

# COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Tuesday, September 21, 2021 | 6:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://nearnorthschools-ca.zoom.us/j/85032239248?pwd=U1U4ZWRTWVJLWWMrc1lYcjRCZXVtdz09>

Meeting ID: 850 3223 9248 | Passcode: 871382  
Toll-free dial in: 1 855 703 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 September 21, 2021 be approved.

### 3.0 In-Camera

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

### 4.0 Arise and Report

### 5.0 Approval of the Minutes

#### 5.1 2021 06 15 Committee of the Whole- Public Meeting minutes ✓

Motion: That the minutes of the In-Camera Committee of the Whole meeting held on June 15, 2021, be approved.

5.2 2021 08 05 Committee of the Whole- Public Meeting minutes ✓

Motion: That the minutes of the public Committee of the Whole meeting held on August 5, 2021, be approved.

**6.0 Adjournment**

Motion: That on September 21, 2021 we do now adjourn at \_\_\_\_pm.



Jay Aspin, Chair

963 Airport Road North Bay, ON P1B 8H1

Phone: 705.472.8170

Website: www.nearnorthschools.ca

Craig Myles, Director of Education

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The June 15, 2021 **Public Session of 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  
Harry Fry  
Nichole King  
Rob Learn  
Louise Sargent  
Bill Steer

**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

**Trustee Regrets:**

None noted.

**Other:**

Staff, media and community partners

**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/ A. Bottomley*

That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of June 15, 2021 be approved as presented. - **Carried.**

**3.0 Approval of Previous Minutes**

**3.1 2021 05 18 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes**

Chair Aspin referred trustees to the minutes contained in the agenda package.

*Motion: H. Fry/ R. Learn*

That the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on May 18, 2021, be approved. - **Carried**

#### **4.0 Bring Forward Business**

The Chair confirmed there was no outstanding business contained in the May 18, 2021 meeting minutes to bring forward.

#### **5.0 New Business**

##### 5.1 Farewell Remarks to Trustee Fry

It is noted that Trustee Harry Fry has tendered his resignation from the NNDSB Board of Trustees effective June 30, 2021. Trustee Fry is relocating out of the district of Nipissing to be closer to family. Chair Aspin opened the conversation by commending Trustee Fry for his leadership and commitment in service to students. The floor was opened for round table remarks. Trustees recognized Trustee Fry for his committee work, passion for education, and service to constituents. Director Myles and the senior leadership team offered warm regards and accolades on behalf of staff.

Trustee Fry expressed his gratitude to fellow trustees and administration for their well wishes and compliments.

##### 5.2 Trustee Vacancy- Next Steps

Chair Aspin provided an update for trustees to note that the Director's Office will prepare a report to guide the Board's next steps on appointing a successor to represent zone 2 following the departure of Trustee Fry. It is noted that the Education Act requires the Board to fill the vacancy within 90 days, which means that NNDSB has until September 28, 2021.

Comment from Trustee Sargent to note historical practice has been to select the next candidate from the electoral list. Chair Aspin noted the Education Act delineates this option, as well as two others (such as calling a by-election, and appointing a qualified candidate). All three will be explored and form part of the report developed by the Director's Office. No further questions were asked from trustees.

##### 5.3 Summer Committee Work

Item presented for information to note that while traditionally the Board of Trustees recesses for the summer, it may be that trustees will be called upon to convene prior to September to support the Board's major projects remaining on track. Every effort will be made to give ample notice and with respect for scheduling availability.

The Director thanked trustees for their commitment to supporting the work of the NNDSB. The floor was opened for questions, with none rose.

#### **6.0 Motion to Adjourn**

*Motion: H. Fry/ L. Sargent*

That we do now adjourn at 6:25 PM. – **Carried**



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Craig Myles, Director of Education

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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

**Trustee Regrets:**

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  
Melanie Gray, Acting Superintendent  
Seija Van Haesendonck, Superintendent of Business  
Tim Graves, Superintendent  
Wally Easton, Interim Executive Officer

**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

**Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Near North District School Board held August 5, 2021**

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**

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