



Jay Aspin, Chair

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Craig Myles, Director of Education

The April 20, 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
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
Liana Blaskievich, Officer Corporate Affairs
Lisa Collins, Interim Executive Officer
Melanie Gray, Acting Superintendent
Tim Graves, Superintendent
Wally Easton, Interim Superintendent of Business

Trustee Regrets:

Rob Learn

Other:

Media and community partners

1.0 Call to Order

Chair Aspin called the meeting to order at 7:55 pm.

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

Chair Aspin read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Due to the time, a motion for extension was tabled.

Motion: 21-04-01, J. Cochrane/ L. Sargent

That the Board of Trustees agrees to extend the meeting an additional 45 minutes beyond the 8:00 PM expected adjournment. – CARRIED.

1.2 Attendance

Attendance indicated that eight trustees are present for the meeting.

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

NIL

2.0 Approval of the Agenda

Chair Aspin noted an item would be added to the agenda, as requested by the Director. The agenda was amended to include 5.3 School Year Calendar Refinement.

Motion: 21-04-02, A. Bottomley/N. King

That the agenda for the Board meeting of April 20, 2021 be approved as amended. - **Carried.**

3.0 Approval of Previous Minutes

3.1 2021 03 16 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: 21-04-03, H. Fry/ D. Breault

That the minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on March 16, 2021, be approved. – **Carried**

4.0 Communication to the Board

4.1 Information Items

4.1.1 Monthly Tender Report- April 2021

4.1.2 Professional Development Opportunities Calendar

4.1.3 Parry Sound High School Construction Update

4.1.4 Correspondence

Chair Aspin referred trustees to the board reports submitted for information as part of the agenda package for each item. The floor was opened for questions or comments with none rose. With no additional comments brought forward, trustees received all the information items as presented.

Point of order to note that Chair Aspin allowed the next few agenda items to be reprioritized due to connectivity challenges. Items were discussed with a slight variation to the sequence presented on the agenda.

4.2 Chair's Remarks

The Chair shared remarks regarding board and community engagement initiatives as part of the conversation following the Director's Remarks. Highlights are noted as:

- Attention drawn to the correspondence included in the agenda package thanking the Minister of Education for visiting virtually with two NNDSB schools recently. Trustees should take pride in knowing the Minister and two local MPPs took time to reach out and engage with the NNDSB school community.
- Accolades expressed to Trustee Steer as the MYSP Committee Chair for his work to prepare trustees for the regional information sessions. More information will be presented as part of the MYSP Committee Report.
- Overview provided on the Chair's positive experience participating on the SBO Search Committee. This is a key role within the senior leadership team, so the Director will be carefully selecting a permanent successor that aligns with the future goals of NNDSB.

Trustees received the Chair's remarks with thanks.

4.3 Consolidation Update

Director Myles was invited to speak to this item and referred trustees to the report contained in the agenda package. It is noted that trustees have requested to be kept apprised of this item, as suggested by Trustee Sargent sometime ago. The update provided in this report this month focused on the process for public disposition of surplus items. Items that are not required for use in schools are being made available to the public as of the week of April 19, 2021 via the GovDeals website. This process allows outside parties to bid on items of interest and, if successful, pay for the items online.

The floor was opened for questions, with none rose. The Chair thanked the Director for providing this update.

4.4 Director's Update

Director Myles referred trustees to the report contained in the agenda package.

Highlights drawn to a handful of items including:

- Welcome remarks offered to the school community on the return following the April Break. System leaders and the executive team were commended on their leadership to navigate another shift to remote learning beginning this week.
- NNDSB took a proactive approach in readying students and deploying devices that went a long way to support a smooth transition.
- NNDSB was recognized provincially by the Council of Directors of Education (CODE) for the successful work of the Summer Learning Program.
- Work continues with the development of the board's budget. Progress is aligned with the milestones articulated in the Budget Procedures manual and remains on track to be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval at the June meeting.

Chair Aspin thanked the Director for the report and opened the floor for comments, with none rose.

4.5 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 OPSBA priorities, with a note to share OPSBA's Board of Directors had a special meeting to discuss the proposed changes regarding Expanding Student Access to Online and Remote Learning. The final written submission has been shared and remains confidential.

The floor was opened for questions, or comments with none rose. The Chair thanked Trustee Steer for his report.

4.6 Student Trustee's Update

The Chair invited Student Trustee Paradis to speak to this item. Student Trustee Paradis shared a verbal report centering on the following highlights:

Minutes of the Public Session Board Meeting of the Near North District School Board held April 20, 2021

- The mental health team and Student Senate have been working on an initiative that is part of the Thrive in Hive mental health campaign. This campaign intends to create a thriving hive of support to unite our students around wellness and help students develop coping and stress management skills.
- Secondary students will be invited to Pledge to Be Well, and once they have done so, they will be given a choice between 3 wellness kits designed to support body, mind, and calm.
- Elections for both Student Senate and Student Trustee are well underway for next year. Schools are advertising the positions, and interviews will be happening shortly.
- Student Senators voted to change the senate structure to represent their school for more than one school year. Each secondary school will now have a one-term senator and a two-term senator to provide fluidity and help continue ongoing projects.

Vice-Chair Cochrane acknowledged the importance of drawing attention to mental health and wellness in the student community. The Chair thanked the Student Trustee for providing her verbal report.

Trustee Sargent requested a copy of the verbal report be provided to trustees for review. Staff to ensure this is completed.

5.0 Items for Decision

5.1 Report from Committee of the Whole

Chair Aspin noted consensus was achieved on various items during the Committee of the Whole meeting immediately prior to the Board of Trustees meeting.

