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David Thompson, Chair

Jackie Young, Director of Education

The April 25, 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:

David Thompson, Chair
Michelina Beam
Al Bottomley
Harry Fry
Louise Sargent

Administrative Staff Present:

Jackie Young, Director of Education
Liz Therrien, Superintendent of Business
Roz Bowness, Superintendent of Schools
Amanda Meighan, Acting Superintendent of Support Services
Gay Smylie, Acting Executive Officer
Carrie Girard, Executive Assistant

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:

Administrative Staff Present in Almaguin:

Craig Myles, Superintendent of Student Success

Trustee Regrets:

Paul Moffat
Ty Meighan – Student Trustee

Trustees Absent:

Public (North Bay)

Glenn Morrison
Rocco Frangione (106.3 Moose FM)
Tammy Martel
Lyne Kelly
Rob Roy

Public (Parry Sound)

Glen Hodgson
Sarah Bissonette

Public (Almaguin)

Liz Simzer
Judy Arai

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Call to Order

Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Attendance

Attendance indicated that 8 Trustees were present for this meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

17-04-08 Moved by Louise Sargent, seconded by Al Bottomley
That the Board approve the agenda as presented for the Public Session meeting of April 25, 2017.

CARRIED

Conflict of Interest

None declared.

Minutes from Previous Meetings of Near North District School Board

17-04-09 Moved by Michelina Beam, seconded by Harry Fry
That the Board approve the minutes as presented for the meetings held:
• **March 28, 2017**

CARRIED

Celebrating Near North District School Board Success:

Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve

Rebecca Pollock and Delaina Arnold from the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve recently attended a Principals' meeting and were pleased to share the same information with Trustees.

The Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve has been a significant community partner with the Board, working over last 10 years with schools in the Parry Sound area. They can provide opportunities for students across the Near North district.

Some of the educational opportunities offered to schools include species-at-risk education, "*Lessons in a Backpack*" as well other opportunities. A focus for the organization is providing schools with tools to learn in their own school yards. Their website <http://www.gbbr.ca/> offers a wide variety of information and resources for teachers and the community.

Teacher and principal champions, along with representatives from Indigenous partners and Canadore College belong to the organization's Education Advisory Committee.

The organization is looking to formalize their partnership with the Board to assist in securing more grants.

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Student Achievement and Well Being:

Humphrey Public School Health Adventure and Outdoor Learning Space

Humphrey Public School principal Steve Krause along with students Eden Graves and Joy Downey attended the meeting to share the exciting initiatives happening at their school, led by their provincially recognized EcoTeam.

As part of the school's Awesome Health Adventure initiative, community partners and the Board's Mental Health lead, Sue Lessard hosted an evening workshop to bring awareness about inclusion and acceptance among students and parents. They were pleased with such a great turn out.

An outdoor classroom is now in the final planning stages for the forested area behind the school. This began as a student-led initiative to get students outside and learning about their environment. The project is dedicated in memory of Fynn Bywater.

The outdoor classroom contains a pollinators garden with local plants and other beds that will be used as a food garden. A grant, along with a donation from the School Advisory Council has made the project possible. Landscaping and planting will be done by volunteers.

Trustees congratulated students on their efforts as this is a great use of school property. The project is a good model for other schools and sends a powerful message about the importance of connecting with the land. Trustees encouraged presenters to share any volunteering opportunities with them.

Meeting Dates:

- Committee of the Whole – at the call of the Chair - May.
- Budget Workshop – at the call of the Chair - toward the end of May.
- Audit – at the call of the Chair - June.

Information/Discussion Items:

- Monthly Tender Report – March 20, 2017 – April 14, 2017
- Letter from Township of Bonfield, RE: Support for Policy to Install AEDs in Schools, March 28, 2017
- Administrative Guideline: Tobacco Free Environment

Chair Thompson will prepare a response to the Township of Bonfield acknowledging that all of our schools have AEDs installed.

