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Jay Aspin, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

The August 11, 2020 **Public Session Board Meeting** of the Near North District School Board was held via teleconference.

Trustees Present:

Jay Aspin, Chair
Al Bottomley
Donna Breault
Harry Fry
Nichole King
Rob Learn
Louise Sargent
Bill Steer

Administrative Staff Present:

Craig Myles, Director of Education
Liz Therrien, Superintendent of Business
Ros Bowness, Superintendent
Tim Graves, Superintendent
Gay Smylie, Acting Superintendent of Education
Andrew Busch, Interim Assistant Manager of Human Resources
Maureen Egan, Recording Secretary

Trustee Regrets:

Vice-Chair John Cochrane

Other:

Members of the Press

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1.1 Call to Order

Chair Aspin called the meeting to order at 7:27 pm and acknowledged the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe on which all schools of the NNDSB are located.

1.2 Attendance

Attendance indicated that eight trustees were present for this meeting.

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Chair Aspin declared a conflict with item 2.0 Report from In-Camera because his daughter-in-law is a teacher with the board.

1.4 Approval of Agenda

Motion: 20-08-01 H. Fry/D. Breault

That the agenda for the Board meeting of August 11, 2020 be approved as amended. The amendment being the addition of item 2.3 School Opening for September 2020.

- **Carried**

2.0 Items for Decision

2.1 Report from In-Camera

Motion: 20-08-02, D. Breault/R. Learn

That the Board ratify OSSTF District 4 Memorandum of Settlement Local Agreement. - **Carried**

Motion: 20-08-03, L. Sargent/H. Fry

That the Board ratify Near North Teacher Local (ETFO) Memorandum of Settlement Local Agreement. - **Carried**

Motion: 20-08-04, N. King/H. Fry

That the Board ratify Near North Occasional Teacher Local (ETFO) Memorandum of Settlement Local Agreement. - **Carried**

2.2 2020-21 Budget Report

Motion: 20-08-05, B. Steer/H. Fry

That the 2020-21 Budget Report be approved. – **Carried**

2.3 School Opening for September 2020

Chair Aspin stated that the Board's guiding principles surrounding the return to school in September have been: first and foremost, the safety of our students, teachers and staff; operating within the parameters of the Ministry of Education and health authorities; and responsive to the continuing fluid situation of COVID in the province.

Director Myles stated the importance of providing information to the trustees with the most current models and aspects. He noted that each board faces different

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circumstances and timelines with meetings with the Ministry. NNDSB's meeting with the Ministry was just last Thursday August 6th. It is important to understand that the plan is evolving and always subject to change.

SO Graves reviewed the opening documents sent to families today. He explained that our job was to implement what the Ministry directed and then localize it to our board. As a result we are having regular length school days for JK-12. SO Graves also outlined some of the protocols we will be following: all students in grade 4-12 required to wear a mask; all staff required to wear medical grade masks and eye protection; students who have higher vulnerabilities will wear medical grade mask; self-screening on a daily basis; protocols for frequent hand washing. He noted that some of these processes are a challenge to communicate effectively to the public. He also reviewed the learning models for secondary and elementary students; transportation and visitors to schools.

SO Graves was pleased to announce we are enhancing our communication to parents. We will be providing weekly updates, messaging with school messenger, and Principal Kathy Spence will be made available to answer parent questions and inquiries. Principals will be making individual decisions on their schools once they are in school.

Chair Aspin asked trustees for comments/questions. A point of order was raised by Trustee Learn because the meeting was past 8:00 pm.

Motion: 20-08-06, H. Fry/R. Learn

That the board extend the meeting no longer than thirty minutes. - **Carried**

Trustee Steer thanked all staff for the excellent effort put forward and noted the trustees' support with the senior team, unions, health unit and staff.

Trustee Breault was very pleased to see weekly updates to families

Trustee Sargent asked for daily updates on website for those parents who don't have access to local news. Director Myles said we can explore that although it would be difficult to manage. We can commit that updates will be done regularly.

Trustee Learn noted the significant challenge ahead for our principals. As a trustee for the rural schools he has heard many parents discussing what this will look like and asked if we could tour the schools. Director Myles noted that we have professional development planned for our principals and staff. SO Graves stated that there would be some challenges with touring the schools and we would have to be very mindful of early transition students and day cares.

Chair Aspin was very pleased with the re-opening plans and stated that it is very positive news for students throughout our region. We are fortunate that there are so few cases in our area. He appreciated the patience and understanding of the public.

3.0 Motion to Adjourn

Motion: 20-08-07, H. Fry/N. King

That we do now adjourn at 8:15 pm. – **Carried**



Jay Aspin
Chair



Craig Myles
Director of Education