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David Thompson, Chair

Jackie Young, Director of Education

The March 28, 2017 **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:

Michelina Beam
Louise Sargent
Ty Meighan – Student Trustee

Administrative Staff Present:

Amanda Meighan, Acting Superintendent of Support Services

Trustees Present in Parry Sound:

Jim Beatty – Vice Chair
Corine Green
Carol Stevens

Administrative Staff Present in Parry Sound:

Tim Graves, Superintendent of Schools
Melanie Gray, Acting Executive Officer

Trustees Present in Almaguin:

David Thompson, Chair
Al Bottomley
Harry Fry

Administrative Staff Present in Almaguin:

Roz Bowness, Superintendent of Schools
Craig Myles, Superintendent of Student Success
Gay Smylie, Acting Executive Officer
Liz Therrien, Superintendent of Business
Jackie Young, Director of Education
Carrie Girard, Executive Assistant

Trustee Regrets:

Paul Moffat

Trustees Absent:

Public (North Bay)

Glenn Morrison
Rocco Frangione (106.3 Moose FM)

Public (Parry Sound)

Public (Almaguin)

Steve Tompkins

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Call to Order

Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Attendance

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

Approval of the Agenda

17-03-13 Moved by Harry Fry, seconded by Al Bottomley
That the Board approve the agenda as presented for the Public Session meeting of March 28, 2017.

CARRIED

Conflict of Interest

None declared.

Minutes from Previous Meetings of Near North District School Board

17-03-14 Moved by Harry Fry, seconded by Michelina Beam
That the Board approve the minutes as presented for the meetings held:

- **January 24, 2017 (Amended)**
- **February 28, 2017**
- **March 3, 2017 - Special Board Meeting**

CARRIED

Trustee Fry noted that the minutes from the February 28, 2017 Board Meeting should have referenced that he attended the Rob Nash presentation at the Capitol Centre with F.J. McElligott.

Celebrating Near North District School Board Success:

Special Olympics – Almaguin Highlands Secondary School

Almaguin Highlands Secondary School Principal Donna Breault introduced Special Olympics athlete Hudson Booth. Hudson shared his passion and enthusiasm for sports and competing. He enjoys meeting people from other schools and supporting other teams. Last year, they made it to Provincials and hope to go again this year. So far, they have won all of their competitions.

Most students in the Personal Life Management Program at Almaguin Highlands are able to participate in these wonderful opportunities.

Special Olympics is active in many schools throughout the board.

Student Achievement and Well Being:

Student Vaping Poster Initiative – Almaguin Highlands Secondary School

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Almaguin Highlands Secondary School Principal Donna Breault introduced the dangers of vaping. Administration is becoming increasingly concerned as more and more students are vaping. Vaping affects the health and well-being of students, staff and school communities.

E-cigarettes and vaping paraphernalia are marketed as though they are not dangerous to our health and they are easy for minors to purchase. It is an unregulated industry with no legislation behind it in Canada, which is why raising the awareness about the dangers of vaping and e-cigarettes is so important.

Student Trustee Ty Meighan confirmed that vaping is very present in schools and that many students are not aware or concerned about the potential risks. Many parents are also not aware of the risks. Education is key to awareness.

Not only are e-cigarettes are being used by students without knowing what is contained in the product, but students are vaping to get high. School administrators have no way of detecting the contents of an e-cigarette because the smell is odourless.

Of further concern are the batteries that can malfunction and explode.

Administrators are now approaching vaping in the same way they approach cigarette smoking. A new administrative guideline is being developed to provide school administrators with a policy to work from. The policy will be shared with the Board when it is developed. The posters that were developed at Almaguin Highlands Secondary School are impressive and will be integrated into the awareness campaign when the new guideline is unveiled across the system.

The Board of Trustees expressed interest in taking a provincial leadership position on this issue. Principal Breault was recognized for taking a lead on this issue.

Trustee Beam will bring this issue forward to OPSBA and Chair Thompson will draft a letter to the Minister of Education, local MP, MPP and district Health Unit.

Safe Schools Update – Acting Executive Officer Gay Smylie

School Climate surveys will come out toward the end of April. Trustees will be advised when the survey is released.

Staff use a progressive discipline approach in our schools. Positive intervention and prevention strategies are used for those that need additional support.

Meeting Dates:

- Committee of the Whole Meeting – date TBA
- Budget Workshop – date TBA

A Budget Workshop will be set when the GSN's are released by the Ministry of Education. The date is not known at this time.

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Information/Discussion Items:

- Monthly Tender Report for the Period February 20, 2017 to March 20, 2017
- Waterloo Region District School Board Letter to Minister of Education Mitzie Hunter, RE: Lack of Qualified French Teachers, February 10, 2017
- Waterloo Region District School Board Letter to Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC), RE: OUAC Fee, February 27, 2017
- Ministry of Education Update on Pupil Accommodation Reviews and Support for Education Rural and Remote Communities, March 6, 2017
- Resolution from the Municipality of McDougall, RE: New JK-12 School in Parry Sound, March 15, 2017

Trustee Thompson will draft a letter for Trustee consideration in support of the Waterloo Region District School Board's request to OUAC regarding fees.

Question Period:

N/A

Presentations by Public:

N/A

Committee Reports:

- Audit Committee Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2017 (Private and Public)
- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting Minutes – February 16, 2017
- Parry Sound JK-12 Building Committee Meeting Minutes – February 16, 2017 (Private)
- Parry Sound JK-12 Building Committee Meeting Minutes – February 23, 2017 (Private)
- Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes (Private and Public) – March 6, 2017
- Transportation Appeal Committee Meeting Minutes – March 14, 2017 (Private)

Previous Referrals:

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

Pending - Terms of Reference for the Trustee Initiative Fund –April 26, 2016 referred to 2017 budget Discussions

During the next Committee of the Whole meeting, both referred items will be discussed.

