



Committee of the Whole Meeting
Tuesday, September 15th, 2020 5:00 pm
(705)-482-7613 or toll-free (844)-883-2385
code: 871 338 88 #

1.0 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 the Agenda

Motion:

That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of September 15, 2020 be approved.

1.5 Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings

Motion:

That the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on August 11, 2020 be approved.

2.0 Bring Forward Business NIL

3.0 New Business

3.1 Correspondence from N. Green dated August 4, 2020

3.2 NNDSB Statement on Racism

3.3 School Re-opening Update - SO Graves and Principal Walking

4.0 Motion to Adjourn

Motion:

That we do now adjourn at _____ pm.



Jay Aspin, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

The August 11, 2020 **Committee of the Whole** 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



**Committee of the Whole Meeting
Tuesday, August 11, 2020 6:00 pm
Minutes**

1.0. Opening & Land Acknowledgement

1.1 Call to Order

Chair Aspin called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

1.2 Attendance

Attendance indicated that eight trustees were present for the meeting.

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest NIL

1.4 Approval of the Agenda

Motion: L. Sargent/H. Fry

That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of August 11, 2020 be approved. – **Carried**

1.5 Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings

Motion: A. Bottomley/N. King

That the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on June 9, 2020 be approved. – **Carried**

2.0 Bring Forward Business NIL

3.0 New Business

3.1 2020-21 Budget Report

Chair Aspin reminded trustees of the deadline of August 19th to submit the budget to the Ministry. Director Myles thanked SBO Therrien and her team responsible for putting together the budget and the senior team for contributing to the budget. This year we will see a change to the format which was a recommendation of the Special Advisors. Director Myles noted the significant workload on the entire team and system because of various accountabilities we have including: Special Advisors' report; Ombudsman report; auditor general curriculum review; EQAO online training;

multi year strategic plan, central staff re-organization, adjusting to downsizing of two SOs; new budget process; late release of the GSNs; staff shortage; the Ministry re-entry meeting last week; and of course COVID. Despite this high workload we meet timelines, requirements and support our students and families.

SBO Therrien was pleased to present a high level overview of the 2020/21 balanced budget to trustees. She highlighted the concise format summarizing projected revenues, enrolment and staffing. She also reviewed GSNs, funding challenges and areas with increased expenditures. She reminded trustees that the focus is always to review and look for efficiencies and strive for a balanced budget. The approach for estimating revenues this year was conservative in nature. She thanked Chair Aspin, the Director and the senior team for their input in the budget process this year.

Chair Aspin invited trustees to comment.

Trustee Sargent thanked SBO Therrien for her hard work and being able to present us with a balanced budget during these trying and uncertain times. We are always concerned with number of students in the schools especially in elementary in September. How do you calculate and interpret numbers and how is it reflected in budget. SBO Therrien explained that when we do enrolment projections there is an assumption the students are in attendance but this year is different with parental choice. She believes whether they are in attendance at school or at home and receive instruction remotely she would assume we will carry on with the same process that was communicated to us prior to our March 2020 count date. Students would still be counted. Therefore no impact on enrolment or enrolment projections.

Trustee Fry asked about the accumulated surplus in the event of unexpected expenses and whether it could be used. Our accumulated surplus (all prior years) is \$6.3m. Additional monies are available in funding for additional staffing (custodial only). For additional teachers it's on a where needed basis and funding would be application based.

Trustee Breault asked if parents who arrange their own transportation be reimbursed for mileage. SBO Therrien advised that we would not be reimbursing parents and that we can initiate some clear communication around that.

Trustee Breault asked about the decrease in other fees and revenues. SBO Therrien advised that because of COVID and school reopening we took a conservative approach with revenues.

Trustee Breault asked if there were any union issues with online learning. SBO Therrien advised that we are actively working with our federations to work out any issues and the Ministry is also actively working with federations at a provincial level.

Trustee Steer likes the new format of the budget and will be support it. Chair Aspin suggests that we approve the budget and trustee Steer can work with SBO re final format for public consumption.

Trustee Fry asked about the amortization change on page five. SBO Therrien explained that it is based on projections on what we are going to spend.

