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David Thompson, Chairperson

Jackie Young, Director of Education

Item# 2.9

The June 28, 2016 **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
Al Bottomley
Harry Fry
Paul Moffat
Louise Sargent
Zack Scott – Student Trustee

Administrative Staff Present:

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

Trustees Present in Parry Sound:

Jim Beatty – Vice-Chair
Carol Stevens

Administrative Staff Present in Parry Sound:

Tim Graves, Superintendent of Schools

Regrets:

Corine Green

Administrative Regrets:

Jeff Hewitt, Superintendent of Support Services

Public (North Bay)

Parker Robinson

Public (Parry Sound)

Public (Almaguin)

Judy Arai

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Call to Order

Chairperson Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Attendance

Attendance indicated that 9 Trustees plus the Student Trustee were present for this meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

16-06-06 Moved by Al Bottomley, seconded by Michelina Beam
That the Board approve the agenda as presented for the Public Session meeting of June 28, 2016.

CARRIED

Minutes from Previous Meetings of Near North District School Board

16-06-07 Moved by Al Bottomley, seconded by Harry Fry
That the Board approve the minutes as presented for the meetings held:
• May 24, 2016

CARRIED

Celebrating Near North District School Board Success:

Special presentation by Chair Thompson to Student Trustee Zack Scott.

Chair Thompson thanked Zack for his outstanding contributions during the 2015-2016 school year, and his advocacy for student voice.

Committee Reports – enclosures

The Board acknowledges receipt of the following reports:

- Parental Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes – April 27, 2016
- Multi-Year Planning Committee Minutes – May 17, 2016
- SEAC Meeting Minutes – May 19, 2016
- Audit Committee Minutes – June 13, 2016
- Capital Plan Update – verbal – Trustee Beam – an additional meeting will take place on July 5th at 4:00 p.m.
- Multi-Year Plan Update – verbal – Trustee Moffat - over the next few months there will be recommendations put forward on some language changes.

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Information/Discussion Items:

- Monthly Tender Report – May 16, 2016 to June 1, 2016
- Letter from Thames Valley DSB dated May 24, 2016
- Letter to Treetop Community Project from Near North DSB dated May 26, 2016
- Letter from Parry Sound Area Active Transportation dated March 7, 2016. Chair Thompson will send a formal acknowledgement of receipt of the letter.
- Letter from the Bluewater DSB re: response from OFSAA dated June 9, 2016

Meeting Dates:

Conflict of Interest

None declared

Question Period

Presentations by Public

Student Achievement and Well-Being: Improving Literacy Skills

Principal of Program Melanie Gray introduced K-6 Math Facilitator Melissa Peddie, and Family of Schools Vice-Principal Chris Walkling, who spoke on Blended Learning in the Primary Mathematics classroom.

DreamBox Learning is an online software provider which focuses on Mathematics education at the elementary and intermediate levels. DreamBox Learning provides a unique learning experience for each student, based on what learning gaps and needs the student has, as identified by DreamBox. In the Near North District School Board, DreamBox is currently placed at the Grade 2 level, with approximately 650 students utilizing the program.

Teachers are feeling better equipped when discussing strategies, and are deepening their own understanding of Math. DreamBox has had an incredible impact on student learning, increasing confidence and visual communication skills.

Parents have access to data about their child through the Parent Dashboard. A letter has been sent to parents to encourage their children to continue using DreamBox throughout the summer.

Students:

- Are averaging 58 minutes on DreamBox per week
- Are averaging 5.7 lessons per week, which exceeds the target of 5 lessons per week
- 46% of Near North Grade 2 students are active daily

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Almaguin Highlands – School Data Tells a School’s Story

Superintendent Craig Myles introduced Almaguin School Principal Donna Breault. Principal Breault shared with Trustees that Almaguin’s data scores have been low for the past number of years, namely EQAO and OSSLT. She shared a Powerpoint presentation entitled “Our Data Tells Our Story”.

“Who we are as a school”

- Almaguin students attend school from 11 different communities, covering a large geographical area
- 100% of Almaguin students are bussed to school
- There is no mass transportation in the region, and there is a lack of reliable internet
- The Almaguin student food budget is \$15,000-\$25,000 yearly, depending on funding
- Regional working group studying socio-economic trends in region – some data includes lowest median age 45.7 years, large numbers of seniors, median income below poverty level in many townships

What does that mean for Almaguin Highlands?

