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Jay Aspin, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

The June 22, 2020 **Public Session Board Meeting** of the Near North District School Board was held via teleconference.

Trustees Present:

Jay Aspin, Chair
John Cochrane, Vice-Chair
Al Bottomley
Harry Fry
Madelyn Meighan (student trustee)
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

Maureen Egan, Recording Secretary
Mairghread Knought, Information and Communication Officer
Lucio Pavone, Executive Officer
Christopher Walkling, Principal
Lisa Collins, Principal

Trustee Regrets:

Donna Breault
Nichole King
Rob Learn
Brooklyn Beaucage (student trustee)

Other:

Members of the Press

Minutes of the Public Session Board Meeting of the Near North District School Board held June 22, 2020

1.1 Call to Order

Chair Aspin called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm and acknowledged the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe on which all schools of the NNDSB are located. He also noted June 21st as National Indigenous Peoples Day.

1.2 Attendance

Attendance indicated that six trustees and one student trustee were present for this meeting.

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest Trustee Steer declared a conflict with item 2.1 a) Summer Learning because he is an employee with the Canadian Ecology Centre.

1.4 Approval of Agenda

Motion: 20-06-01 H. Fry/A. Bottomley

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of June 22, 2020 be approved.

- **Carried**

1.5 Approval of Minutes

Motion: 20-06-02 J. Cochrane/T. Sargent

That the minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on May 25, 2020 be approved. -

Carried

2.0 Communication to the Board

2.1 Information Items:

a) Summer Learning

Director Myles explained that we often offer summer programs to support our students. This summer is very relevant given COVID. We are looking forward to helping our students and promote their learning for this September. SO Graves acknowledged the leadership of Christopher Walkling. He noted that we had a very short amount of time once the funding was announced and that his team worked very hard to secure this funding. Christopher Walkling provided a brief overview of two distinct camp experiences that will be offered virtually. Interest has exceeded expectations and the program has been expanded to meet the demand. An ipad has been provided for each participant; staff has been hired and teams are working to provide camp experiences. Trustee Sargent asked what the increase in enrolment was and Principal Walking explained. Chair Aspin commended Principal Walking for his leadership and recalled the very thorough presentation he made to the board last year. It is an excellent program, very needed and congratulations to the team.

b) Monthly Tender Report

May 2020 to June 2020. Trustee Fry noticed three of the items are over the estimate and budgeted dollars. Director Myles and SBO Therrien are cognizant of the overages and SBO Therrien said she monitors these closely.

2.2 Director's Update

Director Myles reviewed his written report highlighting our retirees and graduates. The Ministry of Education has released information re re-entry of school in September and the senior team examining this now and will keep the board informed. He acknowledged the hard work of the executive team and their teams. Moving into the summer is always a challenging time but with the additional planning re COVID it intensifies the work and the quantity of work. He congratulated each and every graduate in the board and recognized our school administrators who stepped up to the plate re graduations which changed over night when restrictions moved toward a face to face model which was a lot of work at the last minute. He thanked everyone who has supported moving NNDSB forward positively. Director Myles congratulated Trustee Steer who was recently awarded the Chancellor's award in Teaching excellence from Nipissing University. Superintendent Ros Bowness recently announced her retirement after 30 years with NNDSB. Her commitment and focus on the needs of our students including our most vulnerable has been invaluable. Her contributions will always be valued and remembered. We are very happy for Ros and this well-deserved next chapter in her life.

Chairs' Remarks

Chair Aspin echoed the Director's acknowledgment of excellence in our staff and students. We wanted to improve our reputation and to have the calibre of students we have and the leadership in staff we should be very proud.

Vice Chair Cochrane congratulated SO Bowness on her retirement. He congratulated the IT department for their excellent work with the website.

Trustee Bottomley noted that our schools play an important role in getting food to our students. Since schools have been closed there is a significant concern that many of our students are in need. We need to put some thought into this to help our students. Chair Aspin appreciated Trustee Bottomley's comments and said we are going to try and connect more with surrounding communities on this matter. Trustee Sargent stated that she would support a more robust conversation in September to come up with some ways to assist and would like to see it on a future agenda.

