

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 5:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/95073557191>
Meeting ID: 950 7355 7191
Canada Toll-free 855 703 8985

PUBLIC AGENDA

1.0 Call to Order

1.1 Land acknowledgement

We would like to open this meeting by acknowledging the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe, on which all schools of the NNDSB are situated. The Board Office is specifically located on the traditional territory of the Nipissing First Nation. We value the cultures, histories and relationships with the Indigenous People of Turtle Island. We are grateful to be gathered here today.

1.2 Attendance

Confirmation of Quorum

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

2.0 Approval of the Agenda ✓

Motion: That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of April 20, 2021 be approved.

3.0 In-Camera

Motion: That the Board move into a Committee of the Whole Private Session

4.0 Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings ✓

4.1 2021_03_16 Committee of the Whole- Public Meeting minutes

Motion: That the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on March 16, 2021, be approved.

5.0 Bring Forward Business

Nil.

6.0 New Business

- 6.1 Audit Committee membership discussion
- 6.2 Trustee Report: Climate Crisis- Call to Action ✓
Trustee Bottomley to lead this item

7.0 Adjournment

Motion: That on April 20, 2021 we do now adjourn at ____pm.



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Craig Myles, Director of Education

The March 16, 2021 **Public Session Committee of the Whole** of the Near North District School Board was held via video and/or teleconference.

Trustees Present:

Jay Aspin, Chair
John Cochrane, Vice-Chair
Al Bottomley *
Bill Steer
Donna Breault
Harry Fry
Louise Sargent
Nichole King *
Rob Learn

Administrative Staff Present:

Craig Myles, Director of Education
Deb Bartlett, Information/Communication Officer
Gay Smylie, Acting Superintendent
Krista Messenger, Executive Assistant
Lisa Collins, Interim Executive Officer
Melanie Gray, Acting Superintendent
Tim Graves, Superintendent
Wally Easton, Interim Superintendent of Business

* *joined the meeting following roll call.*

Other:

Media and community partners

Trustee Regrets:

Student Trustee M. Paradis

Administrative Regrets:

None noted.

1.0 Call to Order

Chair Aspin called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

1.1 Land acknowledgement

Chair Aspin read the declaration aloud.

1.2 Attendance

Attendance indicated that nine trustees are present for the meeting.

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

NIL

2.0 Approval of the Agenda

Motion: J. Cochrane/ H. Fry

That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of March 16, 2021 be approved as presented. - **Carried.**

3.0 In-Camera

At this time, Chair Aspin advised the Committee of the Whole would be moving into a private session. Members of the public were excused and advised they would be permitted back into the meeting once the Board arose in public session. A brief pause was noted to coordinate the appropriate video conference controls.

Motion: B. Steer/ H. Fry

That the Committee of the Whole move into an in-camera session. **-Carried.**

4.0 Arise and Report

The Committee arose and reported in the public session of Committee of the Whole. A brief pause was noted to coordinate the appropriate video conference controls to permit members of the public to re-enter the virtual meeting.

5.0 Approval of Previous Minutes

5.1 2021 02 16 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes

Board Chair Aspin referred all attendees to the meeting minutes contained in the agenda package.

Motion: A. Bottomley/ H. Fry

That the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on February 16, 2021, be approved. - **Carried**

6.0 Bring Forward Business

The Chair confirmed there was no outstanding business contained in the February 16, 2021, meeting minutes to bring forward.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Parry Sound Architect Selection Update

Chair Aspin invited Directly Myles to speak to this item. Highlights of the discussion are noted as:

- Director Myles acknowledged the Board's approval of the final recommendation presented by the Ad Hoc Parry Sound Architect Selection Committee at the last meeting. Since this time, NNDSB has executed the contract with the Ventin Group.
- Given the completion of this task represents the fulfillment of the Ad Hoc Architect Selection Committee's mandate, it is proposed that the Board move to dissolve this committee in order to empower the Parry Sound Build Committee to carry forward on this project.
- Board Chair Aspin thanked Ad Hoc Committee Chair King for her leadership throughout the architect selection process. Gratitude also expressed the Vice-Chair Cochrane, and the administration staff involved.
- The floor was opened for questions and further comments with none rose.

