



**BOARD MEETING**  
To be held via Teams Meeting or via phone  
(705) 482-7613 or (844) 883-2385 with code 919 109 005#  
Thursday July 30th at 6:00 pm

**AGENDA**

**Opening and Land Acknowledgement**

We would like to open this meeting by acknowledging the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe, on which all schools of the NNDSB are situated. The Board Office is specifically located on the traditional territory of the Nipissing First Nation.

We value the cultures, histories and relationships with the Indigenous People of Turtle Island. We are grateful to be gathered here today.

**1.1 Call to Order**

**1.2 Attendance**

**1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

**1.4 Approval of Agenda**

Motion:

That the agenda for the Board meeting of July 30, 2020 be approved.

**2.0 Communication to the Board**

**2.1 Information Items:**

a) Parent Correspondence

Included: Dylan Allison dated July 6<sup>th</sup> and Anne Marie McKenna dated July 8<sup>th</sup>.

b) Draft Re-Entry to School Plan

Report to be distributed at meeting

c) Multi-Year Strategic Planning

Verbal update

d) 3:2 Consolidation Update

Report included

**3.0 Adjournment**

3.1 Motion:

That we do now adjourn at \_\_\_\_\_ pm.

## 2.0 Communication to the Board

### a) Parent Correspondence

Included: Dylan Allison dated July 6<sup>th</sup> and Anne Marie McKenna dated July 8<sup>th</sup>.

Greetings

I am writing you today to express to you my concerns about the upcoming school year. I feel it is very important to the children's mental health, and some children's physical health, that they be at school 5 days a week, in as normal a capacity as possible. Given the fact that we could be YEARS away from a vaccine, I think the best thing to do is to return to as safe a normal as possible for the children.

We won't even get into the fact the most kids did little to no online schooling since March, as I'm sure teachers have mentioned. I think we need to return to classrooms and to extra curricular's as soon as possible. I would like to see the board put out a survey to all parents of children registered to attend schools within the board, seeking their opinions, and publishing the ACTUAL results.

Covid is here and will exist like the common cold or flu, until we have a vaccine, if we ever get one. In the interim, life must go on, as safely as possible, without taking away the things that make life worth living.

Thank you

Dylan Allison  
7058451192

---

**From:** Jay Aspin <[Jay.Aspin@nearnorthschools.ca](mailto:Jay.Aspin@nearnorthschools.ca)>

**Sent:** Monday, July 6, 2020 7:46 PM

**To:** Dylan Allison <[djtra@icloud.com](mailto:djtra@icloud.com)>

Dear Dylan Allison,

Thank you very much for your email expressing your views.

Our Near North District School Board is in the process of formulating the plan to return to school to the Ministry of Education thus your views are important to us.

I note your request that the Board survey students registered within our school. This will be discussed this with administrative and board members relative to that challenge.

Rest assured decisions we make will place the health of our students and staff at the very forefront.

Thanks for touching base.

Regards,

**Jay Aspin**  
**Chair**

**From:** Ann Marie McKenna <[amckenna2008@gmail.com](mailto:amckenna2008@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 7, 2020 11:47 PM

**To:** Jay Aspin **Subject:** Advocacy in regards to School Re-Opening in September

Dear Mr. Aspin and members of the Board of Trustees, and Mayor Al Macdonald,

Please find attached a letter I have written in favour of the planned full reopening of schools in our district and school board for September, 2020 for your review. I appreciate all that you have done to advocate for the health and safety for our students during the onset of the COVID pandemic, and want to encourage a planned and safe re-opening in the Fall.

I am writing on behalf of my household but my letter echoes the sentiments of many physician leaders / "Doctor Moms" in our community, whom I have encouraged to write as well. If we can do anything to help plan for safe school re-opening or advocate on behalf of students please let us know.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ann Marie McKenna  
General Internal Medicine  
North Bay Regional Health Centre  
office 705-472-8577

On Jul 8, 2020, at 10:03 AM, Jay Aspin <[Jay.Aspin@nearnorthschools.ca](mailto:Jay.Aspin@nearnorthschools.ca)> wrote:

Dear Dr. Anne Marie McKenna,

Thank you very much for your letter contained in your email regarding reopening of our Schools in September.

