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Jay Aspin, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

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The December 15, 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  
Donna Breault  
Harry Fry  
Nichole King  
Louise Sargent  
Bill Steer  
Rob Learn

**Administrative Staff Present:**

Craig Myles, Director of Education  
Liz Therrien, Superintendent of Business  
Gay Smylie, Acting Superintendent  
Melanie Gray, Acting Superintendent  
Krista Messenger, Executive Assistant  
Maureen Egan, Executive Assistant  
Josh Casey, Information Coordinator

**Trustee Regrets:**

Al Bottomley  
Student Trustee M. Paradis

**Administrative Regrets:**

Tim Graves, Superintendent

**Other:**

media

**1.0 Call to Order**

Chair Aspin called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**1.1 Land acknowledgement**

Chair Aspin read the declaration aloud.

**1.2 Attendance**

Attendance indicated that eight trustees are present for the meeting.

**1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

NIL

**1.4 Approval of Agenda**

Motion: 20-12-01, B. Steer/L. Sargent.

That the agenda for the Board meeting of December 15, 2020 be approved as presented. - **Carried.**

**1.5 Approval of Previous Minutes**

Motion: 20-12-02, N. King/ D. Breault

That the minutes of the Board meetings held November 16, 2020 be approved. -  
**Carried**

## **2.0 Communication to the Board**

### **2.1 Information Items**

#### *2.1.1 Director's Annual Report*

Trustees referred to the report contained in the package. Chair Aspin invited Director Myles to speak to this item. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Acknowledgement to staff for the breadth and scope of programming and system initiatives NNDSB has accomplished over the last year
- This report is especially meaningful as it outlines the progress made in achieving the strategic pathways in the current multi-year strategic plan
- Report contains many prescriptive data points such as credit accumulation statistics and EQAO results
- Key areas of achievement are noted to be increased experiential learning, a more inclusive environment for all students, enhanced communication practices, and overall accountability.

Chair Aspin commended the Director on the report, noting to his knowledge it is the first time NNDSB has submitted a fulsome Director's Annual Report to the Ministry of Education and represents another example of the board moving forward in a positive direction. The floor was opened for questions, with none rose.

#### *2.1.2 Monthly Tender Report*

Trustees referred to the report contained in the package. No questions arose.

#### *2.1.3 Trustee Expenditures*

Brief remarks to note this report will be posted to the website, per the board's typical practice. No questions arose.

#### *2.1.4 Committee Structure Report*

Trustees referred to the committee membership document contained in the package. The Chair noted this will be discussed at the January meeting. The current committee structure will be assumed to continue, with discussion next month focused on any requested changes.

### **2.2 Director's Update**

The Chair invited the Director of Education to speak to this item. Director Myles referred trustees to the report contained in the agenda package. Additional items were noted to be:

- Update to note the holiday season is quickly approaching. Holiday greetings offered to trustees, and community members.
- Appreciation expressed to staff for all of the extra effort this year to make this time of year special for students and their families.
- The 2020 Fall Economic Statement released on November 30, 2020, mentions

education in several meaningful ways. It is noted that the return of Canadian children to school has seen COVID-19 transmission remaining low in school and child care settings.

- Review of programming updates included in the report, noting the expansion of outdoor learning opportunities, and robotics collaboration initiatives. Thanks expressed to the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit for their council to ensure the activities are planned with stringent infection control and prevention plans in place.
- Special acknowledgement to outgoing Executive Assistant Egan. Her level of expertise and administrative leadership served NNDSB so well throughout the past year.

The Chair thanked the Director for his report and commended Director Myles for the leadership he is instilling.

### **2.3 Chair's Remarks**

The Chair shared remarks regarding board engagement initiatives. Highlights of the verbal report were noted to be:

- The Chair commended the Director and his team for the relationship being established between our Board and the regional new media resulting in positive informative coverage of our students.
- With this good new initiative, Chair Aspin indicated we have seen a dramatic shift in how the Board is perceived by our schools both within and outside of the City of North Bay. Media partners Rogers Radio, Muskoka 411, CTV Northern Ontario, the Moose, Metroland and Baytoday have praised our efforts. Quite frankly, NNDSB receives the most media coverage of any of the school boards here in North Bay and surrounding area, which is a major shift in the right direction from years in the past and a tribute to our communications strategies.
- This is a vast improvement from former Board and the key aspect is that this positive coverage is focused on our students.
- Appreciation expressed for the inclusion of a student interview in the recent issue of "A Bit of the Bay" magazine as a meaningful gesture given it is an opportunity for the community to hear directly from NNDSB students.
- Warm farewell wishes to M. Egan echoed by the Chair on behalf of all trustees.
- Sincerest condolences expressed to SBO Therrien for the recent loss in her family.

### **2.4 OPSBA Report**

The Chair invited Trustee Steer to lead the Board through this item. Trustee Steer referred Board members to the report contained in the agenda package. Highlights to note:

- Support expressed for Chair Aspin's comments above on the importance of developing strong relationships with media partners, as this was discussed on a recent OBSPA call.
- Information shared regarding the upcoming Public Education Symposium event. The event is scheduled for January 28, 2021, and all trustees are invited to attend.

The Chair thanked Trustee Steer for his report.