Chair Aspin noted a consensus has been reached to dissolve the Ad Hoc Parry Sound Architect Selection Committee. It is noted that this item will be brought forward with a resolution during the regular Board of Trustees meeting immediately following the Committee of the Whole session.

7.2 NNDSB Trustee Initiative Fund Application

Trustees referred to the application received from FIRST Robotics Team 1305 contained in the agenda package. Director Myles invited to speak to this item. Highlights of the discussion are noted as:

- Recognition for the recent accomplishments in the media for Team 1305, about the UV Box creation.
- It is noted that the NNDSB Board of Trustees has a history of supporting this initiative.
- The application is requesting \$15,000 to buy tooling and materials for prototyping and building a robot at the high school level, buying LEGO equipment in support of less able teams at the grade school level, and help fund event registration costs at the provincial level for two levels of local FIRST Teams competing in this abbreviated season.
- Query from Trustee Learn regarding the composition and size of the team. Responses from staff to note the team is comprised of students across several NNDSB schools. More specific information could be provided to trustees if requested. Comment from Trustee Learn his intention was to credit the impact of the team on the Near North school community, and this information will suffice.
- Comment from Trustee Sargent to note her support for this initiative, with a suggestion to ensure the decision is confirmed by way of formal motion during the regular session. Chair Aspin confirmed this is the intended process once consensus is formed and referred Trustee Sargent to item 5.1- Report from Committee of the Whole outlined on the Board's agenda for the regular meeting.

Chair Aspin noted a consensus has been reached to approve the application from FIRST Team 1305 to the Trustee Initiative Fund. It is noted that this item will be brought forward with a resolution during the regular Board of Trustees meeting immediately following the Committee of the Whole session.

8.0 Motion to Adjourn

Motion: H. Fry/ N. King

That we do now adjourn at 6:28 pm. – **Carried**

Title:	Climate Crisis- A Call to Action
Contact:	Trustee Bottomley
Date Submitted:	Committee of the Whole meeting- April 20, 2021
Mandate	As an educational institution, the NNDSB must take strong steps and a clear stance to stop the onslaught of a worldwide climate disaster. Our students who we put at the centre of our efforts will not be able to thrive in the world starting to unfold. Unprecedented storms, droughts, flooding, and rising oceans will undermine their chances of a productive, enjoyable life. Our hopes for their lives and success will be dashed because of climate volatility. Time is running out. Every day the carbon and methane gases increase. Every day, our glaciers melt faster. Everyday violent weather pushes economic damage to new heights.
Background	<p><u>Four Major Areas of Concern</u></p> <p>1] <u>The Forces Of Interference</u></p> <p>One of the problems facing our world is the powerful vested interests which want to delay economic and social reforms which must be enacted to stop the rapid increases in greenhouse gases. The worst of these are the large oil production companies, which have decided profits are more important than our children’s futures. There are others who back these companies, but; the huge expenditures on anti climate change is hard to fight. Many front organizations such as the Cato Institute, Friends of Science, Murdock news group (i.e Fox Tv, Sky News etc.) spin fake news. Exxonmobil and Koch industries between them have laid out over a billion dollars suppressing the truth over the last 10 years. At first, they totally denied climate change was real. Murdock still does. Now they are giving a more subtle message. Yes, climate change is happening but it is not a danger at present so don’t worry; we have lots of time. They want to expand production not reduce it.</p> <p>These groups are ruthless. They have successfully harassed climate scientists into being timid or silent and have had climate disasters suppressed by the mainstream media. They can control the politicians in most countries with the power of their economic wealth. We are not getting the full picture of super hurricanes, typhons, and cyclones. The discussion of the economic costs of wildfires, storm damage, widespread drought and ocean rise are muted or not reported.</p> <p>Our economic paradigm needs reform. We cannot have continuous growth. Our consumption addiction is adding to climate chaos and the destruction of our environment through plastic waste, water pollution, air degradation. We</p>

are also destroying arable land and forests. David Attenborough, noted environmentalist, said it best. Anyone who thinks we can have infinite growth on a finite planet is either insane or an economist.