Our Near North District School Board is in the process of formulating our plan to the Ministry of Education during the first week in August for the return of our students thus your views are very important to us.

We appreciate the perspective you have shared with us both as a physician and a mom. Your communication will be considered with our Board of Trustees and administration relative to our challenge.

As you might imagine there are many complicating factors impacting the creation of this plan. Rest assured any decision we make will prioritize the health and safety of our students and staff.

Thank you for providing us with your valuable input.

Sincerely,

**Jay Aspin**  
**Chair**

**From:** Ann Marie McKenna <[amckenna2008@gmail.com](mailto:amckenna2008@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 10:10 AM

**To:** Jay Aspin <[Jay.Aspin@nearnorthschools.ca](mailto:Jay.Aspin@nearnorthschools.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: Advocacy in regards to School Re-Opening in September

Thanks Mr. Aspin for your quick reply!

If there is anything our local medical committee can do to help in preparation for September please let me know.

Sincerely,  
Ann Marie

July 6, 2020

Near North District School Board  
Board of Trustees  
Chairperson, Mr. Jay Aspin

Dear Mr. Aspin and esteemed members of the NNDSB Board of Trustees,

**Regarding: Reopening of schools in September, 2020**

Thank you to you and your team for phenomenal leadership during a very challenging time. As a physician working in acute care (NBRHC Critical Care Unit and COVID-19 Ward) and a parent of two NNDSB elementary school students I can say that this outbreak has caused unprecedented stress and juggling in all spheres of my life.

Early in the pandemic, we took drastic measures at the North Bay Regional Health Centre, in our city, and in our schools to control spread of the pandemic. The hospital shut down all but the most urgent care services. Our city saw the closure of non-essential businesses and cessation of some City services. The childcare centres closed, and schools shut for three weeks and transitioned to online/at home learning. As we have successfully weathered the storm, the city of North Bay has had no deaths due to COVID, and only a handful of active COVID-19 cases at any given time.

I have seen in my clinical practice however a huge increase in the medical complexity of my patients as we have delayed and deferred medical care. I have seen ICU admissions that would have been avoided in any other time with regular healthcare services; and most upsetting of all is a huge deterioration in the mental health of my complex outpatients, the majority of whom are young mothers with school age children at home. The loss of income and added stress of home schooling their children while balancing their medical illnesses have had deleterious effects on all realms of their lives.

I am aware that the Province has instructed our School Board to make plans for 3 contingencies in the fall including:

- Full reopening with enhanced hygiene measures
- Partial reopening – a staggered model that would have students coming on alternate days or weeks to reduce classroom sizes and ‘student bubbles’
- Non-opening – ongoing facility closure with home e-learning

I am writing at this time to advocate that the NNDSB plan for full reopening as our only reasonable contingency. The rationale for this stance hinges upon the following: (1) the mental health of children and parents, (2) the efficacy and equity challenges posed by e-learning, (3) the logistics of providing childcare without school in September, and finally, (4) the evidence for safe re-opening gleaned from other jurisdictions.

**(1) Regarding the health and safety of our children:**

- Unlike other common respiratory illnesses (such as influenza), children are less susceptible to SARS-CoV2 and may be less likely to transmit the virus [<https://www.rivm.nl/en/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/children-and-covid-19> ].
- In Ontario, we have been fortunate to see <5% of all cases of COVID-19 in children and adolescents aged 19 and below (Source: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/data-and-analysis/infectious-disease/covid-19-data-surveillance/covid-19-data-tool>, accessed July 6, 2020 – 19y and below = 1773 cases; 27 hospitalizations, no deaths.)
- On the corollary, the ‘stay at home’ health of children may have deteriorated during this time of social isolation:
  - i. Kids Help Phone has reported increases in call volumes from 20% -350% since March 12 depending on region (including increases in reports of physical, emotional, sexual violence)[  
<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2020/04/27/kids-help-calls-are-soaring-amid-covid-19-but-not-criminal-reports-are-we-in-the-dark-on-child-abuse.html>]
  - ii. The loss of nutrition programs including school breakfast clubs and wellness checks provided in same venues cannot be measured, in addition to the loss of organized sport for physical well being.
  - iii. Domestic accidents have increased since lockdown  
[\[https://adc.bmj.com/content/early/2020/06/01/archdischild-2020-319547\]](https://adc.bmj.com/content/early/2020/06/01/archdischild-2020-319547)