5.1.1 Private session- Personnel Report

Motion: 21-04-04, J. Cochrane/ H. Fry

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Near North District School Board receive and accept the personnel report presented by Director Myles. – **CARRIED.**

5.1.2 Private session- SBO Search Committee Report

Motion: 21-04-05, D. Breault/ A. Bottomley

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Near North District School Board accepts the report as presented by the SBO Search Committee. – **CARRIED.**

5.1.3 Open session- Audit Committee Composition

Motion: 21-04-06, J. Cochrane/ B. Steer

Whereas the Board of Trustees of Near North District School Board accepts the resignation of Trustee Learn from the Audit Committee, be it resolved that Trustee Nichole King is appointed to fill the vacancy, as recommended by the Chair of the Audit Committee. – **CARRIED.**

5.1.4 Open session- Trustee Bottomley's "Climate Crisis" presentation

It is noted that trustees were not able to come to a consensus on this item during Committee of the Whole. Board Chair Aspin provided direction for the language

suggestions raised by Trustee Fry be drafted into the resolution put forth by Trustee Bottomley. The Executive Assistant was invited to read the suggestion aloud:

“NNDSB directs staff to ensure that the board's operational and educational undertakings reasonably reflect the Board’s commitment to environmental and climate leadership and reduce its carbon footprint and dependence on fossil fuels”

Trustee Steer motioned for a deferment of this resolution, noting that the Board will need time to consider and develop this further, with consultation involving Trustee Bottomley, and all other interested trustees.

Motion: 21-04-07, B. Steer/ D. Breault

Motion: That the Board of Trustees of Near North District School Board defers developing a resolution for one month, with the intent of taking time to consult Trustee Bottomley, all other interested trustees, and senior staff.

Chair Aspin called for a recorded vote regarding the motion for deferment proposed by Trustee Steer:

	Yay	Nay	Absent/ Obtained
Chair Aspin	X		
Vice-Chair Cochrane	X		
Trustee Bottomley		X	
Trustee Breault	X		
Trustee Fry		X	
Trustee King	X		
Trustee Learn			X
Trustee Sargent		X	
Trustee Steer	X		

The result of the recorded vote indicates five votes in favour of deferment, therefore the motion is **CARRIED**.

Trustee Bottomley clarified the next steps for action from the Chair. Chair Aspin indicated that Trustee Bottomley should consult with Director Myles to develop a motion would reflect “the pulse and the feelings of the board.” Trustee Steer indicated Trustee Bottomley and Director Myles work on the motion together before the next meeting.

5.2 SEAC Committee Recommendation

Motion: 21-04-08, H. Fry/ L. Sargent.

Motion: That the Board of Trustees of Near North District School Board accept the changes to the Special Education Advisory Committee’s Terms of Reference as presented, as recommended by the SEAC Committee. – **CARRIED**.

5.3 School Year Calendar Refinement

It is noted that the Director requested this item be added to the agenda to seek additional approval for staff to adjust the 2021/22 calendar. Following the Board of Trustee’s approval at the February 16, 2021 meeting, the Ministry has advised of

additional Professional Activities days to occur before the start of the school year. An updated calendar is required to be re-submitted by May 7, 2021, which is why it was tabled this evening. The floor was opened for comments or questions, with none rose.

Chair Aspin confirmed approval for this approach, and thanked Director Myles and Superintendent Smylie for bringing this forward.

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 March 9, 2021, are included for information purposes. Trustees referred to the report, roadmap, and circular graphic contained in the agenda package. Trustee Steer provided an overview on the regional virtual information sessions, and the excitement over having all trustees become involved in these sessions. Director Myles spoke to the work of the committee and the involvement of the senior team at each session as well.

Chair Aspin thanked Trustee Steer and Director Myles and reflected on how far the Board has come on the MYSP journey. All trustees were recognized for their involvement throughout the duration of the process, and appreciation expressed in advance for their involvement to perpetuate the board's message.

Chair Aspin recognized the hard work and dedication of the Officer of Corporate Affairs as she was invited to provide a high-level overview on the information sessions. It is noted that this is the board's opportunity to report back to stakeholders on common themes that came out of the feedback, and how these themes influence the creation of the strategic priorities of the MYSP. Feedback on the sessions will be accepted via a survey placed on the board's website that will remain over for a week following the last presentation. Attention called to where the public can find the schedule of presentations. It is noted that one of the sessions overlaps with a webinar hosted by the Parent Information Committee (PIC). Families are encouraged to attend the PIC webinar and select another MYSP session, so they can attend both events.

Chair Aspin opened the floor for further comments and questions. No comments were raised.

6.2 Committee Meeting Minutes- Presented for information

6.2.1 SEAC- unofficial minutes- March 18, 2021

6.2.2 PIC- unofficial minutes- March 19, 2021

6.2.3 EAC- unofficial minutes- April 1, 2021

The Chair referred trustees to the minutes of the legislated committees contained in the agenda package for information purposes.

7.0 Next Meeting Date

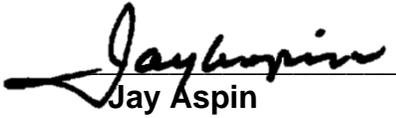
Chair Aspin confirmed the Board of Trustees would meet next on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

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

8.0 Motion to Adjourn

Motion: 21-04-09, A. Bottomley/ B. Steer

That we do now adjourn at 8:42 pm. – **Carried**


Jay Aspin
Chair


Craig Myles
Director of Education