OPSBA Reports – Trustee Michelina Beam

Trustee Beam attended the Northern Directors Meeting on March 3-7, 2017. OPSBA shared notes from the meeting with the Minister of Education earlier this yet and are hopeful that she will attend to some of the issues that were raised.

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Trustees were reminded to please complete the OPSBA survey regarding Trustee honouraria.

Trustee associations have brought forward several concerns forward with the amendments to Bill 92 School Boards Collective Bargaining Amendment Act.

The Ministry is piloting a project on financial literacy through the Grade 10 Careers course. They are also targeting digital literacy and entrepreneurship. There are no northern schools involved in the content specific to financial literacy.

Trustee Comments:

Student Trustee Ty Meighan:

- The feedback from the Robb Nash presentation was overwhelmingly positive and really made an impact on students.
- Two Student Senators were recognized for their outstanding contributions. Danby Harrison from Northern was presented with the Student Who Make a Difference Award and Nick Bogel was selected to represent Board and sang a beautiful rendition of Hallelujah.
- Students are preparing for their second opportunity to complete the OSSLT. Trustee Meighan has heard among his peers that students are accepting the re-write and there are no major objections. Students, however of all ability levels seem frustrated with the amount of preparation that was wasted on the previous test and the amount of preparation that is currently needed.
- The March Senate meeting was held earlier today and senators were able to share their personalized life literacy proposals for their school.
- Student Senate had an opportunity to meet the Syrian, Mexican and Vietnamese students at Widdifield.
- Senators are working to recruit a new senator at their school for 2017-2018 and they have discussed the process for electing a Student Trustee.
- Trustee Meighan has been invited to share the Life Literacy work that Student Senate has taken on with Principals on April 12
- Student Senate has put forward a Board wide hashtag which will be unveiled soon.

Trustee Sargent:

- Attended the recent SEAC meeting and especially enjoyed the LDAO presentation.
- Attended the recent ARC public meeting.
- Thanked Principal Breault for bringing forward the vaping concerns. She hopes the Board can proceed on this issue.
- A special thank you to staff across the district for their support of the Special Olympics activities in our schools.

Trustee Moffat:

N/A

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Trustee Fry:

- Attended two of the four workshops featuring George Couchie.
- Ferris Glen's School Advisory Council is working hard on library renewal for their school.
- Trustee Fry participated with Trustee Bottomley on the Former Land of Lakes Naming committee and a short list of names has been developed.
- Attending a Sears Drama event at F.J. McElligott Public School.
- Continues to be impressed by the depth and breadth of all the work staff are involved in.

Trustee Stevens:

- Trustee Stevens has been meeting with principals and Special Education teams over the last three weeks.
- Attended a workshop about infusing and sharing indigenous culture.

Trustee Green:

- Attended a healthy schools event at Humphrey Public School which was very well attended.
- Students performed very well in the recent Music Fest.
- The School Advisory Council is hosting a bake sale at Parry Sound High School.

Trustee Beatty:

N/A

Trustee Bottomley:

- Trustee Bottomley also enjoyed the LDOA presentation at the recent SEAC meeting and hopes the presenter can visit the East area.
- Was not able to attend the ARC meeting as the Naming Committee for the Former Land of Lakes was on the same evening.
- Noted that he is seeing younger children at local schools and hopes that trend continues.

Trustee Beam:

- Congratulated Student Senate on their Financial Literacy initiatives
- Noted that music regionals were held last week and that the Parry Sound band is headed to Nationals.
- The Sears Drama Festival is happening and the Board is well represented.
- The North Bay FIRST Regionals is taking place on April 7-8 at Nipissing University.

Chair Thompson:

N/A

Director's Report: Director Jackie Young

- Representatives from the Georgian Bay Biosphere presented at a recent Principals Meeting, sharing all of the wonderful opportunities the organization provides for students and the community
- A special thank you to Principal Donna Breault and Vice Principal Sue Fawcett for their hospitality and hosting the Board meeting.
- The 30th Annual Evening of Applause took place on March 23 as part of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The event features nominated and deserving students from Kindergarten to post-secondary from all four school boards and educational institutions across Nipissing District. Congratulations to our elementary and secondary winners from Vincent Massey, Ferris Glen, W.J. Fricker and Northern Secondary School.
- A special congratulations to Amanda Mathias Mizzi, teacher and program coordinator with us, who was inducted into the Nipissing District Human Rights Hall of Fame. In her role as the board lead for Indigenous Education, Amanda has demonstrated true leadership in increasing awareness around Indigenous culture, traditions, perspectives and world-views, both supporting schools and contributing to many activities within the larger community.
- ARC Committee work is well-underway. Their first working committee meeting took place on March 22 the ARC Committee added an additional public meeting on April 18 at W.J. Fricker hear feedback from the public on the recommendation outlined in the Initial Staff Report and alternative options. The final public meeting is scheduled for May 8 and the Trustees make their final decision at the June 27 Board Meeting in Public Session.

Items for Decision:

EL#7 Financial Condition

17-03-15 Moved by Al Bottomley, seconded by Harry Fry
That the Board approve EL#7 Financial Condition as presented on March 28, 2017.

CARRIED

Notice of Motion:

Public Question Period:

Ratification of Business Transacted in Private Session

17-03-16 Moved by Al Bottomley, seconded by Carol Stevens
That the Board ratify the following items from Private Session:

- **Personnel**
- **Property**
- **Legal**

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CARRIED

Motion to Adjourn

17-03-17 Moved by Al Bottomley, seconded by Harry Fry
That the Board meeting of March 28, 2017 adjourn at 8:23 p.m.

CARRIED

David Thompson
Chair

Jackie Young
Director of Education