

Jay Aspin, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

Parry Sound Build Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 3, 2021

Head Office of the Near North District School Board
963 Airport Road, North Bay, ON

Committee Members Present

Jay Aspin, Board Chair
John Cochrane, Committee Chair
Nichole King, Trustee

Absent

Rob Learn, Trustee

Staff Present

Gay Smylie, Acting Superintendent of Education
Marianne Speirs, Capital Projects Manager
Melanie Gray, Acting Superintendent of Education
Krista Messenger, Executive Assistant
Timothy Graves, Superintendent of Education

1.0 Call to Order

Committee Chair Cochrane called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Attendance was called to confirm the meeting has quorum. The Committee welcomed M. Gray and T. Graves to the meeting, as the Chair of the Parry Sound Build Programming Sub-Committee, and Parry Sound Building Sub-Committee, respectively.

2.0 Review of Minutes

2.1 Review of Minutes- May 5, 2021

Committee Chair Cochrane referred members to the meeting minutes contained in the agenda package. The floor was opened for questions or comments with none rose.

*Moved by Trustee King and seconded by Board Chair Aspin that the minutes of the May 5, 2021, meeting of the Parry Sound Build Committee be approved as presented. - **CARRIED.***

3.0 Report from Sub-Committees

3.1 Parry Sound Programming Committee

Committee Chair Cochrane noted minutes and a report are contained in the agenda package. Acting Superintendent Gray was invited to provide an update regarding the sub-committee's work to date. Highlights of the conversation are noted as:

- The sub-committee has met twice so far, both sets of minutes are included in the agenda package for information purposes.
- The first meeting set the tone by clarifying the focus and role of the sub-programming committee.
- The second meeting focused more specifically on preparing room allocations, move management, how to accommodate programming in the new build, communication planning, etc. M. Speirs was thanked for the design information she provided for this conversation.
- The sub-committee is currently focused on reviewing the Ministry approved design parameters for Special Education classrooms, the hospitality program, as well as programming spaces, zoning between elementary and secondary, sharing of amenities, cafetorium, library/learning commons, Indigenous hub/learning space, etc.
- Sub-committee is collecting feedback and questions for consideration. Lots of follow-up actions for Principal Buckland regarding mapping activities.

Committee Chair Cochrane thanked M. Gray for the report and opened the floor for questions, with none rose.

3.2 Parry Sound Building Committee

Committee Chair Cochrane noted minutes and a report are contained in the agenda package. Superintendent Graves was invited to provide an update regarding the sub-committee's work to date. Highlights of the conversation are noted as:

- The sub-committee met on May 7, 2021 and established a bi-weekly schedule following each NNDSB staff and +VG Architects meeting.
- Review of the key milestones to ensure the project stays on track. A timeline has been outlined on the report to detail the construction planning (including the relocation plans for staff).
- It is noted that there will be meetings with specific department staff over the summer to support the design intricacies of specific spaces (for example: science teachers to advise on specific planning for science labs, etc).
- At this point, the sub-committee is pleased to report the architect is progressing towards milestones on time and the project is on track.
- Priority focus is on instructional space but there will be a handful of administrative spaces that need to be accounted for as well.
- The sub-committee will meet next on June 4, 2021, and review demolition drawings including site plan, with demolition phases and next level of design development after approval of schematic floor plan design.

Floor opened for questions and none rose. Comment from Committee Chair Cochrane to note the Build Committee would be pleased to have both sub-committee chairs attend future meetings to ensure the appropriate exchange of information continues. This speaks loudly to the board's commitment to transparency.

Committee Chair Cochrane tabled a suggestion to post a Q+A document on the website to support the public finding responses to questions being asked. Support from Board Chair Aspin for this approach. It is noted that this was considered by the senior team and it was felt that this might limit specific answers being provided (as there are things that will change).

Committee Chair Cochrane recognized this perspective and left the suggestion with staff for consideration.

4.0 New Business

4.1 Parry Sound Town Council Debrief

It is noted that NNDSB was invited to a Parry Sound Town Council meeting on June 1, 2021 to provide an update on the JK-12 build. The board was represented by Board Chair Aspin, Vice-Chair Cochrane, Director Myles and Acting Superintendent Smylie. Committee Chair Cochrane open the floor for comments to debrief from the presentation. Highlights noted as:

- Board Chair Aspin noted the deputation lasted approximately 90 minutes, which NNDSB was thankful to have occupied so much time during the meeting. Council members asked good questions on behalf of themselves and their community members.
- The timing of the deputation to Council was also important, given that the Board received a project update on May 18, 2021 and presented to the council on June 1st. This speaks to the Board's commitments to transparency.
- Comments regarding the communication protocols in place to respond to questions. Comments and questions from staff are to go to their immediate supervisor, and comments from the public are forwarded to the open feedback survey on the website.
- Superintendent Smylie noted that many of the questions posed at the deputation are things the board anticipated hearing about and are things the board is concerned about as well (for example- the hexpods and questions surrounding their quality were also posed by the board to the architects directly as part of the selection and planning process). The board and the community share a common commitment to ensuring the best environment for our kids.
- It is acknowledged that change can be difficult to accept and the best way forward for the Board will be to provide the public with the factual information and keep moving forward with the project. This also speaks to the board's commitment to forward momentum.
- Comment from Trustee King to note it is also important for NNDSB to stay firm to our mandate in that "we are in the business of education, not recreation". It is not realistic for the board to be responsible for recreational amenities that are outside of the scope of student learning/ interests.

4.2 Review of Community Feedback Report

Report contained in the package. No further conversation noted.

4.3 Community Presentation- Update

Update provided regarding the community review event planned for June 8, 2021 with the architect. It is noted that Superintendent Graves will be moderating the conversation to ensure build-specific questions are addressed, and other questions are directed to the website for submission. A prep meeting is taking place tomorrow to run through some planning items, and a detailed agenda will be shared in the days that follow to clarify the order

of events. Prep meeting invitation to be extended to Board Chair Aspin and Committee Chair Cochrane for their attendance as well.

5.0 Next Meeting Date

Committee Chair Cochrane noted he would be pleased to call a meeting as needed by staff.

6.0 Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, on June 3, 2021 the Parry Sound Build Committee stands adjourned at 9:35 AM.

Minutes: JC/km.