2.3 OPSBA Report

Trustee Steer advised that the AGM will be a virtual event on September 26th and that OPSBA has forwarded its re- congregating safety plan to the Ministry for approval.

2.4 Student Trustees' Update

Student Trustee Meighen highlighted her written report that was included in the agenda. Chair Aspin congratulated her on her outstanding this year and thanked her for her efforts. We are confident you will do well with any challenges you are faced with in the future. We wish you success, health and happiness. Keep in touch.

3.0 Items for Decision

3.1 Borrowing Bylaw

Amended Motion: 20-06-03, J.Cochrane/A.Bottomley

That the Near North District School Board approve Form 345 Resolution re: Borrowing for Current Expenditures and Debt Charges in the amount of \$20,000,000 at interest rate of Royal Bank Prime less 0.75% or Banker's Acceptance plus 0.80% per annum for the 2020-2021 school year; and

that the Near North District School Board approve Form 345 Resolution re: Borrowing for Current Expenditures and Debt Charges in the amount of \$20,000,000 at interest rate of Royal Bank Prime less 0.75% or Banker's Acceptance plus 0.75% per annum for the 2020-2021 school year; and

that the Near North District School Board authorize and direct the Chair of the Board and Superintendent of Business to do all actions necessary, and execute all required documentation, in order to give effect to the above. - **Carried**

3.2 EL#7 Financial Condition

Motion: 20-06-04, H. Fry/L. Sargent

That the Board approve EL#7 Month End Finance Report for the month of March 2020. - **Carried**

3.3 Governance Manual and Bylaws

Motion: 20-06-05, A. Bottomley/H. Fry

That the Governance Manual and Bylaws as presented be approved. - **Carried**

Chair Aspin acknowledged the recommendation to have the Governance manual and Bylaws drafted and approved and congratulated trustees on this accomplishment.

4.0 Committees Reports

4.1 Standing Committees

a) Finance Committee

As a result of the lateness in receiving the Grants for Student Needs (GSNs), SBO Therrien produced a new budget schedule to commence July 3 with the intent of receiving final board approval and submission to the Ministry by August 19. Both the Committee Chair and the Board Chair acknowledged SBO Therrien and her team for their hard work especially with the delay in the announcement of the GSNs from the Ministry.

b) Multi-Year Strategic Planning

Unofficial minutes dated June 8, 2020. Co-chair Steer advised that we have engaged with Nanos Research and will be ready in September to proceed with phase two including the recommendation for the Director to engage a consultant. Monies for this is available through a separate fund.

Motion: 20-06-06, J. Cochrane/B.Steer

As recommended by the MYSP Committee that the Director engage a consultant for Phase two of the MYSP. - **Carried**

4.2 Ad Hoc Committees

4.3 Staff Committees

a) 3:2 Consolidation Update

Director Myles explained that 3:2 is moving ahead and we are meeting our targets with the plan to be operational in September. L. Pavone provided a summary of his written report. He acknowledged the leadership of Principals Andy Gagne, Karin Podlatis-Brown, Ali Hearst and Heather Taylor who were instrumental in moving this initiative forward. Chair Aspin thanked L. Pavone for his efforts and is grateful for his leadership.

4.4 Legislated Committees

a) SEAC: Unofficial minutes dated May 21, 2020.

Special Education Report on Programs and Services 2019-20

Motion: 20-06-07, A. Bottomley/H. Fry

That the Board approve the updated Special Education Plan as recommended by the Special Education Advisory Committee. - **Carried**

SO Bowness explained that the full Special Education plan is on the website and that every year we review any changes and bring to the board via motion to approve. Once reported to the Ministry the amended plan will be on the website.

5.0 Motion to Adjourn

Motion: 20-06-08, A. Bottomley/H. Fry

That we do now adjourn at 7:20 pm. - **Carried**



Jay Aspin
Chair



Craig Myles
Director of Education