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Craig Myles, Director of Education

The August 5, 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
Donna Breault *
Louise Sargent
Bill Steer

Administrative Staff Present:

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

Trustee Regrets:

Nichole King
Rob Learn

Other:

Staff, media and community partners

* arrived following roll call, attendance noted within the minutes.

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 five trustees are present for the meeting.

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

NIL

2.0 Approval of the Agenda

Chair Aspin noted a clerical error regarding the date on the agenda, as the date should read August 5, 2021.

Motion: L. Sargent/ A. Bottomley

That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of August 5, 2021, be approved as amended. - **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: J. Cochrane/ A. Bottomley

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

Trustee Breault has joined the meeting.

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 New Business

5.1 Trustee Initiative Fund Application

Recall that staff were asked to bring forward proposals for trustee consideration. Of the proposals shared for consideration, a few were funded through other means within the board with the remaining one included for review this evening.

Trustees referred to the application in the agenda package submitted by the NNDSB Early Years Team. It is noted the application is seeking funding in the amount of \$16,233.95 to support the purchase of 1,400 copies of the book *This is What I've Been Told*, written and illustrated by a NNDSB teacher, that provides readers with an introduction to the Anishnaabemowin language and culture. Books will be included in a resource bag that will be given to all kindergarten students.

The floor was opened for discussion. Comment from Vice-Chair Cochrane to note he would be very pleased to recommend this for approval, as it is a very valuable resource for new students and their families. With no further comments raised by trustees, Chair Aspin also acknowledged the value of this proposal in recognizing the board's commitments to equity, diversity and relationships with Indigenous partners. With consensus expressed from trustees, this item will be brought forward for approval during the regular session.

5.2 Trustee Recruitment Update

It is noted that the Board gave previous direction for the Director's Office to prepare a brief outlining the Board's options regarding the vacancy in zone 2 following Trustee Fry's resignation. Trustees were referred to the attachment in the agenda package regarding this item. Highlights of the discussion are noted as:

- Director Myles noted there are a few options to fill the vacancy that include hosting a by-election, appointing the next candidate who ran for election, or accepting applications for appointment. It is noted that a by-election is costly, and there were no further candidates that ran for school board trustee in zone two during the 2018 election.

- The proposed approach includes accepting applications for the position in order to appoint a candidate to the position. The Chair, Vice-Chair and Director will review all applications that are submitted. If more than five applications are submitted, a short list would be provided to trustees for review and approval.
- Chair Aspin noted that there are no prescribed criteria for the appointment process, as it is up to Boards to determine these aspects.
- The floor was opened for questions:
 - Comment from Trustee Steer to support the proposed approach as it seems efficient and reasonable.
 - Questions from Trustee Sargent to note if there are no applicants that come forward, would the Board then move to approach candidates that ran in other zones. Comment from Chair Aspin to note the Board will consider if this further if the situation arises. Once the recruitment window closes, trustees will be advised if no applications are received.
 - Question from Trustee Bottomley to confirm if applicants who reside outside of zone two would be eligible to express interest. Comment from Chair Aspin to note any applicant who resides within the NNDSB geographic boundaries may express interest in the vacancy, noting preference would be given to candidates who reside in zone two. Follow up from Trustee Bottomley to note he supports this approach and would support Trustee Sargent's idea to invite previous candidates from other zones, should no candidates come forward.
- Thanks expressed from the Director for the comments from trustees. It is noted that the Director's Office will take care to engage with the OPSBA to ensure the NNDSB's actions are in line with appropriate legislation.

Chair Aspin thanked Director Myles for developing the proposed approach, and trustees for their good comments. Based on the discussion, it is noted that consensus is achieved for this item.

5.3 Farewell Remarks to Interim Executive Officer Easton

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Chair Aspin offered sincere thanks to W. Easton for his contributions to NNDSB in the capacity of Interim Executive Officer and Interim SBO. It is noted that W. Easton was one of the Special Advisors appointed by the Ministry and supported the board throughout the transition following SBO Therrien's retirement to the appointment of SBO Van Haesendonck.

W. Easton accepted the Chair's remarks with gratitude and thanked the executive team for their leadership while working together. W. Easton noted that the board is in very good hands with SBO Van Haesendonck, having worked with her throughout the last several weeks.

5.4 Welcoming Remarks to SBO Van Haesendonck

Chair Aspin welcomed SBO Van Haesendonck on behalf of the Board of Trustees. The Board has a high regard for the experience and qualifications she brings to this position and looks forward to continuing the positive momentum with her contributions.

SBO Van Haesendonck expressed her thanks for the warm welcome by the Board of

Trustees, together with the rest of the staff at NNDSB. High regards for Interim Executive Officer Easton and Director Myles noted for their work to support her transition into the role.

6.0 Motion to Adjourn

Motion: J. Cochrane/ B. Steer.

That we do now adjourn at 6:29 PM. – **Carried**