The upcoming pergola is the last piece which has funding attached to it.

Dan explained he assisted with building the natural path walkway through the garden, and has been in charge of making stands for peas and other vegetables this year. His next challenge is to design and build the pergola for the garden entrance.

Chris began working in the garden last year. He required a co-op credit and shared that it was one of the best years of his school career. He has built a vertical planter and a potato box.

A rotating group of students assist with the plants over the summer, and gather food to deliver to the Gathering Place and the Food Bank. The hospitality program at Widdifield also uses some of the garden's harvest.

Meeting Dates

Special Board Meeting – December 1, 2015 – 5:00 p.m.

Education/Finance Committee of the Whole – January 11, 2016 – 5:00 p.m.

Capital Plan meeting – January 14, 2016 – 5:00 p.m.

Strategic Plan meeting – January 18, 2016 – 5:00 p.m.

Conflict of Interest

None declared.

Question Period

Presentations by Public

Committee Reports – enclosures

- Transportation Appeals Committee Meeting Minutes – October 19, 2015 (Private)
- Audit Committee Meeting Minutes October 28, 2015 (Private)
- Committee of the Whole/Parry Sound JK-12 Building Committee Minutes – November 10, 2015 (Private)
- Capital Plan Committee Meeting Minutes – November 11, 2015
- Capital Plan Update – verbal – Trustee Beam
- Strategic Plan Update – verbal – Trustee Moffat

Chair Thompson shared that a “Town Hall” type of meeting for parents and neighbors took place at Alliance School on November 23rd, with part of the meeting touching on the Board's Capital Plan process.

Student Achievement and Well-Being – Near North District School Board Program Coordinator Liana Blaskievich – Specialist High Skills Majors Highlights

Superintendent Craig Myles introduced Program Coordinator Liana Blaskievich who spoke on the Board's Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM) highlights.

SHSM programs were first put in place for at-risk students in order to provide experiences within the secondary program to give students experiences on a career path.

SHSM students must take:

- 4 major credits in Grade 11 and 12
- 1-2 “other” credits (eg. Business, Math related to career)
- 2 co-op credits in order to “test drive” their career
- Grade 12 English
- Contextualized Learning Activities
- Required and optional certifications (First Aid, Fall Arrest, CPR)
- Experiential learning (eg. visiting college campuses).

Students “reach ahead” to have experiences in post-secondary destinations, make informed decisions regarding post-secondary destinations, and access resources, equipment and expertise which may not be available in their secondary school.

Currently there are 16 SHSM programs with close to 560 students enrolled in the programs. 25% of Near North students are SHSM students as opposed to the province which sits at 11%.

SHSM students are being recognized as leaders and some are beginning to receive small bursaries.

Vice-Chair Beatty questioned on how to get creative and offer the same opportunities across the Board. Ms. Blaskievich explained the Board is attempting to break down the barriers in a few different ways: The Ministry now allows students to be enrolled in SHSM programs that aren’t being run in their schools. Students are included in the experiential learning portion of the program as well. The Ministry’s Pathway to Success helps create a parody as well. She also suggested schools need to have a teacher willing to teach the program, and there needs to be interest from the students, as well as community partners.

Items for referral to the Education/Finance Committee of the Whole:

- 15-11-10 Moved by Michelina Beam, seconded by Jim Beatty
That the Board refer the following items to the Education/Finance Committee of the Whole:
- Environmental Scan Report
 - New Pedagogies For Deep Learning
 - Committee Structure of Education/Finance Committee of the Whole
 - Draft Policy on Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline (PARG)

CARRIED

OPSBA Report – Trustee Michelina Beam

Trustee Beam is attending the Board of Directors meeting on November 27th and will bring information back to the December Board meeting.

Trustee Comments:

Student Trustee Zack Scott

- Schools were involved in Remembrance Day ceremonies, many of which were organized by the students
- Widdifield hosted their annual Certification and Skills Training day where Grade 10, 11 and 12 students could take part in over 20 courses ranging from cooking to kickboxing and storytelling to SmartServe
- Students participated in a Special Olympics Bocce ball tournament at Almaguin
- Secondary teams have been practicing their cheers for the annual East/West game on Friday. Almaguin School is participating this year
- Life Literacy initiatives will be starting at Almaguin on December 16th. This will be a carousel type of activity with discussions on topics such as student loans, budgeting, credit cards etc. Other high schools will begin their initiatives in the new year.
- Mental Health activities are in the planning stages for events, and are likely to take place during Mental Health Week in May
- Student Senate has been working on Inclusive Events Guides to be distributed to all high schools. The goal is to encourage our school communities to be more accepting and inclusive. The guides will be individualized based on the needs of each school and it is the hope of Student Senate that future groups will continue this project.

Trustee Sargent

- Attended a Celebration of Innovation presentation at West Ferris School, celebrating academics, sports, STEAM and Apple successes.

Trustee Moffat

- Enjoyed both presentations this evening

Trustee Sheppard

- Has attended many Take Action presentations at various schools
- Was pleased to see the increase in EQAO marks at West Ferris School

Trustee Green

- Thanked those involved in the bargaining process. She was pleased to see the Board has a good working relationship with our unions
- Visited Magnetawan School and was struck at how wonderful our small schools are. She commended them for continuing to foster staff/student/parent relationships.

Trustee Beam

- Widdifield School will be hosting the First Lego League Robotics competition this week, with 11 teams expected to participate
- Commended teacher Marla Sunstrum for organizing a mass band/choir presentation at Widdifield School which takes place at 7:00 p.m. on November 25th. Bands from Chippewa, West Ferris, Widdifield, Parry Sound and Scollard will be performing.

