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Jay Aspin, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

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The October 13, 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

Student Trustee M. Paradis

**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 Walking, Principal  
Glenn Morrison, Manager of IT  
James Bennett, Communications Officer  
Maureen Egan, Recording Secretary  
Josh Casey, Information Coordinator  
Lucio Pavone, Executive Officer

**Trustee Regrets:** n/a

**Other:**

Members of the Press

**Minutes of the Public Session Board Meeting of the Near North District School Board held October 13, 2020**

**1.1 Call to Order**

Chair Aspin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**1.2 Attendance**

Attendance indicated that ten trustees were present for the meeting.

**1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest NIL**

**1.4 Approval of Agenda**

Motion: 20-10-01, B. Steer/H.Fry

That the agenda for the Board meeting of October 13, 2020 be approved as amended. The amendment being the deletion of item 4.2a) because it was moved to the Committee of the Whole meeting (October 13 at 6:00 pm). - **Carried**

**1.5 Approval of Previous Minutes**

Motion: 20-10-02, R. Learn/H. Fry

That the minutes of the Board meetings held September 15, 2020 be approved.  
- **Carried**

**2.0 Communication to the Board**

**2.1 Information Items:**

a) CODE Summer Learning

Superintendent Graves provided a brief introduction noting the later than usual confirmation this year. As a result we had only two weeks to prepare including hardware distribution. He acknowledged the hard work of Chris Walkling and his team throughout this important program. Principal Chris Walkling explained the purpose of this program is to support students in maintaining their gains during the school year and preventing summer learning loss. This year with COVID, students were out of school over six months so the significance of this project was immense. This year the program served students across the region and included areas that never participated before ie Sturgeon Falls and Mattawa and thanks to technology they were able to participate. Principal Walkling provided a slideshow showing trustees learning details of the program.

Chair Aspin commented that virtual learning has been made exciting by this very impressive program. He thanked and congratulated Principal Walkling for this excellent program delivered to our students.

Trustee Sargent asked if this method can be considered for our current online learners. Principal Walkling said that online spaces and resources has continued to shape professional development with our remote learning teachers. We are now looking at how we can utilize our educational assistants in this method and also offer mental health supports.

Trustee Learn noted that his children were involved in the program and mentioned the excellent work of Andy Rogers and Justin Hawn.

b) Monthly Tender Report – nil report

c) Chair's correspondence to FOCA dated September 23, 2020

Chair Aspin explained to trustees that he drafted this letter to the Executive Director of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers because the local media article following our September Board meeting was misleading and confusing. Chair Aspin's letter provided clarity to this important community partner.

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

Director Myles briefly summarized his written report noting the especially enhanced communications we have accomplished.

## **2.3 Chair's Remarks**

Chair Aspin congratulated Director Myles and his senior team on their accomplishments regarding the secondary school consolidation. He congratulated Director Myles for his work on the MYSP and on the Director's Performance Appraisal (first one in 5 years) all moving ahead under a pandemic. This is challenging work in the best of times and encouraged them to keep up the good work. He noted the work of the Communications department - huge difference; we want to give a positive messages to our community but we can't control those who are negative in the media. He indicated however, that through our communication vehicles we can share all the good things our Board is doing. Kudos to NN Matters, NN News, and to Director Myles, Liana Blaskievich, Jamie Bennett and Josh Casey. Chair Aspin especially thanked Maureen Egan for keeping us on track and providing all information, agendas, minutes and reports within 3-5 days on 95% of the occasions. Compilation of all the committee work and documents takes coordination and she does it very well and thanked her on behalf of the Board.

## **2.4 OPSBA Report**

Trustee Steer's report was included in the agenda and he briefly reviewed.

## **2.5 Student Trustee Update**

Student Trustee Madelaine Paradis provided a written report to the Board.

## **3.0 Items for Decision**

3.1 3:2 Consolidation Phase two plan

Motion: 20-10-03, J. Cochrane/B. Steer

That the Board accept the staff recommendations re phase two of the consolidation plan and approve the funds as recommended: the transfer of funds from the board's accumulated surplus for school renewal in the amount of \$589,805 to be used to address the renovation and building upgrade needs of West Ferris and Chippewa Secondary Schools; and the transfer of funds from the board's deferred revenue for

school renewal in the amount of \$364,195 to be used to address the renovation and building upgrade needs of West Ferris and Chippewa Secondary Schools. - **Carried**

Trustee Sargent said she is hoping staff can provide a phase three plan on which our discussion for field and track improvements could be added. Chair Aspin said that the Director will take that into consideration and bring forward when ready.

3.2 Staff Report re Correspondence from N. Green

Motion: 20-10-04, R. Learn/H. Fry  
That the staff report be approved. - **Carried**

4.0 Committee Reports

4.1 Standing Committees

a) Director's Performance Appraisal Committee

Chair Aspin (chair of the DPA committee) referred to the report included in the agenda noting that we have not had a DPA assessment report in over five years. We are transitioning to a new beginning with new initiatives. The Director has clearly outlined his deliverables to the end of the year. The committee chair along with the committee members have outlined the timelines and what we intend to accomplish. This mirrors our bylaws specifically GL 208.

Chair Aspin asked trustees if they had any questions or comments regarding the included report. Trustees had no questions.

Motion: 20-10-05, J. Cochrane/R. Learn  
That the Director's Performance Appraisal report be approved. - **Carried**

4.2 Legislated Committees

a) SEAC unofficial minutes dated September 17, 2020

5.0 Motion to Adjourn

Motion: 20-10-06, L. Sargent/B. Steer  
That we do now adjourn at 7:48 pm. - **Carried**



Jay Aspin  
Chair



Craig Myles  
Director of Education