



Jay Aspin, Chair

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Craig Myles, Director of Education

The February 16, 2021 **Public Session Board Meeting** of the Near North District School Board was held via teleconference and videoconference.

Trustees Present:

Jay Aspin, Chair
John Cochrane, Vice-Chair
Al Bottomley
Bill Steer
Donna Breault
Harry Fry
Louise Sargent
Nichole King
Rob Learn
Student Trustee M. Paradis

Administrative Staff Present:

Craig Myles, Director of Education
Deb Bartlett, Information/Communication Officer
Gay Smylie, Acting Superintendent
Josh Casey, Communications Coordinator
Krista Messenger, Executive Assistant
Lisa Collins, Interim Executive Officer
Liz Therrien, Superintendent of Business
Tim Graves, Superintendent
Wally Easton, Interim Executive Officer

Other:

Media and community partners

Trustee Regrets:

Nil

Administrative Regrets:

Melanie Gray, Acting Superintendent

1.0 Call to Order

Chair Aspin called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm.

1.1 Attendance

Attendance indicated that 10 trustees are present for the meeting, including the Student Trustee.

1.2 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

NIL

2.0 Approval of the Agenda

Motion: 21-02-01, A. Bottomley/B. Steer.

That the agenda for the Board meeting of February 16, 2021 be approved as presented. - **Carried.**

3.0 Approval of Previous Minutes

3.1 2021 01 12 Regular Meeting minutes

Trustees were referred to the meeting minutes contained in the package. The floor was opened for amendments, questions, or comments with none rose.

Motion: 21-02-02, R. Learn/ H. Fry

That the minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on January 12, 2021, be approved.

- Carried

4.0 Communication to the Board

4.1 Information Items

4.1.1 Monthly Tender Report

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

4.2 Program Presentation

The focus of the staff presentation this evening is “the remote learning journey/ supporting all families during the COVID-19 pandemic” to keep trustees apprised of the ongoing work to meet the needs of NNDSB students enrolled in virtual learning. The Chair invited the Director of Education to speak to this item. Director Myles reiterated the opportunities for students to continue their education from the safety of their own homes during the pandemic. The remote learning journey necessitated a significant paradigm shift across the school community that is a shining example of teamwork and adaptability. Together with educators and union partners, staff are working through obstacles to ensure students continue to get the best possible education. To make the best use of time, a report was contained in the agenda package. Interim Executive Officer Collins and members of the programming team (L. Forth, C. Walking, and S. Ruddy) were invited to respond to questions or comments that arose from the pre-reading material. Highlights of the discussion are noted to be:

- Chair Aspin praised the team for their ability to pivot so quickly, noting the significant number of students who opted for the virtual learning pathway. An 80% pass rate after 4 octomesters is a very positive outcome for secondary students.
- Question from Trustee Sargent on the ability for students participating in in-school learning to pivot to remote learning during inclement weather days.
 - Response from L. Forth to note the remote learning pathway operates as a fully independent school, therefore it would be too resource intensive to invite in-person students to join for a single day. With time, it is hoped this pivot will be made more seamlessly.
 - Interim Executive Officer Collins added that in-school learners are provided with on-line activities and paper material from classroom teachers to sustain them during inclement weather days.
 - Trustee Learn spoke to his family’s experience with remote learning during the first week of January and commended the team with well-earned praise.

With no additional questions, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Aspin thanked the program team for their work and presence at the meeting to provide this presentation on the remote learning journey.

4.3 3:2 Consolidation Update

Director Myles was invited to speak to this item and referred trustees to the report contained in the agenda package. The report represents the board's ongoing commitment to keeping the community apprised of the progress of the consolidation process. Acting Superintendent Smylie is pleased to be attending to respond to any questions or comments on the process. The floor was opened for questions with none rose.

4.4 Director's Update

Director Myles referred trustees to the report contained in the agenda package. Highlights drawn to leadership within the school community this month. The Director was pleased to participate in a videoconference with Minister Lecce and local dignitaries showcasing the business developed by three West Ferris secondary students following their invention of a UV sterilization box. Principal Andy Gagne, the STEAM educators and the robotics team were acknowledged for their role in supporting the development of FEME Innovations. Principal Kim Pauli and the Sunset Park staff were acknowledged for their quick response and thorough cooperation with the NBPSDHU to address the COVID-19 outbreak that led to the closure of the school. The Director was pleased to be invited to a town hall hosted by EFTO union partners that was an important demonstration of the ongoing positive relationship with union partners.

Chair Aspin thanked the Director for the report and echoed high regards to Principal Pauli and the staff and students at Sunset Park Public School. The Board is pleased to see there are processes in place that work well to contain the virus and support community prevention strategies.