Trustee Learn asked the Director about the leadership framework how this budget supports that. The Director explained that we are still in midst of complete overhaul of leadership in the board specifically the supporting network under the SO. We are also using the expertise of a consultant with an outside lens to ensure efficiencies.

Trustee Learn asked about the school generated funds on page four. SBO Therrien explained that the estimate is based on historical revenues and expenditures. Subject to change if necessary based on circumstances.

Chair Aspin: recommendation to board is that we approve the budget. Chair Aspin thanked the trustees for their diligent questions; the administration, the Director and SBO Therrien for their hard work. Excellent job in building a balanced budget and noted we are the largest board in our region.

4.0 Motion to Adjourn

Motion: A. Bottomley/H. Fry

That we do now adjourn at 7:00 pm. - **Carried**

August 4, 2020

Mrs. Liz Therrien - NNDSB Superintendent

Mr Craig Myles - NNDSB Director

Mr. Jay Aspin - NNDSB Board Chair

Re: Buses and transportation issues around Alliance

Over the past 10 years, Alliance has increased in size to the point that the number of students has expanded beyond the surrounding infrastructures ability to support the school. As neighbors of the school, we have been fighting an ongoing battle to have the school board, and their contractors that provide bus service, show some respect for the homes that are adjacent to the school property. Every year the buses use Stones St. as a staging area while waiting to pick up children at the end of the school day. This often creates complete grid lock on Stones, thereby making it impossible for the residents of the street to get to their homes. It also creates an unsafe environment for the children as the number of cars trying to navigate the buses is also constantly increasing.

As you start to enter late planning stages for return to school, the residents of Stones St expect that you will do so with the knowledge that this neighborhood cannot handle an increase in bus (and parent) traffic. If you are increasing the number of buses to help with physical distancing requirements, we expect a plan will be put in place to ensure that buses do not block our driveways and traffic volumes are managed to ensure a safe environment. The buses cannot be allowed to 'stage' on Stones St, thereby blocking access to the homes of the residents of the street.

We look forward to seeing a draft of your plan for managing traffic around Alliance Public School. This is not a new issue, but one that was already at a tipping point, which now is in danger of exploding with increased traffic due to Covid regulations, increasing student population at Chippewa and the construction on Cassels St which has now made High Street a high traffic corridor.

Please forward your plans for managing this issue to nick012@gmail.com. I would have had this information to you sooner, but the board website is virtually non-functional.

Thank you for your time.

Dr. Nick Green



The Near North District School Board is committed to equity and inclusion and the elimination of discrimination and racism in education.

We acknowledge that systemic racism, bias and discrimination exists in Ontario and is experienced by students, families and staff in Black, Indigenous and racialized communities. We are committed to working with our communities to listen for understanding about their lived experiences and the harm caused by racism. We will work hard to identify and eliminate barriers created by bias and systemic racism.

We are committed to doing better to promote equitable and inclusive learning and working environments. While the NNDSB has taken significant steps in relation to equity and inclusion, we acknowledge and recognize that there is more to be done. Our schools need to be places where all of our students can flourish, in safe and accepting environments. There is no place for discrimination in NNDSB.

The following represent some specific actions staff will be taking on in the 2020-21 school year:

- establishing an Equity Advisory Committee to represent diverse voices;
- continue working with students, staff and stakeholder groups to understand and take action around the data from the recent This is Me student identify survey;
- continue to review and enhance curriculum resources to better support anti-racism curriculum and culturally responsive pedagogy;
- provide professional learning on equity, anti-racism, bias, and human rights for staff and the Board of Trustees; and
- continue to apply the lens of equity and inclusion in both policy and practice by upholding our shared obligation to promote human rights.

We must all work together to achieve our vision of a fully inclusive education system.

Title: School Re-Opening Update
Contact: Superintendent Tim Graves and Principal Christopher Walking
Date: September 15, 2020 Committee of the Whole

Our priority continues to be the health and safety of students and staff in the re-opening process, all staff have completed training and have worked hard to prepare the school and develop routines following the directives provided by the Ministry of Education and local health authorities.