A letter will be sent to higher levels of government about the importance of raising awareness about the dangers of vaping. Vaping has been a recent topic of conversation at OPSBA. OPSBA will be included in the letter that is sent.

Question Period:

N/A

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Presentations by Public:

N/A

Committee Reports:

- First Nations Advisory Committee (FNAC) Meeting Minutes, February 22, 2017
- Land of Lakes Renaming Committee Meeting Minutes, February 27, 2017
- Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes, March 23, 2017
- Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting (SEAC) Minutes, March 23, 2017
- Land of Lakes Renaming Committee Meeting Minutes, March 27, 2017

Items for Referral to the Finance/Committee of the Whole:

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

OPSBA Reports – Trustee Michelina Beam

The Board of Directors meeting took place last weekend. Topics of discussion included an overview on the recent release of Grants for Student Needs (GSNs) as well as the challenges of an accommodation review.

A letter from the Minister of Education was received acknowledging that there are outstanding items from the meeting earlier this year that have yet to be addressed. OPSBA is hopeful discussion on these outstanding items will come forward mid-May.

A review of the transportation funding model was announced with a 12-18 month stakeholder engagement period expected. With the many school consolidations that have taken place over the years, the funding model has not changed.

There was discussion about a multi-ministerial Special Needs Strategy for Ontario to help kids get timely support services. More information will be coming on this topic.

The OPSBA budget and priorities were presented and reviewed.

Policy resolutions were presented and member boards made recommendations for Executive Council review.

Laurie French, President of OPSBA provided a response to recent issues in the York Region District School Board and noted that the viability of school boards has been called into question. Trustees are an important part of the democratic process and Chair Thompson encouraged trustees to read her response.

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Trustee Comments:

Student Trustee Ty Meighan:

- Jack.org has presented at a few schools and will be presenting at more soon. Feedback from students is extremely positive.
- Schools are beginning their SAC elections, students are excited to be able to select who will represent them on their executive and general councils.
- Senators were asked to highlight one of the deserving youths in their school, who are making a difference known as “Student of the Month”

F.J. McElligott - Grade 12 student, Kendra Beauchamp was recognized. She has been a great help in planning the financial literacy week and has also stepped up to be the lead in the Prom Committee. She’s done amazing work (which is not a school sponsored event, but still represents student voice).

Chippewa - Sydney Bell is a grade 12 student and is the editor of the yearbook. She has been working tirelessly over the past few weeks to meet all of the deadlines. She has gone above and beyond the original commitment to make sure that the school does not lose the tradition of having a yearbook.

Widdifield - Abbey Tanner is applauded for spearheading the organization for the Jack.org presentations and was recognized by her Widdifield peers.

West Ferris - Jessica Kelso has created a remarkable 3D printed prosthetic hand to help kids in need. Jessica works so hard and is making a difference!

Northern - Northern’s Students as Researchers (StAR) team is making great advances and we wish to recognize them.

- On April 12, Student Trustee Meighan attended the Principals’/Vice Principals’ meeting in Parry Sound and had the opportunity to present Life Literacy alongside a fellow senator Justine Levesque.
- Student Trustee Meighan commend his peers Riley and Emily who sit alongside him on the ARC committee representing student voice. The process is rewarding and a meaningful learning opportunity. It has been a significant investment of time and energy.
- The next Senate Meeting will be held on April 27 at Chippewa.

Trustee Sargent:

- The ARC Committee has toured all of the schools under review. Several working meetings have taken place.
- She attended *Turning Points* hosted by the Learning Partnership. Trustee Sargent was asked to be a judge and commented on how amazing the student writing was. On May 2, awards will be given out at Nipissing University. Phelps, Widdifield, West Ferris and Almaguin Highlands participated.

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Trustee Moffat:

- N/A

Trustee Fry:

- Expressed his support of how important Financial Literacy is for students.
- Plans to attend Maurice Switzer's presentation in Parry Sound.
- Will be attending OPSBA's Rural and Northern School Board meeting on May 24.
- Congratulated the Sears Drama Festival participants and winners.

