



Jay Aspin, Chair

963 Airport Road North Bay, ON P1B 8H1

Phone: 705.472.8170

Website: www.nearnorthschools.ca

Craig Myles, Director of Education

The January 11, 2022 **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 *
Bill Steer
Caren Gagne
Donna Breault
Louise Sargent
Nichole King
Cecilia Darling, Student Trustee

Administrative Staff Present:

Craig Myles, Director of Education
Gay Smylie, Superintendent of Education
Josh Casey, Communications Coordinator
Krista Messenger, Executive Assistant
Melanie Gray, Superintendent of Education
Seija Van Haesendonck, Superintendent of Business
Tim Graves, Superintendent of Education

Other:

Staff, media and community partners

Trustee Regrets:

Rob Learn

*arrived following the 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 nine trustees are present for the meeting, including the Student Trustee.

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

NIL

2.0 Approval of the Agenda and Previous Minutes

Motion: J. Cochrane/ L. Sargent

That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of January 11, 2022, and the minutes of the previous meetings of November 16, 2021, and December 20, 2021 be approved - **Carried**.

3.0 Business Arising

Nil.

4.0 New Business

4.1 Audit Committee Membership Update

Chair Aspin invited Vice-Chair Cochrane to speak to this item. Vice-Chair Cochrane noted that the Audit Committee is recruiting for a second external Audit Committee member and provided an update on the Selection Committee meeting.

Trustees were referred to the report included in the agenda package that noted how the Board was unsuccessful in receiving expressions of interest for this position. As such, the Selection Committee made a change to the eligibility criteria to list “English Public School Board Supporter” as preference instead of a requirement which allows for an expanded pool of candidates. The updated competition is set to close towards the end of January so the Selection Committee looks forward to providing a report back on the outcome at the February Committee of the Whole meeting. The current External Member, J. Kleinhuis, will continue to serve and has expressed interest in being reappointed to the role.

The floor was opened for questions:

- Question regarding the application procedure and further expressions of interest. Vice-Chair Cochrane noted that he would be pleased to see J. Kleinhuis be reappointed given the significant strengths she brings to the role.

No further comments raised.

4.2 Trustee Committee Membership Discussion

Chair Aspin noted that notice of this item was provided during the November 16, 2021 Board meeting. Trustees were referred to the draft committee composition chart contained in the agenda package that reflects the requests presented to the Director’s Office. Highlights of the amendments are noted as:

- The addition of Trustee Gagne to the Equity Advisory Circle, the Finance committee, the First Nations Advisory Committee, and the Parent Involvement Committee.
- The removal of Chair Aspin from the Audit Committee.
- The addition of Trustee Steer to the North Bay Facilities Study Committee and Parry Sound Build Committee.

The floor was opened for discussion:

- Trustee Gagne noted she would be pleased to serve on these committees, given how closely they align with her personal values and her passion for active board service.
- Point raised to ensure committees review their new composition, select a chair, and review or develop a Terms of Reference at the next opportunity.

With no further discussion to note, it is noted that consensus has been achieved on the draft composition chart presented in the meeting package.

Trustee Bottomley has joined the meeting.

4.3 Indigenous Student Circle: Indigenous Student Trustee Recommendation

Trustees were referred to the report contained in the agenda package. It is noted that the Board of Trustees passed a resolution in 2019 to create an Indigenous Student Trustee position and involve the First Nations Advisory Council in developing the selection process. Following this, an Indigenous Youth Circle was established to involve student voice in the selection process. Chair Aspin noted he was very pleased to see the student-led election process has culminated in the recommendation to appoint Allen Lewis Trodd as the Indigenous Student Trustee and the floor was open for discussion. Highlights are noted as:

- Director Myles offered comments in support of the recommendation. Trustees were acknowledged for recognizing the unique value of indigenous student voices and the importance this signifies as part of the reconciliation journey.
- The fulfillment of this role supports the Board's strategic commitment to Excellence in Relationships within the MYSP by building positive relationships with indigenous communities that foster an engaged and inclusive board culture.
- Further comments recognizing the importance of having indigenous student voices represented at the Board of Trustee table.

Trustee Sargent signified her willingness to move a motion during the Board meeting to confirm the appointment of A. Lewis Trodd to the role of Indigenous Student Trustee. Chair Aspin noted it is clear consensus has been achieved on this item and he would be pleased to accept this offer.

Chair Aspin offered closing comments to offer his full endorsement for the appointment of Allen Lewis Trodd. NNDSB is proud of the relationships it has cultivated with First Nations communities and the level of indigenous programming. On behalf of all trustees, Chair Aspin noted NNDSB is pleased to have added an Indigenous Student Trustee position to enable Indigenous youth to have a say with regard to their education, so we are delighted with their selection of Allen Lewis Trodd.

5.0 Motion to Adjourn

Motion: L. Sargent/ C. Gagne

That we do now adjourn at 6:20 PM. – **Carried**