Mandatory Staff Training/Professional Development on Sept. 1-3

Date/Time	Tuesday September 1st, 2020	Wednesday September 2nd, 2020	Thursday September 3rd, 2020
Morning Block: 9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	All School-Based Permanent Staff, Casual, Occasional and Itinerant Staff Health & Safety Protocols related to COVID-19 Central messaging (Teams) followed by Self-Directed Online Module (Part 1) • All School-Based Staff – @ School. • Casual, Occasional and Itinerant Staff – Webinar.	K-12 Permanent and LTO Teachers, EAs and ECEs Returning to School with emphasis on Student Mental Health/Well-being (K-12)	K-12 Permanent and LTO Teachers, EAs and ECEs Introduction to Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination Training (K-12)
Break - 10:45 – 11:00 a.m.	15 min break	15 min break	15 min break
Middle Block: 11:00 a.m. – 12:35 p.m.	(K-12) School Assigned Staff Health & Safety Protocols related to COVID-19 - Making Meaning of the Staff Guidance Document (Part 2)	Casual, Occasional and Itinerant Staff Health & Safety Protocols related to COVID-19 - Making Meaning of the Staff Guidance Document (Part 2)	Introduction to the New Elementary Math Curriculum and Fundamental Math Concepts/Skills (K-8) Grade 9-12 Math teachers are asked to attend the first 30 minutes of this session Health and Safety: Staff to Prepare for Student Arrival (9-12)
Break – 12:35 - 1:20 p.m.	45 min break	45 min break	45 min break
Final Block: 1:20 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	(K-12) School Assigned Staff Health and Safety: Staff to Prepare for Student Arrival	Casual, Occasional and Itinerant Staff Supporting Mental Health/Well-Being Health and Safety: Staff to Prepare for Student Arrival (7-12)	Remote Learning Strategies and Tools (K-6, K-8, 7/8) Optional Session for School-Based Staff (Required for "Remote" Teachers) Health and Safety: Staff to Prepare for Student Arrival (K-6, K-8, 7/8) Remote Learning Strategies and Tools (9-12) Optional Session for School-Based Staff (Required for "Remote" Teachers)

As we begin the new year, these are some numbers that help define our system.
 (Please note: these numbers are continuing to fluctuate as parents change their preferences regarding In-School vs. At-Home Learning)

Elementary (K-8) Students: In-School	6004
Elementary Students (K-8): At-Home Learning (including waitlist)	670
Total Elementary (K-8) Students	6674
Secondary (9-12) Students: In-School	2908
Secondary (9-12) Students: At-Home Learning (including waitlist)	273
Total Secondary (9-12) Students	3181

Staggered Entry

Schools began welcoming groups of students back on Wednesday, September 9th. Individual schools shared the staggered entry plan which provided a schedule to welcome students across our grades during the first week of school. This strategy was selected as we believe it enhanced health and safety preparedness. Specifically, this staggered entry schedule prepared staff to support student health, well-being and achievement as staff implement new health and safety measures. Students were able to ease into their new health and safety routines. In addition, families will be supported through effective communication during this time prior to our full reopening.

District Staggered Entry Start Schedule

Day	K-6-School	K-8 School	7-12 School	9-12 School
Tues. Sept. 8	–	–	–	–
Wed. Sept. 9	SK-2	SK-2	7-8	9
Thurs. Sept. 10	3/4	3/4/5	9-10	10
Friday Sept. 11	5/6	6/7/8	11/12	11/12

Schools have the option to stagger JK re-entry with all students in attendance by Tues. Sept 15.

Grade 9-12 Secondary Schools (Almaguin Highlands Secondary and Northern Secondary School)

On September the 9th, only Grade 9 students will attend.

On September the 10th, only Grade 9 and 10 students will attend.

On September the 11th onward, all grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 attend.

Grade 7-12 Secondary Schools (Chippewa Secondary School, FJ McElligott, Parry Sound High School, West Ferris Secondary School)

On September the 9th, only Grade 7 and 8 students will attend.

On September the 10th, only Grade 7, 8, 9 and 10 students will attend.

On September the 11th onward, all grades 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 attend.

At-Home Learning

Elementary students currently registered for *At-Home Learning* will begin orientation for learning the week of September 9-11. Student's new teachers will be contacting them to introduce themselves and provide additional information during this week.