- Grade 9 Math (2014-2015) – 79% of Almaguin students taking Applied level Math are students with special education needs compared to 47% for the Near North DSB.
- OSSLT (2015-2016) – 47% of Almaguin students who wrote the OSSLT are students with special education needs compared to 36% for the Near North DSB and 19% for the province.
- 31% (Applied) and 32% (Academic) of our students have attended three or more elementary schools from Kindergarten to Grade 8.
- Data from Grade 3 to Grade 6 to the OSSLT – 69% of Almaguin students who were not successful on the OSSLT also never met the standard on Grade 3 and 6 EQAO tests in reading.

Working with Almaguin data:

- The school has developed a school data team
- There has been much discussion and gathering of information about the data
- Naming and knowing our data – making sure that we know who is our data, names/faces of our students, whole school ownership of our students and their success, challenges with addressing lagging skills.
- Collaborative Inquiry groups working with our feeder schools – data walls
- Specific and targeted supports
- Use of 20+ community scribes

Next Steps:

- Almaguin has worked hard to change the culture and have just completed the first year of a permanent culture shift
- Almaguin has been identified as a school that is in need of intense support, which is good news
- Instructional coach (choices Almaguin has made through Student Success/Special Education sections) will work with Grade 9 and 10 Applied level Math and English classes
- Continued work with our data, feeder schools – working on improving the consistency with teaching strategies, use of specific vocabulary, working memory group
- Student voice and mentoring – stories are important

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

Previous Referrals:

Terms of Reference for the Committee of the Whole – referred April 26, 2016

Terms of Reference for the Trustee Initiative Fund – referred April 26, 2016

Items for referral to the Policy Committee

OPSBA Reports – Trustee Michelina Beam

- Attended the OPSBA AGM in Ottawa in June. Laurie French from Limestone DSB was acclaimed as the organization's new President.
- Attended many little sessions which were offered. Various Boards shared presentations to celebrate fun things taking place. Trustee Beam shared a presentation on TOROS, which is celebrating its 30th year.
- Was able to bring back some valuable information to the Audit Committee
- OPSBA AGM Presentations re: Municipal Elections and Private Meetings are posted on the OPSBA website. Information Officer Carrie Girard will forward these to Trustees as well.

Trustee Comments:

Trustee Stevens:

- SEAC has asked her to identify a location and date for an upcoming PowWow as committee members wish to attend one in order to learn from and experience an indigenous ceremony
- Is proud of her position as a First Nation Trustee, and is pleased with the sharing of culture which is taking place
- She is pleased agencies and organizations are willing to understand the value of her nation, culture and ceremonies

Trustee Bottomley

- Attended an Appreciation Day at Land of Lakes. He visited the new gardens and was impressed by the knowledge the young gardeners shared
- Attended Sundridge Centennial – students were very enthusiastic about their new flower garden. He also attended the Grade 2 Poetry Café.
- Questioned on why the contractor doesn't recycle the same items as the local communities recycle. (eg. juice boxes, milk cartons). Superintendent Therrien will check in to it and get back with an answer.
- Attended Council meetings in Perry/Machar/Magnetawan with the Chair and Director. Municipalities are pleased that Principal of Capital Planning Gay Smylie, and Capital Projects Manager Marianne Speirs have been visiting the communities.
- Attended the final graduation at Land of Lakes on June 24th

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Trustee Beam

- Attended the regional PIC workshop. Speaker George Couros spoke to parents on embracing technology and connecting with your children.
- Attended the Laurentian Learning Centre graduation BBQ
- Attended the closing-out BBQ at Trusler
- Attended the W.J. Fricker graduation
- Attended the final King George graduation
- Will be attending graduations at Widdifield S.S. and Chippewa S.S.
- Reported that a number of our students competed in the International Theatre Festival in Nebraska and were the only Canadians in attendance at the festival. Nick Bogale from Widdifield S.S. was chosen to be part of the Opening Ceremonies.
- Thanked the staff for all of their hard work this year.

Trustee Fry:

- Attended the regional PIC workshop and heard George Couros speak
- Visited Ferris Glen and Phelps schools
- Attended the Near North DSB celebration for retiring staff and 25-year recipients
- Attended a graduation at Mapleridge
- Thanked staff for all of their hard work, commenting on the extensive knowledge and experience of the administrative staff.