### **2.5 Student Trustee's Update**

It is noted that Student Trustee Paradis is not in attendance this evening. The Chair referred trustees to the brief contained in the agenda package.

## **3.0 Items for Decision**

### **3.1 December Report to the Minister**

Trustees were directed to the report contained in the agenda package. The Chair invited Director Myles to comment on the report. Highlights to note:

- Point raised that this represents the third and final report for submission to the Minister of Education regarding the progress made towards fulfilling the recommendations from the special advisors' report.
- Major themes in the third report include succession planning, establishment of evidence-based organizational alignment, and governance capacity building.
- Confirmation that the NNDSB has made progress to implement all of the required recommendations. The submission of this report will conclude the official reporting cycle.
- Update provided on a recent call with the Ombudsman's Office. Call was very productive and the Ombudsman's Office is pleased with the progress made by NNDSB.

Floor opened for questions, with Director Myles pleased to respond. None rose. Chair Aspin thanked Director Myles for providing comment and reviewed the motion for approval.

Motion: 20-12-03, J. Cochrane/ H. Fry

That the Board accept the December report to Minister Lecce and forward to the Ministry of Education. - **Carried.**

## **4.0 Committee Reports**

### **4.1 Standing Committees**

#### *4.1.1 Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) Committee Report*

Committee Co-Chair Steer invited to lead this item for the Board. Trustees referred to the report contained in the agenda package. Highlights are noted to be:

- Following the Board's approval of the MYSP draft framework last month, work has begun to develop the plan in alignment with the board improvement plan for student achievement and wellbeing (BIPSAWB) and school improvement plans for student achievement and wellbeing (SIPSAWB).
- A dedicated MYSP section on the website has been created to highlight the progress, and provide a forum for continuous community feedback throughout the process

The floor was opened for questions, with none rose. Chair Aspin thanked Committee Co-Chair Steer for the report and the continued work of the MYSP Committee leading up to the June 2020 approval date.

#### *4.1.2 Finance Committee*

Committee Chair Cochrane referred trustees to the minutes contained in the agenda package for information purposes, noting a fulsome report on the meeting was provided at the November Board meeting.

### **4.2 Ad Hoc Committees**

#### *4.2.1 Parry Sound Architectural Selection Committee Report*

Chair Aspin invited Committee Chair King to lead this item. A verbal report was provided centering on:

- Update to note the Prime Consultant for the Parry Sound JK12 Project site tour occurred on Saturday, November 21, 2020.
- 13 firms attended the tour, which is manageable for staff and the committee in regards to the anticipated number of submissions.
- Tour participants walked the interior of the building to really get a feel for what the staff and students are used to, and then appreciate the significant design changes dictated by reduced enrolment, and the Ministry's approved scope of this project.
- Many of these firms have worked on school projects where property acreages are not nearly as large and natural. There was mention of the vast property available, but an understanding that there may be a requirement to work closely around the current facility's footprint in order to maintain the track and field area.
- The next milestone will be on Wednesday December 16, 2020, when the RFP closes.

The floor was opened for questions, with none rose. Chair Aspin thanked Committee Chair King for the report

### **4.3 Legislated Committees**

#### *4.3.1 SEAC Committee*

Unofficial minutes dated November 19, 2020, provided for information purposes.

#### *4.3.2 Audit Committee Report*

Trustees referred to the minutes of the November 24, 2020, Audit Committee meeting for information purposes. Chair Aspin invited Committee Chair Cochrane to lead this item. Highlights of the address included:

- Thanks expressed to the finance staff and auditors for their tireless work.
- As the Chair of the Committee, it is encouraging to see the relationship between board staff and the external auditors. Both teams are well respected.
- With regard to the audit, no issues were identified. The process went very smoothly, appreciating how systems were adapted to be conducted in a virtual environment.
- Question from Trustee Breault regarding the timing of the audit cycle. Confirmation from Committee Chair Cochrane that NNDSB is audited on an annual basis.

With no further questions, Chair Aspin read the motions for approval.

Motion: 20-12-04, J. Cochrane/ D. Breault

That the draft audited year-end financial statements be approved. – **Carried.**

Motion: 20-12-05, J. Cochrane/ R. Learn

That the Board receive the annual report from the Audit Committee and forward to the Ministry of Education for the year ended August 31, 2020. – **Carried.**

Final remarks offered from the Chair and trustees to have a safe and happy holiday season. Pride expressed in the progress the Board has achieved throughout the last year, with confirmation that the positive momentum will continue throughout 2021.

Trustee Sargent took the opportunity to recognize STEAM Coordinator, B. Yacoback, for his recent invitation to facilitate a national virtual coding session for educators and parents. The session highlighted how Swift Playgrounds can be used to teach learners how to code using an iPad or MacBook. As part of the process of promoting the Webinar and Computer Science Education Week, and the NNDSB STEAM program, Apple arranged for B. Yacoback to complete a series of interviews that were televised locally. Recognition echoed by Chair Aspin for this distinguished accomplishment.

There being no further business to discuss, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting.

## **5.0 Motion to Adjourn**

Motion: 20-12-06, H. Fry/ N. King

That we do now adjourn at 7:33 pm. – **Carried**



**Jay Aspin**  
Chair



**Craig Myles**  
Director of Education