



Jay Aspin, Chair

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Craig Myles, Director of Education

The December 7, 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
Caren Gagne
Donna Breault
Louise Sargent
Nichole King
Student Trustee C. Darling

Administrative Staff Present:

Craig Myles, Director of Education
Deb Bartlett, Communications Officer
Gay Smylie, Superintendent of Education
Krista Messenger, Executive Assistant
Melanie Gray, Superintendent of Education
Tim Graves, Superintendent of Education
Seija Van Haesendonck, Superintendent of Business

Other:

Staff, media and community partners

Trustee Regrets:

Rob Learn

1.0 Call to Order

Chair Aspin called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and thanked the public for joining.

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

Chair Aspin read the land acknowledgement aloud.

1.2 Opening Prayer by Elder

Chair Aspin noted that Elder Peter Beaucage of the Nipissing First Nation was invited to the meeting but was unable to connect virtually. Chair Aspin noted the meeting would continue and staff were directed to alert the Chair if the guest joins the meeting.

2.0 Attendance

2.1 Confirmation of Quorum

Attendance indicated that nine trustees are present for the meeting, including the Student Trustee.

2.2 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

NIL

3.0 Approval of the Agenda and Previous Minutes

Motion: 21-12-01, J. Cochrane/ C. Gagne

That the agenda for the Board meeting of December 7, 2021 be approved, together with the minutes of the November 16, 2021 meeting. - **CARRIED.**

4.0 Business Arising

4.1 Committee Membership

Trustees were referred to the brief contained in the agenda package. Chair Aspin noted that in order to give trustees further opportunity to consider their committee membership, this item would be brought forward to the January Committee of the Whole meeting for discussion. It is noted that composition will remain as currently allocated given how well the committee process is working. Preference will be given to Trustee Gagne, as she was welcomed to the Board following the confirmation of membership last year.

Trustee Gagne noted she would be pleased to outline her request to Chair Aspin for consideration. Trustees were directed to provide any requests for changes to the Director's Executive Assistant to compile ahead of the January discussion.

Director Myles noted that the Terms of Reference documents have been included in the package to give trustees a fulsome picture of the committee scope and focus. Chair Aspin thanked trustees for their participation in committee work and for taking time to consider their interests and availability.

5.0 Communication to the Board

5.1 Information Items

Chair Aspin referred trustees to the board reports submitted for information as part of the agenda package for each item. Brief highlights were offered for each item as noted below.

5.1.1 Director's Annual Report

Director Myles was invited to speak to this item. Trustees were referred to the report contained in the package. It is noted that the Director of Education's Annual Report celebrates the accomplishments and progress that Near North DSB has achieved during the 2020/21 school year. Highlights of the overview are noted as:

- This past year has truly been one of accomplishment and success for students, educators and staff. The efforts of the entire system over the past 12 months have brought NNDSB ever closer to achieving its strategic and operational goals.
- The report features positive learning stories and highlights specific data on credit accumulation, experiential learning, pathways programming, and how NNDSB is supporting all students towards the goals in our MYSP.
- There is a strong link to excellence in innovation in the utilization of virtual learning tools and resources, the move to learning outside and excellence in teaching and learning
- The report also highlighted the governance improvements made by the Board, including the new governance manual, a new finance manual and the streamlined budget reporting process.

- A special thank you to trustees for working alongside us to support and contribute to the work accomplished.

The Chair acknowledged the work of the Director and opened the floor for comments from trustees. Trustee Steer noted he was pleased to see how thoroughly entrenched the MYSP is into this report, together with all of the Director's reports to the Board.

Chair Aspin congratulated Director Myles on all the accomplishments over the last year and noted how valuable the Director's leadership has been to further the work of the board.

5.1.2 Monthly Tender Report- December 2021- Nil

5.1.3 Trustee Expenditures

Chair Aspin referred trustees to the report in the package. It is noted that as a result of continuing to meet virtually, trustee expenses related to travel are minimal. Point raised by Trustee Sargent to note another benefit to virtual operations is the ability to participate in more meetings and PD sessions, given there is no increased draw on Board resources.

5.2 Director's Update

Opening remarks from Director Myles to note many meaningful days of recognition were celebrated this month. Director Myles recognized every effort by staff in support of student achievement and well-being. As part of his report, the Director also highlighted:

- Under the leadership of Officer of Corporate Affairs Liana Blaskievich and Acting Principal of Student Success and Specialized Programs Lucio Pavone, the team of Sarah Spence, Alysha Young, Lisa Spencer, Stacie Burnie, Josh Casey, Roy Desjardins and Deb Bartlett have been instrumental in bringing the Personal Support Worker (PSW) program together. It is the intention of NNDSB to train PSWs in living classrooms in Parry Sound, Sturgeon Falls, North Bay and Mattawa.
- Chippewa Secondary School teacher Greg Richardson has been chosen as the recipient of the 2021 Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations' (OFSAA) Leadership Award. He was acknowledged during the OFSAA AA Boys' Volleyball tournament for his achievements over a 27-year-career.
- Highlights shared regarding the environmental stewardship school survey results. Note that the program team has recently conducted a system scan of initiatives, projects or culminating tasks currently occurring or planning to occur in Near North Schools to support our commitments to environmental stewardship. Information was contained in the report to summarize the findings shared by 5 of 6 secondary schools and 20 elementary schools:

Chair Aspin thanked the Director for providing this report, and for his leadership to steward these priorities within the school community.