2] The Greenhouse Gas Threat

For a long time humans have burnt coal; but the realization that the energy in this ancient carbon could be harnessed to produce steam to make better manufacturing processes only happened in the last 300 years or so. The industrial application of fossil fuels seemingly brought great wealth and social benefits to civilization with consumer products and labour-saving devices. Oil and natural gas were added to the mix in the last 150 years. At first only a few countries used fossil fuels, but it has now spread almost worldwide. The by-product of these fuels is CO₂ and many other problematic discharges. The idea that CO₂ could interfere in our climate was proposed by a German scientist before 1850. His message was ignored until the 1990's even though Exxonmobil had research in the 1970's that showed climate change was developing.

CO₂ has been building up in increasing amounts every year since coal was first applied to industrial processes. World average temperature has increased by at least 1C since 1850. The CO₂ acts like a blanket once it drifts into the higher atmospheric heights and prevents sun caused heat to escape into space. The resultant warming has triggered more greenhouse gases of which methane is the best at keeping heat . Methane (depending on the scientific source) is 30 to 80 times more effective at keeping the sun's heat in than CO₂. Much of the methane is being released from the arctic where it has been frozen for thousands of years. It is now bubbling out of the ocean floor and the permafrost on land. This is very worrisome as it could lead to a runaway warming. The temperature averages in the arctic have increased by an estimated 3C.

The goal of keeping warming to under 2C as agreed to in the Paris accord is probably not attainable. We will certainly pass that mark soon especially once covid restrictions are removed. This warming problem is coming faster than predicted and makes our decisions urgent. We must eliminate fossil fuel use ASAP. This will not stop bad climate happenings but will prevent a worsening crisis.

CO₂ has also affected our oceans. Most of the CO₂ from burning fossil fuels has so far been absorbed by these bodies of water. How long the oceans can continue to gather CO₂ is unknown. It will become saturated. This gas has made the oceans acidic and creatures like shellfish, coral reefs and crustaceans are having a difficult time forming calcium shells. The life that inhabits our oceans is under threat. The world gets 60% of its protein from ocean life. It should be noted that overfishing by industrial ships is aggravating the environmental impact.

3] Other Problems With Fossil Fuel Use

As if climate change is not enough of a reason to stop fossil fuel use, there are other sound reasons to quit. The environmental destruction caused by mining, drilling, and transporting of these toxic substances is well documented. Coal mines in various USA states, China, Australia, and many other places have destroyed communities with poisonous runoff into streams and groundwater. Lead, mercury, radon, arsenic, cyanide, and various acids have destroyed the health of those communities nearby. These toxins eventually end up in major river systems and the ocean. Farm soils are likewise poisoned. Oil wells, refineries and gas wells release greenhouse gases on a daily basis. Fracking is the worst. Spills from pipelines, tankers and service centres add to the problem in big ways. Dozens of drilling sites end up with disastrous releases of raw oil and gas which can go on for years. Canada's oil sands are a lasting testament to the insanity of fossil fuel extraction at all costs. This massive wound on Alberta's landscape oozes tons of CO₂, methane, CO, CO₃, NO, radon, mercury vapour and many more dangerous substances. It is literally killing the aboriginal communities downstream as well as wildlife.

The use of fossil fuels in our transportation systems is unhealthy. A study in Toronto found that those living within 2km of the 400 and 401 highways had an elevated risk of asthma, allergies, lung cancer, skin cancer, stomach and colon cancer. Various lung obstruction problems were also found with more frequency. Corrosion of infrastructure can be placed on the burning of these fuels. Residues from fossil fuel combustion end up in farm produce and water samples. We are poisoning our world.