## **(2) Efficacy and Equity of E-Learning**

- E-learning platforms are being developed in Ontario but were not ready for prime time in April 2020. What was launched in 2020 in a pandemic cannot substitute for a proper development and rollout of E-learning in the province (<https://k12sotn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/StateNation19.pdf>).
- Home learning worsens inequities in education due to the social and financial circumstances of our families. Whereas most homes lack dedicated devices for children to participate in e-learning, <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00001-eng.htm>, wealthy families like ours have hired private tutors, engaged in Oxford Learning, Kumon, and other private tutoring services. The beauty of public school is that it should level the playing field – there is strength in diversity and opportunity for each student with our in-class model that is lost when the learning vehicle is delivered online.

## **(3) Childcare during COVID School closures**

- As the province opens up in other domains and industries, parents have increasing demands to return to the work place (and financial pressures – as federal funding programs such CERB will expire October 3<sup>rd</sup>). Return to school allows parents – particularly women - to return to work.
- Access to childcare was a challenge prior to the pandemic – and now with reduced daycare spaces due to COVID physical distancing measures, many households will be unable to allow for parents of elementary aged children to return to work and balance childcare needs.

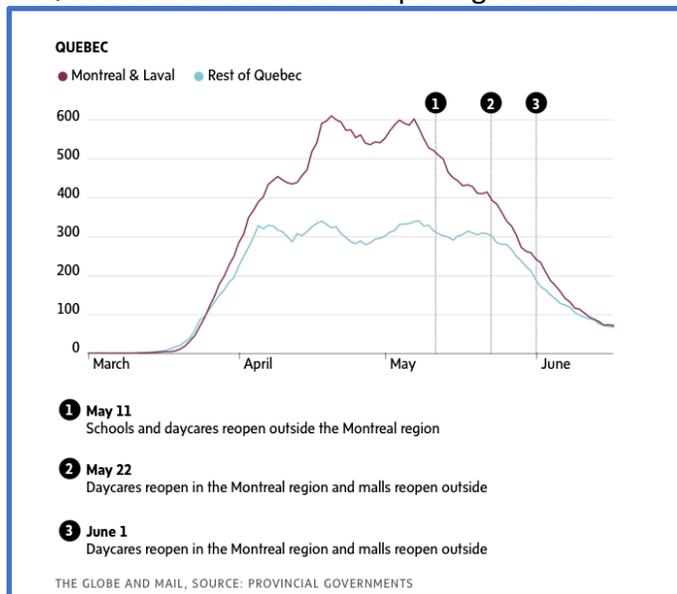
- The option of “staggered school”, where children might attend school on alternate days or weeks will exacerbate these childcare stresses. Most childcare facilities are unable to accommodate ‘flexible schedules’ in Ontario presently (the majority of daycares in North Bay do not have ‘flex hours’). As a result, households such as ours will be required use a blend of formal and informal childcare arrangements to balance the staggered schooling schedule (contrast with our very consistent, non-stop work schedule) – resulting in our children intermingling with students from other school boards at daycare, and other households with the various rotations of babysitters required to meet our childcare needs.

#### (4) Evidence of safety from other jurisdictions

Many other countries and provinces have successfully reopened schools without a rebound in COVID-19 Cases. If we look to Europe, over 22 countries have reopened schools completely, with enhanced hygiene measures, and ‘smart distancing’ within the school.

Quebec has also successfully reopened schools in a **regional fashion** (delaying reopening in Montreal where there were higher COVID-rates – see Figure 1 below). Ontario, with hotspots of COVID-19 presently only see in the GTA and Windsor-Essex counties, may do well to enable regional reopening also, so that low risk districts such as North Bay can benefit from full classroom education in the fall.

Figure 1. Quebec Case rates after reopening schools



All of these school boards have taken appropriate measures in class in line with guidance from their public health authorities. As the Public Health Agency of Canada is revising its advice on schools (<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/guidance-schools-childcare-programs.html>), our school board

needs to take proactive steps to ensure that **every family who wants to send their child to school full-time in September is supported to do so**. Any plan for part time or staggered schooling in the name of physical distancing will fall short on our educators' commitment to fostering the best and safest learning environment for Ontario's students.