4.3 Chair's Remarks

The Chair shared remarks regarding board and community engagement initiatives. Highlights are noted as:

- Recognition that this will be SBO Therrien's final board meeting before retirement. Building on the previous accolades, Chair Aspin reiterated his gratitude for L. Therrien's dedication to NNDSB and wished her well into the next chapter. Warm regards offered to Interim Executive Officer Easton for supporting the board during the search for a permanent SBO successor.
- Sincere appreciation to the Parry Sound Architect Selection Committee and staff involved in the ad hoc committee. Following the resolution occurring later in the agenda, the Board will be moving forward with a build in the Parry Sound community. We celebrate with our Parry Sound community and appreciate how long they have waited for this milestone. There are many exciting things on the horizon for NNDSB, as great things continue to happen here.
- Confirmation that the Board will revert to the original meet date for March, given the Ministry's decision to defer March Break. The Board meeting will firmly occur on Tuesday, March 16, 2021.
 - Question raised by Trustee Sargent regarding the impact to the 2020/21 School Year Calendar (SYC) regarding the March Break date shift. Is a motion required to confirm this change?
 - Superintendent Smylie invited to speak to this item and confirmed that given the Board has previously approved this SYC and the

change was confirmed at the ministry level, there is no need for the NNDSB to revisit this item.

With no additional questions to note, the Board received the Chair's Report with thanks.

4.3 OPSBA Report

The Chair invited Trustee Steer to lead the Board through this item. Trustee Steer referred Board members to the report shared as part of the agenda package. Highlights drawn to two significant OPSBA priorities:

- The Northern OPSBA Committee has identified indigenous education advocacy as an area of focus. A letter has been drafted on behalf of the OPSBA to share with local MPPs
 - Chair Aspin confirmed he was copied on the letter and was pleased to support the message.
- Trustee Steer has been invited to participate on the governance review process of the OPSBA through Project Compass. Appreciation expressed to trustees for engaging in the various professional development opportunities by the OPSBA.
 - Side conversations noted regarding technology challenges. Director Myles advised trustees to reach out to the Executive Assistant for support to ensure they can participate seamlessly.

The Chair thanked Trustee Steer for his report.

4.4 Student Trustee's Update

The Chair invited Student Trustee Paradis to speak to this item. It is noted that a report was contained in the package regarding this item. Student Trustee Paradis shared the following highlights:

- Exciting news shared to note three NNDSB students were accepted into the highly competitive and prestigious SHAD summer program. SHAD Canada's program attracts students with high aptitudes for risk-taking, curiosity, excellence, and resilience and prepares them to take on social and economic challenges. The month-long program includes a real-world design challenge that asks students to work on issues such as food security, water management and waste.
- The school community has celebrated Black History Month in February in a variety of ways that support continued learning and growth regarding this subject.
- Appreciation expressed for the continued interest in the work of the student senate.

The Chair thanked M. Paradis for her report.

5.0 Items for Decision

5.1 Ontario Student Trustee Association - Board Council Conference

Motion: 21-02-03, J. Cochrane/ A. Bottomley

That the Board approves the attendance of Student Trustee Paradis at the Virtual OSTA-AECO Board Council Conference February 18 to 21, 2021. – **Carried.**

5.2 Report from Committee of the Whole

5.2.1 Parry Sound Architect Selection

Motion: 21-02-04, N. King/ J. Cochrane, with unanimous support

Whereas NNDSB has issued a formal selection process and published a RFP for this project;

And whereas the Board of Trustees established an Ad Hoc Parry Sound Architect Selection Committee to ensure oversight and transparency;

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Near North District School Board approve the following firm as the successful award of the Parry Sound school build project, as recommended by the Parry Sound Architectural Selection Committee, and subject to the signing of the OAA Contract: the Ventin Group (+ VG) – **Carried unanimously**

5.3 2021/2022 School Year Calendar Approval

Director Myles invited to speak to this item. Brief overview to note a report was shared as part of the agenda package to support this item. NNDSB is pleased to have worked with coterminous boards to survey the public on the 2021/22 School Year Calendar. The Chair expressed support for this democratic and cooperative process.

Motion: 21-02-05, L. Sargent/ H. Fry

That the Board approves the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar. – **Carried.**

5.4 SBO Interim Appointment

Director Myles invited to speak to this item. Although the Board has been apprised of this transition plan for some time, it is noted that the Ministry of Education requires a resolution to formalize this decision. The ministry has pre-approved W. Easton to assume the role of Superintendent of Business effective March 1, 2021, after having vetted and confirmed his qualification appropriately. Accolades expressed again to SBO Therrien for her dedication. Question raised regarding the projected timeline of W. Easton's term. Director Myles noted it is predicated on the successful onboarding of a permanent SBO, which the board is actively working on. With no further questions, the motion was read aloud.