Remote learning for secondary will start during the week of September 14th – 18th students will be contacted by their teachers as soon as possible. Students in Grades 9 to 12 will receive 230 minutes per day for a full course schedule. Learning will follow the Ontario curriculum and follow teaching patterns similar to a regular classroom such as small and large group learning opportunities, with students engaging with a teacher and classmates.

Students will receive a daily schedule or timetable that includes breaks and time for lunch. We will support transitions between in-person learning and remote synchronous learning at specific entry dates that will be communicated shortly.

Ongoing Challenge

Families continue to request changes in their previous selection regarding at home or in class learning. Staff are attempting to accommodate as many of these as possible through the month of September. Beyond September, parents will be able to request a change between learning modes November, January, April for the start of every second Octamester.

Daily Self Screening

Daily screening of all staff and students prior to coming to school must be completed. Please follow the self-assessment below to guide you in this process. The following infographic was with school administration for their use in back-to-school communication.

If a student is presenting with signs and symptoms of COVID-19 at school, they will be isolated immediately, and the parents/guardians will be called for a pick-up. Health authorities are recommending that this take place within one hour. Parents will be informed at that time of the necessary next steps for their child as directed by the local health unit.

Managing COVID-19 in Schools: Operational Guidance. All school administration have received ~~this~~ document aligns with the most current resources (also shared with schools) created by the NBPSHU, titled, *School Protocol for Students/Staff with COVID-19 Symptoms*, *Return to School Protocol for Students/Staff with COVID-19*, and *School Protocol When Student/Staff Tests Positive for COVID-19*.

The above resources, in addition to the NNDSB *Return to School Guidance Document (highlighted on the NNDSB website)* contains the procedures and requirements schools will follow in cases of suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Enhanced Cleaning Protocols

Custodial work, in combination with student and staff protocols, are structured to limit the amount of people touching any given surface before it is disinfected. This, along with other new Health and Safety protocols will change the daily cleaning schedules in our schools as specific locations will need to be cleaned multiple times between cohorts of students.

PPE

PPE has been distributed to all schools and NNDSB work environments. The list of supplies per building would include masks, shields, gloves, gowns hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, school signage and markings. Some of this PPE will be specific to isolation rooms in each of our elementary and secondary schools.

Mask Use

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 will be encouraged but not required to wear masks in indoor spaces. Students aged 5 and up will be required to wear face coverings in school vehicles (NBPSHU) Students in Grades 4 to 12 will be required to wear masks indoors on school property. Students may wear their own non-medical masks, and non-medical masks will also be made available for students.

Resource to Help Families Prepare their Children for School

The North Bay Parry Sound Health Unit has created a resource to assist families with information as they prepare their children to attend school. [COVID-19 and School Reopening – Public Health Information for Families](#). This resource addresses a significant number of guidelines that have informed new health and safety protocols and processes that will be implemented in our schools. The resource also helps parents in explaining to their child(ren) some of these new experiences.

Learning Resources

Learning materials, sports equipment, textbooks and manipulatives will be limited to classes and cohorts. Adequate supplies for instruction will be provided to each student as needed. Classroom resources that are used regularly will be cleaned daily and/or isolated for a sufficient period of time after use and students will clean their hands before and after use of classroom resources.

Clubs and Extracurricular Activities

Currently sports and extracurricular activities are suspended. Athletics will follow Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) and Ontario Physical and Health Education Association (Ophea) guidance with respect to reopening sports programs and extracurricular activities.

Transportation

Students should use active transportation to get to school wherever possible. Parents/guardians are requested to drive their child to school, if possible, to limit the number of students on a bus. Limits of numbers of students to be transported and bus scheduling to be determined by the NPSSTS.

Students over the age of 5 will be required to wear a mask on the bus. For additional information please see [September 2020 Transportation Plan–Safe Return to Class](#).

Opening Screens for Elementary Virtual School

Students will access their classrooms and collaborative space with their classmates as they click on different parts of the images below. *At-Home Learning* teachers are working together to create rich and engaging experiences for students as they effectively deliver grade-level curriculum instruction and activities for their students. This week's orientation will include reaching out to all of their new students and families, determining technological and connectivity needs and sharing a Virtual Open House invitation for all families of At-Home Learning students on September 15.

Hello Stephen, Welcome to the NNDSB Virtual School



