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Jay Aspin, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

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The September 15, 2020 **Public Session Board Meeting** of the Near North District School Board was held in person at the Board office and via teleconference.

**Trustees Present:**

Jay Aspin, Chair  
John Cochrane, Vice-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  
Tim Graves, Superintendent  
Gay Smylie, Acting Superintendent of Education  
Mel Gray, Acting Superintendent of Education  
Christopher Walkling, Principal  
Melissa Peddie, teacher  
Glenn Morrison, Manager of IT  
Marianne Speirs, Capital Projects  
Liana Blaskievich, Corporate Affairs  
James Bennett, Communications Officer  
Maureen Egan, Recording Secretary

**Trustee Regrets:** n/a

**Other:**

Members of the Press  
Michael Ramsay  
Federations

**Minutes of the Public Session Board Meeting of the Near North District School Board held September 15, 2020**

**1.1 Call to Order**

Chair Aspin called the meeting to order at 6:25 pm and acknowledged the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe on which all schools of the NNDSB are located.

**1.2 Attendance**

Attendance indicated that nine trustees were present for this meeting.

**1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest NIL**

**1.4 Approval of Agenda**

Motion: 20-09-01, A.Bottomley/J.Cochrane

That the agenda for the Board meeting of August 11, 2020 be approved as amended. The amendment being moving item 3.1 September Report to the Minister to item 4.1 c). - **Carried**

**1.5 Approval of Previous Minutes**

Motion: 20-09-02,H.Fry/A.Bottomley

That the minutes of the Board meetings held on June 22, July 30 and August 11, 2020 be approved as amended. The amendment being the declaration of a conflict of interest August 11<sup>th</sup> by Chair Aspin with item Collective Agreement Ratification. Chair Aspin's daughter-in-law is a teacher in our board

**1.6 Student Trustee**

Motion: 20-09-03, N. King/D.Breault

That Madelaine Paradis (Almaguin Highlands Secondary) be appointed Student Trustee for the school year 2020-2021. - **Carried**

Director Myles delivered the Declaration of Office and Oath of Allegiance to Madaleine Paradis. Chair Aspin welcomed and congratulated Madelaine.

**2.0 Communication to the Board**

**2.1 Information Items:**

- a) Correspondence from N. Green dated August 4, 2020 (CW Sept. 15)

Motion: 20-09-04, A. Bottomley, L. Sargent

That staff prepare a report and report back to the CW. – **Carried**

- b) New Math Curriculum

SO Graves referenced the report in the agenda package and said that while this curriculum was planned for by the Ministry the timing did present challenges and staff was concerned with its implementation during re-opening. He said that regardless all staff are very supportive. SO Graves continued explaining that it blends social and

emotional skills with learning and financial literacy and computer coding. Chair Aspin thanked SO Graves and Principal Walkling for the thorough written report to the Board and the excellent work preparing our staff for student success.

c) Monthly Tender Report - June to September 2020

**2.2 Director's Update** (report included)

Director Myles welcomed everyone back as we navigate through a new way of teaching, learning and doing business in the NNDSB. "We have worked very hard to ensure our schools and board office are safe for everyone as we resume learning and educating." He welcomed our new student trustee Madeleine Paradis; Acting Superintendent Mel Gray to the senior team and Jamie Bennett as Communications Officer.

Director Myles noted that the first week of school has been a success and no doubt due to the tireless efforts of our staff to create safe and welcoming spaces for learning. It is also due to the advocacy and dedication of our trustees.

He acknowledged the leadership of Chair Jay Aspin who has been an advocate for our community for decades, representing our community with honour at multiple levels. He has used his experience and worked with his connections to provide our students with enriching and immersive learning experiences. Director Myles thanked the entire Board for their commitment to Near North schools.

**2.3 Chair's Remarks**

Chair Aspin was pleased to talk about the success of the 3:2 school consolidation and opening. It was a huge task and our team did an amazing job. He recently toured the two schools with trustees and staff and saw first-hand the excellent refurbishment of the schools. Chair Aspin is very proud of the notable changes to the board including the boardroom with the new logo, the indigenous pieces reflecting our heritage and other updates throughout the Board office.

Chair Aspin stated he thought it would be beneficial for the board to combine the CW meetings and board meetings on one date due to COVID and potential in climate weather. He asked trustees to contact him if they have any comments regarding this. He also advised trustees that we will be moving from the Teams platform to Zoom. Zoom has improved its platform and we will use it for all Board committee meetings. As a result of this, we will no longer need Parry Sound and South River links as we have done in the past nor will we need to update this infrastructure. This will save the board significant dollars. Chair Aspin commented on positive feedback he has received from his Ministry contacts regarding the changes we are making to the board in response to the Special Advisors Report.

**2.4 OPSBA Report**

Trustee Steer noted the September 26<sup>th</sup> AGM via Zoom. He will be supporting Cathy Abraham as president. Trustee Steer also noted that he has been asked to consider sitting on the policy committee.

Motion: 20-09-05, L. Sargent, J. Cochrane

That the Board approve Trustee Steer as a member of the OPSBA policy committee and support his intention to pursue the vacancy on the committee. – **Carried**

## **2.5 Student Trustee Update**

Student Trustee Madelaine Paradis will be updating the Board at the October meeting.