5.3 Chair's Remarks

The Chair shared remarks regarding Board and community engagement initiatives following the Director's Remarks. Chair Aspin provided a verbal report that built upon the

comments made as part of the Incoming Chair's Remarks to bring into focus a number of important challenges the Board face this year:

- Provide quality education keeping staff & students safe/healthy in the face of COVID
- Full implementation of the MYSP
- Completion of new school builds Fricker Elementary & Parry Sound K-12
- Support improvements in human resource allocation
- Effective continued expansion of community partnerships and communications
- Advance the North Bay Facilities Study

Trustees received Chair Aspin's report with thanks.

5.4 OPSBA Report

The Chair invited Trustee Steer to lead the Board through this item. Trustee Steer referred trustees to the report contained in the agenda package and provided highlights to note:

- Trustees were encouraged to participate in the professional development opportunities coordinated by OPSBA. Highlights noted regarding a recent event Trustee Steer attended hosted by another organization regarding international education.
- OPSBA has heard from a number of DSBs regarding the challenges with completing capital priorities projects, given the drastic impacts to the supply chain. The OPSBA will be drafting a letter to the Ministry regarding this item.
- Trustee Steer spoke to the value of virtual meeting participation as it relates to the reduced carbon footprint at the OPSBA table.

The Chair thanked Trustee Steer for his report and diligence in continuing to represent NNDSB at the provincial level.

5.5 Student Trustee's Update

The Chair invited Student Trustee Darling to speak to this item. Student Trustee Darling referred trustees to the report shared as part of the agenda package. Highlight shared are noted as:

- As we enter into the holiday season, many schools have been increasing student excitement through spirit events. Secondary school student councils have organized themed weeks, including colour wars, decades day, and a pyjama day, these spirit days have had an overwhelming amount of participation from staff and students.
- Many schools had teams who attended OFSAA championships in the past month. The Chippewa AA senior boys' volleyball team came out victorious at their OFSAA tournament in North Bay. Almaguin's A senior girls' basketball also qualified to go to OFSAA and played well and had a great learning experience. Students continue to embrace these opportunities and are experience much personal growth as a result.
- Within the OSTA-AECO Environmental Sustainability Working Group, we are working towards developing an environmental sustainability handbook. It will both act as a guide for students and school's province-wide, outlining how we as a community can work towards developing more environmental consciousness

The Chair thanked the Student Trustee for her report. The floor was opened for comments, with none rose.

6.0 Items for Decision

6.1 NNDSB Charity Works- Membership for Approval

Chair Aspin noted the board has a charitable organization, called NNDSB Charity Works. The charity’s constitution states that the directors of the charity are the Chair of the Board, the SBO, and the Director of Education. Terms last for one-year and are required to be renewed following the Board’s Annual Organizational meeting.

Motion: 21-12-02, D. Breault/ C. Gagne

Motion: Whereas the NNDSB Charity Works constitution delineates the organizational structure based on the Board of Trustees Organizational meeting;

And whereas, the Board has conducted the Annual Organizational meeting for 2022;

Be it resolved that the directors of NNDSB Charity Works shall be:

Jay Aspin	Chair of the Board of Trustees
Craig Myles	Director of Education
Seija Van Haesendonck	Superintendent of Business

With a term effective immediately and ending at the close of the next Annual Organizational meeting for the Board of Trustees of Near North District School Board. – **CARRIED.**

It is noted that there is value in reviewing the organization of the charity. An idea was proposed to explore the creation of a foundation to complement the charitable activities. Chair Aspin noted this would be something to further explore in the new year, with a suggestion left for Trustee Steer to initiate a Notice of Motion in order to begin the work.

6.2 Confirmation of Signing Officers

Motion: 21-12-03, L. Sargent/ B. Steer

Whereas NNDSB BL-101 B. (3) states the positions for the signing officers of the Board;

And whereas the Board has conducted the Annual Organizational meeting for 2022;

Be it resolved that the signing officers shall be:

Jay Aspin	Chair of the Board of Trustees
Craig Myles	Director of Education
Seija Van Haesendonck	Superintendent of Business

- CARRIED.

6.3 Draft Audited Year-End Financial Statements

Motion: 21-12-04, J. Cochrane/ N. King

That the draft audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended August 31, 2021 be approved, as recommended by the Audit Committee. – **CARRIED.**

6.4 Audit Year-End Report

Motion: 21-12-05, J. Cochrane/ D. Breault

That the annual report (summary) be approved and forwarded to the Ministry of Education for the year ended August 31, 2021, as recommended by the Audit Committee. – **CARRIED**

7.0 Committee Reports

7.1 Audit Committee Report

7.1.1 Minutes- November 22, 2021

7.1.2 Board Report

Chair Aspin invited Vice-Chair Cochrane as the Chair of the Audit Committee to lead this item. Vice-Chair Cochrane provided remarks to note the Audit Report was cleanly presented. The external audit team at KPMG provided high regards for the work of the Finance department staff during the Audit Committee meeting. Vice-Chair Cochrane thanked each member of the Audit Committee for their work providing financial oversight throughout the past year.

7.2 Committee Meeting Minutes Presented for Information

7.2.1 SEAC official meeting minutes- November 18, 2021

7.2.2 FNAC unofficial meeting minutes- November 24, 2021

Chair Aspin referred trustees to the committee minutes included for information purposes

8.0 Next Meeting Date

Chair Aspin confirmed the Board of Trustees would meet next on Tuesday, January 11, 2022.

Prior to the meeting adjourning, Chair Aspin opened the floor and trustees exchanged best wishes for the holiday season.

9.0 Motion to Adjourn

Motion: 21-12-06 L. Sargent/ A. Bottomley

That we do now adjourn at 7:23 pm. – **CARRIED**



Jay Aspin
Chair


Craig Myles
Director of Education

Minutes of the Public Session Board Meeting of the Near North District School Board held December 7, 2021

A. Bottomley	
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