There is an incredible amount of work to be done over the summer to prepare our educators, school facilities and students for a safe return to school. I support the excellent recommendations of child health experts from Sick Kids detailed here in regards to safe reopening plans (<http://www.sickkids.ca/PDFs/About-SickKids/81407-COVID19-Recommendations-for-School-Reopening-SickKids.pdf>). As a physician and parent I want to contribute in any way I can to the process, and urge you, our Board of Trustees, to make a commitment to full-time in class education in September.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ann Marie McKenna

Specialist in Internal Medicine, North Bay Regional Health Centre

On behalf of my household – Dr. Luke Harris (Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery), Reed Harris (Grade 2), Avery Harris (S.K.).

<b>Title:</b>	<b>3:2 Secondary School Consolidation</b>
<b>Contact:</b>	L. Pavone, Executive Officer
<b>Date Submitted:</b>	July 30, 2020 Board meeting
<b>Background</b>	<p>As part of continued commitment to maintain communication with our various stakeholders including our trustees we are providing the following update. Since our last trustee update (June Board meeting) the following is a summary of the progress to date despite the on-going COVID-19 challenges.</p> <p><b>Commitment to Students</b></p> <p>Further to the update provided at the June board meeting secondary students at Chippewa and West Ferris received a printed copy of their 2020-2021 secondary student timetable that were mailed to them during the first week of July. An updated digital copy is expected to be provide through EDSBY by mid-August. The hiring of an experienced secondary guidance teacher as part of the summer school hiring process to provide conflict resolutions for student timetabling issues over the summer months has continued to show considerable positive response from students and their parents. This support will minimize the anxiety for many students as they transition to a new high school and it will continue to support our focus on student achievement as it will minimize student timetable issues in September.</p> <p>We are excited about the learning opportunities provided to our students as part of our commitment to ensure that exciting secondary programming pathways remain a priority through the consolidation process. Several new secondary courses, new programs and revised Specialist High Skills Majors at both Chippewa and West Ferris will assist us in improving student success to maximize student engagement and student retention.</p> <p>Chippewa and West Ferris continue to ensure that students are provided opportunities to enroll in new Indigenous courses that have been added and expanded at each of the schools. To support these new courses and the transition for many of our indigenous students who come from remote areas both Chippewa and West Ferris have expanded the Indigenous Learning Centers/Hubs. This will assist the schools to support students to minimize their anxiety as they move to a new community and a new school.</p> <p><b>Commitment to Staff</b></p> <p>Chippewa and West Ferris have completed and distributed the draft secondary and intermediate teaching timetable to both OSSTF and ETFO staff so that teaching staff have a draft copy of their teaching duties for September 2020-2021. We continue to work towards creating planning/working spaces for</p>

teachers to provide them with a professional working environment to support lesson planning and collaborative professional development spaces. We continue to work with CUPE to ensure that collective agreement requirements are satisfied for both secretarial and custodial staff to support student needs for September startup.

Executive Council has appointed administrative teams for Chippewa and September based on the needs of the respective school communities. Educational Assistants, Child Development Counsellor(s), Library and Computer technicians are in place for September start up.

Due to COVID challenges many of our staff at the respective schools have continued to volunteer their time and work collaboratively under strict COVID protocols to support our Move Management process. Widdifield SS teaching resources, student learning equipment, and school memorabilia was moved to either Chippewa or West Ferris as part of our Phase 1 Move Management Plan on July 1<sup>st</sup> while J Fricker building contents was completed on June 8<sup>th</sup> to a staging area at WSS.

#### **Commitment to Community**

We continue to provide programming and consolidation updates to parents and our school community through the Office of the Director via board and school websites and school messenger.

During the month of July, the Phase 1 construction meetings continued to occur with our school administrative teams, plant staff and local contractors to ensure that the 3-2 Capital Renovations projects remain on schedule and will be ready for students and staff for a September 8<sup>th</sup> startup date.

#### **Next Steps**

- Continue to monitor the progress of the Phase 1 renovations regarding the capital improvements for Chippewa and West Ferris.
- Continue to monitor the Move Management Plan in consolidating program and school resources for the September 2020 school year
- Continue to monitor student registrations, student programming needs and staff changes to ensure smooth school start up in September.