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Ashley St. Pierre, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

The April 8, 2025 **Committee of the Whole Public Session** of the Near North District School Board was held via a Zoom video.

Trustees Present:

Ashley St. Pierre ®
Howard Wesley ®
Jeanie Fuscaldo ®
Caren Gagne ®
Shane Hall ®
Chantal Phillips ®
Julie Bertram ®
Bill Steer ®
Louise Sargent ®

Administrative Staff Present:

Craig Myles, Director of Education
Gay Smylie, Superintendent ®
Seija Van Haesendonck, Superintendent of Business
Timothy Graves, Superintendent
Melanie Gray, Superintendent ®
Deb Bartlett, Communications ®
Maureen Egan, Director's Office ®
Glenn Morrison, Manager IT
Liana Blaskievich, Exec. Officer Corporate Affairs ®

Regrets: Student Trustee Trudeau
Student Trustee Sidhu

Other:
Staff, media ®

1.0 Call to Order

Chair St. Pierre called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

Vice-Chair Wesley read the declaration aloud.

1.2 Attendance

Attendance indicated that 9 trustees were present.

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Chair St. Pierre asked for declaration of conflicts. None arose.

2.0 Approval of the Agenda

Motion: CW 25-04-01, L.Sargent/J.Bertram

That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of April 8, 2025, be approved as amended. The amendment being the deferral of item 4.3 to the next meeting. - CARRIED.

Trustee Steer advised that he had requested McDougall PS be a standing item and that it was not approved at the agenda setting meeting by chair and vice-chair. Trustee Steer had requested ongoing discussion re McDougall PS as the decision results in financial repercussions. He stated that since the board had not discussed the staff report or legal opinion his duty as trustee re financial oversight was not met. The Chair noted that it was not on the agenda because we have not received a response from the Ministry. The Chair asked Trustee Steer if he was asking for it to be an amendment to the agenda and Trustee Steer advised it was the purview of the chair. Trustee Fuscaldo asked for a short conversation re the number of “snow days”. The Chair ruled that because it is not on the agenda, staff are not prepared to discuss it and suggested it can be included in May.

3.0 Review of Previous Minutes

Motion: CW 25-04-02, C.Gagne/S.Hall

That the minutes for the Committee of the Whole meeting of March 18, 2025 be approved. – CARRIED.

4.0 Business Arising

4.1 Draft Correspondence

Trustee Phillips noted the revised draft letter that was emailed to trustees earlier in the day. Trustee Sargent asked who is to be included in the meeting with the Mayor and Trustee Phillips advised any trustees who wish to attend may do so.

Consensus was reached via show of hands and the following motion was carried; it was noted that Trustee Steer did not raise his hand.

Motion: CW 25-04-03, C. Gagne/C. Phillips

That the draft correspondence to the Mayor of North Bay be finalized for distribution. – CARRIED

4.2 Notice of Motion – Vice-Chair Wesley and Trustee Fuscaldo

That the regular Board meeting time shall be changed from 6:30 PM to 2:30 PM, effective March 18, 2025, to improve accessibility, inclusivity, and effectiveness for students, staff, trustees, and the public. AND THAT The Committee of the Whole meetings shall be scheduled for 1:00 PM to align with the Trustees' prior decision to hold Committee of the Whole meetings on the same day as the regular Board meeting.

Vice-Chair Wesley thanked the Director for the board report included in the package and noted his original concern re distance, safety and time. He also encouraged the idea of returning to satellite offices to accommodate trustees who live in the outlying areas of the Board.

Trustee Steer noted that no other OPSBA member boards hold daytime meetings. It affects equity and does not promote good governance.

Trustee Gagne would like to examine alternate avenues and would like to review the feedback from unions and the community recently received. She is supportive of the motion being withdrawn.

Trustee Fuscaldo stated that her intent in the drafting the motion was not to make it difficult for the public to attend meetings. She would like to continue to work on a solution. Trustee Bertram suggested recording the meetings. Trustee Phillips suggested options of flexibility. Trustee Sargent said the motion holds value and would like to hold meetings in Parry Sound and Almaguin areas in spring and fall and also create satellite spaces for the trustees in those areas. She appreciated the letter from unions. Trustee Hall was in favour of withdrawing the motion and would like to consider satellite spaces in the future.

Trustee Fuscaldo agreed to withdraw the motion and bring back language in the future. Trustee Fuscaldo and Vice-Chair Wesley withdrew the motion.

5.0 Notices of Motion

5.1 Notice of Motion – Vice-Chair Wesley and Trustee Fuscaldo

Therefore be it resolved that the Board of Trustees will formally recognize at least one volunteer with a certificate of appreciation at each Board meeting.

Trustees were referred to the Notice of Motion filed by Vice-Chair Wesley and Fuscaldo contained in the agenda package regarding volunteer recognition. It was noted that to proceed to discussion, the notice requires a seconder. Vice-Chair Wesley seconded the motion. Trustee Fuscaldo introduced the motion noting the importance of volunteer recognition in our school communities and asked the trustees for input.

Trustee Steer said this is an operations item currently under the purview of principals. Continuing in this manner conforms with good governance. Trustee Phillips suggested annually in April to coincide with volunteer recognition month.

Motion: CW 25-04-05 J. Fuscaldo/J.Bertram

That based on relevant administrative guidelines, the Board of Trustees formally recognize volunteers with a certificate of appreciation at April Board meetings. –
CARRIED

5.2 Notice of Motion – Vice Chair Wesley and Trustee Hall

That the North Bay Consolidation Committee undertake a thorough review of the feasibility of relocating the Alliance French Immersion program to the Widdifield Secondary School site, including an assessment of the financial, logistical, and educational benefits of the move.

Trustees were referred to the Notice of Motion filed by Vice-Chair Wesley and Trustee Hall contained in the agenda package regarding program relocation. It was noted that to proceed to discussion, the notice requires a seconder. Trustee Fuscaldo seconded the motion. Vice-Chair Wesley introduced the motion acknowledging the North Bay Consolidation Board report expected at the June CW. He noted that the suggested motion could serve our students well and they would be able to use the site's amenities.

Trustee Steer agreed with the intent of the motion but would prefer to wait for the June

report. Chair St. Pierre concurred. Trustee Sargent asked how this corresponds with the expected report in June and agrees with waiting for that report.

6.0 Adjournment

Motion: CW 25-04-06, C.Gagne/J.Bertram

That on April 8, 2025 we do now adjourn at 6:22 pm. - CARRIED