Chair Thompson

- Thanked Trustee Beam and Superintendent Hewitt for their hard work on the negotiations.
- Indicated the Board has begun receiving cheques on the solar panels at Almaguin

Director's Report:

-attended a Celebration of Innovation at West Ferris School. This celebration highlighted the significant improvements in student OSSLT and EQAO math results, as well as the official recognition of the STEAM Program as an Apple Distinguished Program. The Apple Distinguished Program designation is reserved for programs that meet criteria for innovation, leadership, and educational excellence, and demonstrate Apple's vision of exemplary learning environments.

-publically recognized Superintendent of Business Liz Therrien, and Executive Assistants Melanie Simmonds, Carrie Girard and Lianne Bettiol for managing the challenging and often-changing scenarios on the day of the storm.

-Sports, Me to We, concerts and many other events are up and running in our schools

-Report Cards will be distributed to elementary students on December 11th

-Many activities took place during Bullying Prevention Week (November 15-20). Our focus was "Stand up to Bullying", with pay-it-forward activities, assemblies, pledges and banners, and many positive messages taking place within our schools. The Parent Involvement Committee presented a Buddy Bench to Evergreen School

-attended a round-table debrief regarding the new Parry Sound Public School. Attendees included staff, superintendents, the architect and the designer. All parties attended with a viewpoint of problem-solving.

Items for Decision:

EL#7 Financial Condition

15-11-11 Moved by Randy Sheppard, seconded by Michelina Beam
That the Board approve EL#7 Financial Condition as presented on
November 24, 2015.

CARRIED

Honoraria for Board Members

- 15-11-12 Moved by Michelina Beam, seconded by Jim Beatty
That the Board approve the revised Trustee Honoraria Policy for December 2015 and beyond as follows:
- a) Annual honorarium for Trustee (excluding Chair and Vice-Chair) for December 1, 2015 and onwards \$7,802.50;
 - b) Chair \$13,302.50 and Vice-Chair \$10,552.50;
 - c) \$50.00 distance allowance per Board meeting for each member eligible.

Superintendent Therrien explained the honoraria is calculated as follows:
Base amount of \$5,900 for every Trustee, with the Chair receiving an additional \$5,000 and the Vice-Chair receiving an additional \$2,500 over base. The enrolment amount has increased as the Board's enrolment has increased.

CARRIED

By-Law Levying Education Taxes for 2016

- 15-11-13 Moved by Al Bottomley, seconded by Randy Sheppard
Whereas subsection 257.7(1) of the *Education Act* (Act) requires the Board to levy the tax rates prescribed under section 257.12 of the Act;

And Whereas Ontario Regulation 400/98 prescribes the tax rates under subsection 257.12(1) of the Act;

Now Therefore the Board enacts as follows:

The rates set out in Ontario Regulation 400/98 for 2016 are hereby levied in localities within the area of jurisdiction of the Board on the property indicated in section 257.7 of the Act.

Dated this 24th day of November 2015.

CARRIED

Annual Report (Summary) to the Board of Trustees and Forwarded to the Ministry of Education for the Year Ended August 31, 2015

- 15-11-14 Moved by Jim Beatty, seconded by Louise Sargent
That the Board receives the Annual Report (Summary) to the Board of Trustees and Forwarded to the Ministry of Education for the Year Ended August 31, 2015 from the Audit Committee.

CARRIED

Annual Report to the Board of Trustees for the Year Ended August 31, 2015

15-11-15 Moved by Jim Beatty, seconded by Michelina Beam
That the Board receives the Annual Report to the Board of Trustees for the year ended August 31, 2015 from the Audit Committee as presented November 24, 2015.

CARRIED

Banking Services – Request to Extend Services to June 2017

15-11-16 Moved by Al Bottomley, seconded by Randy Sheppard
That the Board approve the Royal Bank contract for “Banking Services” be extended for one year for the period ending June 30, 2017.

CARRIED

Royal Bank of Canada – Borrowing Credit Facilities

15-11-17 Moved by Al Bottomley, seconded by Louise Sargent
That the Board pass via motion, each of the following Borrowing documents as attached:

1. Form 345 Resolution re: Borrowing for Current Expenditures and Debt Charges in the amount of \$12,572,000 payable no later than December 31, 2016;
2. Form 345 Resolution re: Borrowing for Current Expenditures and Debt Charges and Temporary Financing in the amount of \$20,000,000 payable no later than August 31, 2016; and
3. Form 351 Statement by Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer) re: Borrowing for Current Expenditures.

CARRIED

Notice of Motion:

Information/Discussion Items:

- Monthly Tender Report – October 12, 2015 to November 16, 2015
- Letter of sponsorship request from NNSRI FIRST Team 1305 Robotics dated October 14, 2015
- Trustee Expenditures for the Year Ended August 31, 2015
- School Energy Coalition Summary Status Report September 30, 2015
- Letter from Festival of the Sound dated October 21, 2015
- Letter from Action Sports Enterprises

Public Question Period

In-Camera Items

Ratification of Business Transacted in Private Session

15-11-18 Moved by Randy Sheppard, seconded by Jim Beatty
That the Board ratify the following items from Private Session:
* Personnel

CARRIED

Chair Thompson thanked the Federation partners for their continued work.

Motion to Adjourn

15-11-19 Moved by Al Bottomley, seconded by Jim Beatty
That the Board meeting of November 24, 2015 adjourn at 7:31 p.m.

CARRIED

David Thompson
Chairperson

Jackie Young
Director of Education