Trustee Moffat:

- Was pleased with the focus on some major areas of significance this past year
- Wished all staff and Trustees a safe, happy summer

Trustee Sargent:

- Thanked Director Young for once again bringing in informative presentations
- Thanked staff and senior administration for all of their assistance this year
- Attended Whitewoods, Silver Birches and West Ferris graduations, and will be attending J.W. Trusler's graduation tomorrow and West Ferris Secondary graduation on Thursday.
- Wished Student Trustee Zack Scott success in his upcoming studies and is looking forward to sitting beside incoming Student Trustee Ty Meighan next year.

Chair Thompson

- Thanked Trustee Beam for the TOROS presentation at the OPSBA AGM.
- Thanked Trustee Bottomley for organizing the council meetings
- Thanked Gay Smylie and Marianne Speirs for their diligence in meeting with townships and municipalities
- Attended the BBQ at the Laurentian Learning Centre and heard many amazing success stories.

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Student Trustee Zack Scott

School Updates

- Athletes from Almaguin Highlands competed in a Special Olympics Bocce Ball competition where they were crowned division champions.
- Northern hosted a conference to empower young women at the school
- Parry Sound High School raised \$22,000 for Relay for Life
- Chippewa hosted its annual Thunderbirds Dance Festival that was a great success
- Secondary students have now finished exams and are enjoying their summers, while graduating students are getting ready for prom and graduation

Senate Updates

- At the last Student Senate meeting, senators made 2 major changes to the constitution and the way senate functions:
 - The Laurentian Learning Centre has been added to the list of schools eligible to send students to meetings, and
 - Senators also created an FNMI Senator position. These are two big steps towards ensuring that the Student Senate accurately represents the voices of all students.
- The Student Senate released a survey earlier this month and had over 850 students respond to it. The questions covered life literacy, mental health, and aboriginal culture and inclusion, and the results will be used to shape future senate initiatives.

OSTA-AECO

- From May 26 to 29, incoming Student Trustee Ty Meighan and I had the chance to attend the OSTA-AECO AGM in Toronto where we had the opportunity to network with not only students from across the province, but with Directors and Trustees as well. In round table discussion with Directors from other school boards, we were able to share details on the senate's Life Literacy initiative which sparked a lot of interest.
- We also had the opportunity to hear from guest speakers including former Minister of Education Liz Sandals and the Honourable David Onley.
- At the end of the weekend, Ty was elected to the Public Board Council Cabinet as the Northern Representative.

Closing Remarks

As the academic year draws to an end, all that remains is for me to pass on the torch. I would like to thank the board for their tireless support of the Student Senate and all of our initiatives.

Sue Walker and Melanie Simmonds, you are the true heroes behind the success of senate and without your support, student voice would not be as strong as it is.

Sean Ruddy, Julie Price-Martel and Superintendent Myles, your wisdom and guidance throughout the past year has enabled us to implement meaningful initiatives like Life Literacy that have succeeded, and will continue to succeed in the future.

To Superintendent Bowness, Amanda Mattias-Mizzi, Sue Lessard, Lotje Hives, Sandee Guidon, and all the staff at the Near North Board who I have failed to mention by name, thank you for providing the resources and expertise needed in order to develop impactful initiatives and for always inviting students to join the conversation.

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To my fellow Trustees, thank you for always being open to hearing from students and for recognizing the importance of student voice at this table.

This past year has been an amazing learning experience and I am sure that next year's senate will take student voice to a new level under Ty's leadership. Thank you all for a great year.

