



Jay Aspin, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

The October 13, 2020 **Committee of the Whole** of the Near North District School Board was held in the boardroom 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
James Bennett, Communications Officer
Maureen Egan, Recording Secretary
Josh Casey, Information Coordinator
Glenn Morrison, Manager of IT

Trustee Regrets: NIL



**Committee of the Whole Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 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 via Zoom. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and hoped everyone had a good Thanksgiving weekend. He apologized for not meeting in person but due to the water issue at the board office it was a health and safety issue.

1.2 Attendance

Attendance indicated that eight trustees were present for the meeting. Trustee Learn attended later in the meeting.

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest NIL

1.4 Approval of the Agenda

Motion: J. Cochrane/A. Bottomley

That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of October 13, 2020 be approved as amended. The amendment being the addition to New Business 3:2 Consolidation Update from Executive Officer Pavone. – **Carried**

1.5 Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings

Motion: L. Sargent/D.Breault

That the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on September 15, 2020 be approved. – **Carried**

2.0 Bring Forward Business

Staff report re correspondence from N. Green (included).

Director Myles explained that as directed by the Board, staff has completed a report addressing the letter of concern from Nick Green re Alliance and vehicle congestion. Staff has done a thorough investigation including a visit of the area. SBO Therrien addressed the contents of N.Green's letter and reviewed the staff report.

Trustee Fry asked if we received feedback from Mr. Green since school started. SBO Therrien did contact him and informed him that this was on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

Chair Aspin said he spent time with the principal looking at this situation. He was very impressed with the set up and it was clear student safety was the priority. He noted that he was on site at rush hour in the afternoon and saw that parents do use the pickup area adjacent to the school and on Chippewa street. He walked the pathway to Devonshire and saw that it was well groomed and safe. The Consortium has done well managing this issue and making the whole area logistically possible and with student safety in mind.

3.0 New Business

3:2 Consolidation Phase 2 Plan and Proposed Budget (included).

Director Myles introduced the report this evening that Executive Officer Pavone will be presenting. Priorities for September have been completed and now phase two begins which is the next priorities that require financial approval.

Executive Officer Pavone reviewed the final report re phase one of the consolidation process including a summary since last September. He acknowledged the tireless efforts of staff including the principals at the schools, our senior team, Director Myles, SO Smylie and other NNSB staff.

Vice-Chair Cochrane congratulated the team saying the efforts are first class and an excellent example of the unions, teachers, management and staff working together. He is very proud of these achievements and it is wonderful for our students and families.

Executive Officer Pavone reviewed phase two of the report. In January no budget was in place reflecting the consolidation process and Exec Council requested \$1.4m for phase one. We were cognizant of what we could accomplish at the time and focused on priority programming. Now that we are in the new budget year we wanted to be ahead of process and are respectfully submitting phase two. He reviewed the funding priorities for phase two.

Chair Aspin said this is a real success story despite the negativity we faced. We have combined high schools, increased enrolment and increased programming. Accolades to everyone involved for an excellent job. Now our focus is to finish the job and we will have two first class high schools that will shine comparable to any in the province.

Trustee Steer asked when we can review and begin the renewal projects noting the importance of completing this good work. SBO Therrien said there will be a report forthcoming where we will bring forward capital projects accessing school renewal and school condition improvement funding for board approval.

Trustee Sargent asked if there is a phase three to the consolidation. Director Myles anticipates down the road there may be things to address. We also have to look at

bus loading zones. Trustee Sargent asked about the track and outdoor fields at both schools and if we are looking at the parking lot situation at West Ferris. She is hoping there will be another phase and not leave such an important aspect like track because it is used by the elementary panel as well. Director Myles said it has not been formalized yet because it is further down the road, it is significant dollars and will involve further work with engagement from community partners. Executive Officer Pavone said both fields were identified for school renewal and was noted in the process.

Trustee Learn asked if we have a final cost on Chippewa re paving. SBO Therrien said the project was still ongoing and is included in phase two. Once cost is in she will share through the Director's office.

Trustee Learn asked if access to library at Chippewa is improved. Executive Officer Pavone responded that libraries are now called learning commons and we are looking at significant renovations to both libraries for 2021.

Trustee Breault said that at our last meeting we discussed parent council becoming involved in fundraising. Director Myles said it has been discussed with the principals of the schools and is currently on hold due to COVID.

Trustee Sargent asked if the two fields are safe to use and whether they can be used for track. The Director said we inspect them regularly and SBO Therrien said she is not aware of anything that makes them unsafe.

Consensus to recommend to the Board:

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.

4.0 Motion to Adjourn

Motion: L. Sargent/D.Breault

That we do now adjourn at 6:48 pm. - **Carried**