Motion: 21-02-06, J. Cochrane/ A. Bottomley

Motion: That the Board approves the appointment of Interim Executive Officer W. Easton to the role of Superintendent of Business effective March 1, 2021. – **Carried.**

5.5 Capital Project Listing for Approval

Trustees referred to the report contained in the agenda package. Director Myles noted this is an annual item presented to trustees for approval as NNDSB receives funds from the Ministry of Education in annual grant allocations for capital projects. The floor was opened for questions:

- Question from Trustee Sargent to inquire when the appropriate opportunity is to raise the outdoor facilities at Chippewa and West Ferris discussed as part of the consolidation process for consideration as a capital project.
 - Director Myles noted the board continues to be mindful of this commitment and invited SBO Therrien to provide a more detailed response. SBO Therrien noted as the dialogue continues regarding these projects, they can be identified as priorities for inclusion in the next budget cycle. Trustee Sargent thanked SBO Therrien for this clarification.
- Question raised by Trustee Learn on the scope of the paving projects. SBO Therrien clarified the Chippewa project was separated into phases therefore this is an expansion to a project previously listed. It is noted that the board was unsuccessful in tendering the West Ferris site improvement project, so it will go

back out again following the Board's approval.

- Trustee Fry queried the specifics of the West Ferris paving project. SBO Therrien noted that the board's Acting Manager of Plant/Facilities is in attendance this evening and could provide this information. J Mirtl noted a fulsome paving project is planned, including the front, back and sides of the building.
 - Trustee Fry noted this will support traffic flow in the area.

Motion: 21-02-06, R. Learn/ H. Fry

That the Near North District School Board approves proceeding with the 2020-2021 Capital Projects as listed in Appendix A – School Renewal & School Condition Improvement Projects. – **Carried.**

6.0 Committee Reports

6.1 Standing Committees

6.1.1 Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) Committee Report

Committee Chair Steer invited to lead this item for the Board. It is noted that the minutes of the MYSP Committee meeting of January 7, 2021, are included for information purposes. Trustees referred to the report, roadmap, and circular graphic contained in the agenda package. Director Myles invited to share highlights and noted:

- As stated previously by Chair Aspin, the establishment of a multi-year strategic plan is one of the most significant priorities for the Board of Trustees.
- The MYSP is being constructed upon the feedback provided by all trustees and other stakeholders as part of the engagement process.
- The Officer of Corporate Affairs, L. Blaskievich, continues to action much of this work and provides oversight to ensure the continued momentum internally.
- Recall in November, a preliminary graphic was approved by the Board. A more detailed version is included for review in the agenda package, noting the additional detail to provide a high-level overview where all stakeholders fit within in the MYSP. The goal of the graphic is to ensure all stakeholders can see where they fit in at NNDSB.
 - Chair Aspin acknowledged L. Blaskievich for developing this graphic as such a powerful tool to convey many detailed concepts with ease. This will be essential when presenting the MYSP to the public.
 - Accolades echoed by Trustee Fry, with a gentle consideration offered to reverse the text direction at the bottom of the graphic for ease of reading.

Chair Aspin thanked Trustee Steer for providing this update.

6.1.2 Finance Committee

Committee Chair Cochrane referred trustees to the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting on February 1, 2021 contained in the agenda package.

- On behalf of all the members of the Finance Committee, sincere well-wishes expressed to SBO Therrien on her retirement.
- Clarification noted regarding the statement in the minutes describing how school boards were required to disclose all federal and provincial COVID relief income as one allotment. NNDSB received \$3.3M and it is estimated the Board will incur approximately \$4.2M in expenses related to COVID-19. Given the approval by the ministry to incur an in-year deficit, it is expected that should this variation come to

fruition, surplus funds will be accessed to cover the difference.

Point raised by Chair Aspin to note as the board moves forward with two new builds, surplus funds will be prioritized to support these projects if needed. More information is expected to come forward on this item in the months to come. Chair Aspin thanked the Finance Committee Chair for his report.

6.2 Ad Hoc Committees

6.2.1 Equity Advisory Circle

Chair Aspin invited Director Myles to comment on this item. A verbal report was provided centering on:

- Trustees referred to the minutes of the newly formed staff committee of February 3, 2021, shared as part of the agenda package.
- It is noted this inaugural meeting was convened at a time that offered the ability to acknowledge two very meaningful dates of recognition (February which is Black History Month and Indigenous Week honored from February 22- 26, 2021).
- Appreciation expressed to all the community partners who participated, included representatives from OutLoud North Bay, the Multi-Cultural Society, and the Ministry of Education's Indigenous Education and Well-Being division.
- Acting Superintendent Gray was affirmed as the Committee Chair. The board's Equity Principal lead, K. Waller, is participating this evening to answer any questions.

The floor was opened for questions with none rose.

6.3 Legislated Committees

6.3.1 PIC unofficial minutes- January 20, 2021

6.3.2 SEAC unofficial minutes- January 21, 2021

The Chair referred trustees to the minutes of the legislated committees contained in the agenda package for information purposes. There being no further business to discuss, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting.

7.0 Motion to Adjourn

Motion: 21-02-8, H. Fry/ N. King

That we do now adjourn at 8:01 pm. – **Carried**



Jay Aspin
Chair



Craig Myles
Director of Education