Director's Report: Director Jackie Young

- Hands The Family Help Network unveiled a one-of-a-kind art display this week, which was created, designed and donated by Widdifield Secondary School students. The artwork was a semester-long project for the Grade 11 students and was donated to Hands to help create a welcoming space for children, youth and families receiving services. It took a lot of dedication, creativity and careful planning by everyone involved at Widdifield to produce such a large, awe-inspiring piece. The artwork covers a space spanning two walls, one 15 feet tall, the other 18 feet wide, and has already made quite the impression on Hands' staff and clients.
- Once again this year, the Near North District School Board is offering a wide range of learning opportunities for students this summer. Credit courses are offered in all three regions of the district, including reach-ahead, upgrading and remediation. Opportunities include classroom-based, cooperative education, e-Learning, TOROS production of West Side Story, and experiential learning credits at the Canadian Ecology Centre in Mattawa.
- Two of our schools (Argyle and Widdifield) are submitting footage of their graduation ceremonies to the Ministry of Education for consideration in a provincial television commercial focused on demonstrating the many programs in our schools that help students reach their full potential.
- On Saturday, May 28, 2016 keynote speaker, George Couros travelled to all three regions of our Board to present to parents about innovative student learning and engagement, particularly through the embracement of technology. The event was hosted by our Parent Involvement Committee. The day was a huge success, with lots of learning, laughing and even some tears!
- The week of June 17 was Bike Week at Alliance Public School. All week long, students used their bikes in many different ways to build on their abilities, increase their confidence and learn safe riding techniques.
- On June 16, students at Laurentian Learning Centre unveiled Randy's Rock Garden - to honour retired Trustee Randy Sheppard's dedication to alternative learning for the past 28 years. The garden was built by students.
- On June 13, Almaguin Highlands students participated in a mock crash to demonstrate the dangers of distracted driving. The event was hosted in partnership with local emergency responders and has been going strong for the last 10 years. Kudos to Grade 12 student Jess Coombs, who spearheads the schools OSAID chapter and team.

Director Young walked Trustees through the enclosed templates – Executive Council Implementation Plan and Project Planner.

She thanked staff and Trustees for a wonderful year, commenting it was staggering what the Board has accomplished.

She also shared a special thank you to the union partners and looks forward to continuing the positive relationship.

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Items for Decision:

EL#7 Financial Condition

16-06-08 Moved by Al Bottomley, seconded by Paul Moffat
That the Board approve EL#7 Financial Condition as presented on
June 28, 2016.

CARRIED

Budget

16-06-20 Moved by Paul Moffat, seconded by Harry Fry
That the Board approve the 2016-2017 Budget as recommended from the Budget
Committee meeting of June 23, 2016.

CARRIED

Surplus Property

16-06-09 Moved by Paul Moffat, seconded by Al Bottomley
That the Board declare King George Public School as surplus to its needs.

CARRIED

16-06-10 Moved by Al Bottomley, seconded by Michelina Beam
That the Board declare Dr. MacDougall Public School as surplus to its needs.

CARRIED

16-06-11 Moved by Al Bottomley, seconded by Harry Fry
That the Board declare J.W. Trusler Public School as surplus to its needs.

CARRIED

Election of Student Trustee

16-06-12 Moved by Michelina Beam, seconded by Al Bottomley
That the Board appoint Ty Meighan as the Student Trustee for the 2016-2017 school
year.

CARRIED

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The Annual Special Education Report on the Provision of Special Education Programs and Services

16-06-13 Moved by Paul Moffat, seconded by Michelina Beam
That the Board approve the updated Special Education Plan as presented June 28, 2016.

CARRIED

Royal Bank of Canada – Borrowing Credit Facilities

16-06-14 Moved by Al Bottomley, seconded by Harry Fry
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 and Temporary Financing in the amount of \$12,572,000 payable no later than April 30th, 2017; and
2. Form 345 Resolution re: Borrowing for Current Expenditures and Debt Charges and Temporary Financing in the amount of \$8,350,000 payable no later than May 31st, 2017.

CARRIED

Audit Committee Multi-Year Plan

16-06-15 Moved by Michelina Beam, seconded by Jim Beatty
That the Board approve the internal audit for 2016/2017 be Health & Safety with follow-up on School Generated Funds Audits.

CARRIED

Appointment of External Auditors

16-06-16 Moved by Michelina Beam, seconded by Al Bottomley
That the Board approve the appointment of BDO Dunwoody, External Auditor for a period of Three (3) years with the option of two (2), one (1) year extensions.

CARRIED

EL#11 Amended Student Accommodation Policy

EL#15 Amended Community Planning and Partnerships Policy (formerly Partnerships)

16-06-17 Moved by Paul Moffat, seconded by Al Bottomley
That the Board approve the policies EL#11 Student Accommodation and EL#15 Community Planning and Partnerships as presented on June 28, 2016.

CARRIED

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Notice of Motion

Public Question Period

Ratification of Business Transacted in Private Session

16-06-18 Moved by Paul Moffat, seconded by Harry Fry
That the Board ratify the following items from Private Session:

- Personnel

CARRIED

Motion to Adjourn

16-06-19 Moved by Al Bottomley, seconded by Michelina Beam
That the Board meeting of June 28, 2016 adjourn at 7:48 p.m.

CARRIED

David Thompson
Chairperson

Jackie Young
Director of Education