4] Oceans Rising.

Ice is rapidly melting across the world. Most mountain glaciers have shrunk, and some have disappeared after thousands of years of existence. The oceans are rising currently by 4mm per year. If that doesn't sound like much, remember our oceans cover around 71 000 000

Km², Storm surges are threatening places like Miami, Bangladesh and fishing villages in Nova Scotia. The speed of the rise is increasing. Maritime storms will do more and more damage as the water can be driven further in land. Many countries are investing in sea barriers which will not stop what is coming. The Greenland glaciers are becoming unstable as their ice melts faster and faster. Vast rivers of melt water have formed under the ice and like grease could generate a surge. If this happens a huge part of the glacier will quickly flow into the ocean. As a result, sea levels will rapidly jump.

Unprecedented melting is developing in Antarctica. If all the ice from these two places melted the oceans would rise over 100 metres. This would probably take a few centuries, but it is conceivable that we could suffer a 1-2m rise in three decades.

	<p>As the seas rise many lowlands face extinction. Already several populated islands in the Pacific have had to put in evacuation plans as their homes are destroyed by water and their ground water becomes salty. Bangladesh is doomed as is Venice, Florida, Louisiana, Prince Edward Island and many many other places. We will have a refugee problem like none before. As coastal flooding combines with severe droughts inland there could be a billion refugees on the move in the not too distant future. Remember that 5 million refugees recently shook the European Union to its core. It has huge economic, social and political costs to overcome. It might not survive.</p> <p><u>Conclusions</u></p> <p>We, as a civilization and even a species, are at a crucial place in time. If we delay action on the elimination of fossil fuels, we will suffer grave consequences. We are in for some of these anyway. Not only will we face life threatening weather events; but we will have to deal with millions of refugees fleeing dangerous environment changes. There is a high risk of warfare, even nuclear war. There is no easy way out of our crisis, but we have to try.</p> <p>On the positive side we have the technology to help us give up fossil fuels. We can stop the worst-case scenario. Do we have the will and determination to work together on a worldwide basis? That is the question.</p>
<p>Resources</p>	<p>Here are a handful of good videos on climate change. There are numerous books and articles to read.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dave Borlace has a YouTube channel called Just Have a Think. He has over 100 videos on all aspects of the problems developing and how we can get off fossil fuels. This one my favourite sources. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRBwLPbXGsI2cJe9W1zfSjQ 2. Dr. Michael Mann, an atmospheric scientist from Penn State is a leading expert on climate change. He has many videos on YouTube. One of his best is “ the Race to save the World from Climate Change “. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFQrmOzHx24 3. Dr. V Ramanathen, Indian atmospheric scientists made a video of his working with the pope to communicate with people. It is called “ scientists are not the best champions of climate science”. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qfl3DZmmQw 4. Democracy Now, December 08, 2015. Discussion with Dr Kevin Anderson UK climate scientist. YouTube “ Crisis is worse that we think and scientists are self censoring to downplay risk”. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NmL4t8TclGU 5. YouTube, Michael Mann and Bill Nye: “The New Climate War” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P66oFbMrvzY 6. YouTube, David Attenborough “ How to save our planet” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Puv0Pss33M

	<p>7. YouTube, Dr Paul Beckwith, University of Ottawa, climate system scientist: “ Top 10 climate disruption events of 2020” . https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= ueGnwEeryc</p>
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p><u>Steps to Support Our Students with Climate Change</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Board should declare that there is a climate crisis 2. The Board needs to lobby both senior levels of government for money to electrify our facilities, buses, service vehicles, and maintenance equipment. 3. These steps should be included in our multi year plan 4. Students should be given scientific based discussion of this problem and how it can be dealt with. 5. Students need to know that we have the technologies available and be allowed to discuss how individual efforts can help. 6. Parents should be brought into the discussions. 7. Students should be allowed to participate in peaceful climate demonstrations in an organized fashion.