## **3.0 Items for Decision**

### **3.1 Director's Performance Appraisal Committee**

Motion: 20-09-06, L. Sargent/H. Fry

That the Director's Performance Appraisal Committee be struck consisting of the following trustees: Chair Aspin, Vice Chair Cochrane, Trustee Steer, Trustee King and Trustee Fry. - **Carried**

### **3.3 Use of Accumulated Surplus for COVID**

Motion: 20-09-07, J. Cochrane/H.Fry

That the Board approve for the 2020-2021 fiscal year an in-year deficit up to 2% of its 2020-2021 Board Operating Allocation and such in-year deficit be funded by accessing its accumulated surplus (reserve). - **Carried**

Trustees asked how this money will be used and SBO Therrien explained it will be used for additional teachers and in-class and online learning.

### **3.4 NNDSB Statement on Racism**

Motion: 20-09-08, A.Bottomley/L.Sargent

That the attached equity and inclusion statement and plan for the 2020-21 school year be forwarded to the board for approval and included on the website. – **Carried**

### **3.5 Statement by Treasurer**

Motion: 20-09-09, A. Bottomley/D. Breault

That the Board approve the Statement by Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer) re: Borrowing for Current Expenditures. - **Carried**

## **4.0 Committee Reports**

### **4.1 Standing Committees**

#### **a) Finance Committee**

Vice-Chair Cochrane updated trustees on the recent meeting. The Finance department is currently reviewing all outstanding expenses, revenues and adjustments for the 2019-2020 fiscal school year. There were areas of unplanned expenditures due to COVID-19

however there were also many areas of savings due to COVID-19 and school closures. Given this combination of unplanned expenditures and savings it is anticipated that the Board will end the fiscal year in a surplus position. J. Cochrane asked M.Egan to forward the Finance agenda package and supporting documents to all trustees.

b) Multi-Year Strategic Planning

Trustee Steer advised the Board that the MYSP committee has been meeting throughout the summer and on September 14. He provided a brief summary of the progress to date including the start of phase three with Michael Ramsay.

Trustee Steer introduced Michael Ramsay of Ramsay and Partners who will be leading phase three of the MYSP with the Board. Michael Ramsay has significant experience working with school boards on similar plans and operational reviews.

Michael Ramsay presented a brief overview of the work we will be undertaking including our work with stakeholders as we meet our MYSP timelines. Director Myles thanked Michael Ramsay and thanked Liana Blaskievich for the excellent work.

c) September Report to the Minister

Motion: 20-09-10, J. Cochrane/A. Bottomley

That the Board accept the September Response to the Special Advisor's Report and forward that response to the Minister of Education and implement all recommendations contained therein to date. - **Carried**

#### **4.2 Ad Hoc Committees**

a) WJ Fricker Build

Trustee Steer updated the Board on the WJ Fricker Build noting that project was awarded in December to Mitchell Jensen Architects after a complete RFP process to select the most qualified consultant, and who provided an acceptable fee structure. In January Mitchell Jensen Architects began developing the conceptual design and presented a layout that was in keeping with the Ministry of Education's approved space template and guidelines. The project includes a Child Care and Ontario Early Years space within the new facility. Over the past several months, staff and Mitchell Jensen have worked together to 'massage' the plans in order to meet the Ministry's benchmark funding allocation. The project will see the new structure oriented in a similar configuration, where the front face and entrance of the building will continue to face south at Norman Street. The site plan currently incorporates an extensive parking area and an off road bus loop on McKee avenue, with an area at the front of the facility similar to Woodland PS where parents can drop off younger students to the kindergarten play space area and/or to the Child Care. The exterior surrounding property maintains the large playing field with some hard surfaced planned for a small basketball court. The interior design incorporates large volume spaces with windows in every teaching space for maximum light.

The project was anticipated to be tendered this fall however the COVID downtime along with various Ministry changes to the scope of this project means we will not see tendering until spring 2021. Students from the Fricker site have been transferred to EW Norman PS for the duration of this construction project, and continue to be in a safe and welcoming environment, with Heather Taylor, previously the principal at Fricker.

Chair Aspin thanked Marianne Speirs for her excellent work on the project and also for her continuing efforts with the Ministry. He noted that despite the COVID setbacks we are in a good position and are moving forward.

Trustees asked for a brief update on the Parry Sound build. Director Myles stated that we are moving forward on this project as well and experiencing similar issues. Marianne Speirs advised that we are proceeding with the RFP process in the next few weeks.

#### **4.3 Staff Committees**

##### **a) 3:2 Consolidation Update**

Report included. Director Myles advised the Board that the students are settled in the two schools and doing well as the transition continues and we begin phase two. Lucio Pavone was pleased to report that phase one of the consolidation process is completed and was one time. He is excited for the teaching and learning opportunities the new spaces will provide. Next steps will include working with the staff as we begin phase two.

Trustee Sargent thanked all those involved in the recent tour for trustees and would like to tour the schools at future date. Trustee Steer acknowledged the hard work of principals Gagne and Beaudoin. Trustee Learn asked what capital is outstanding and Lucio Pavone explained that some items that were presented in January were not completed for September 2020 (auditorium and library).

#### **4.4 Legislated Committees**

- a) SEAC unofficial minutes dated June 18, 2020

#### **3.0 Motion to Adjourn**

Motion: 20-09-11, J.Cochrane/N.King

That we do now adjourn at 8:03 pm. – **Carried**



**Jay Aspin**  
Chair



**Craig Myles**  
Director of Education