Trustee Stevens:

- Visited Britt, Nobel and Parry Sound High School which involved conversations with Special Education teams, focusing on technology to enhance student learning.

Trustee Green:

- Thanked Chair Thompson for his commitment to rising awareness about Ontario's Rural Education Strategy. She encouraged trustees and the public to review the Ministry's consultation paper on the subject.

Trustee Beatty:

- N/A

Trustee Bottomley:

- Staff and community members are preparing to close M.A. Wittick. Trustee Bottomley suggested that the local historical society might be interested in some of the items.
- Conversations are still ongoing about Alternative Education in Burk's Falls.
- Almaguin Highlands students produced their own maple syrup, which was a great learning opportunity.
- Looking forward to the opening of the new Land of Lakes. He is hoping that Trustees can get in for a tour soon.

Trustee Beam:

- Attended OPSBA's Labour Relations sessions on April 6-7, 2017.
- Congratulated all of the students who participated in the Sears Drama Festival. A special note that West Ferris students have advanced to Provincials.
- Will be attending the full-day Rural Education consultation in Markstay. An evening session will be available to the public.

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Chair Thompson:

- Congratulated organizers on the recent Grade 7-8 hockey tournament. There were about 150 male and female players from all boards who participated.
- Excited that the NNSRI Robotics Team 1305 is going to the 14th Annual World Championships.

Director's Report: Director Jackie Young

- West Ferris will represent Northern Ontario at the Sears Ontario Drama Festival next weekend in Chatham with their production of Text or Die! West Ferris student Julian Kasten received an Award of Excellence for his lighting design.
 - Almaguin Highlands received an Award of Excellence with their production of Anonymous.
 - Widdifield received an Award of Excellence to Hailey Ferguson for her costume design in their production of The Crazy Locomotive.
- May 1-5, 2017 is Education Week across Ontario. Many wonderful things will be happening in our schools as we recognize the contributions of students, parents, teachers and education workers for their excellence in education.
- Widdifield's Near Space Program will launch a few camera-toting mini-computers into Earth's stratosphere and follow the journey live. A precise launch date will be announced as the time approaches and weather and atmospheric forecasting data becomes available.
- Director Young and Superintendent Graves will be attending and sharing a case study at the Provincial Strong District meeting on May 10 in Thunder Bay.
- Parent Involvement Committee engagement sessions on resilience are happening at 6:30 p.m. at Parry Sound High School on May 4, at Widdifield Secondary School on May 9 and at Almaguin Highlands on May 11. The event poster will be forwarded to all trustees.

Items for Decision:

EL#7 Financial Condition

17-04-10 Moved by Harry Fry, seconded by Michelina Beam
That the Board approve EL#7 Financial Condition as presented on April 25, 2017.

CARRIED

There is a savings in the inclement weather budget line.

Committee of the Whole: Terms of Reference

17-04-11 Moved by Harry Fry, seconded by Al Bottomley
That the Near North District School Board approve the Terms of Reference for the Committee of the Whole as presented on April 25, 2017.

CARRIED

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Naming of Former Land of Lakes Public School

17-04-12 Moved by Al Bottomley, seconded by Michelina Beam

That the Near North District School Board approve the name of the former Land of Lakes Senior Public School, as Land of Lakes Public School.

CARRIED

Seventy-five percent of survey respondents chose Land of Lakes. There were over 600 survey responses.

Public Question Period:

Ratification of Business Transacted in Private Session

17-04-13 Moved by Michelina Beam, seconded by Harry Fry

That the Board ratify the following items from Private Session:

- Personnel
- Property

CARRIED

Motion to Adjourn

17-04-14 Moved by Al Bottomley, seconded by Louise Sargent

That the Board meeting of April 25, 2017 adjourn at 7:43 p.m.

CARRIED

David Thompson
Chair

Jackie Young
Director of Education