



Jay Aspin, Chair

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Craig Myles, Director of Education

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The January 11, 2022 **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  
Student Trustee Elect A. Lewis Trodd

**Administrative Staff Present:**

Craig Myles, Director of Education  
Deb Bartlett, Communications Officer  
Gay Smylie, Superintendent of Education  
Krista Messenger, Director's 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

**Guests:**

R. Stanger, Indigenous cultural advisor

**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 Evelyn McLeod 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 Requests for Leaves of Absence**

Chair Aspin provided comments to note this item has been added as a standing item to the Board's agenda as a process improvement piece in support of good governance. The Education Act states that trustees who are absent without providing prior notice for three consecutive regular meetings of the Board are at risk of vacating their office, therefore this item has been added to the agenda to have a mechanism for recognizing when prior notice is received, so that trustees are not penalized for non-attendance.

**Minutes of the Public Session Board Meeting of the Near North District School Board held January 11, 2022**

Notice is to be provided to the Director's Office and will be accepted up until 4:00 PM on the evening of the meeting. The floor was opened for comments with the following points to note:

- Vice-Chair Cochrane noted trustees represent the taxpayers, so it is incumbent upon trustees to ensure their constituents are represented through their attendance at meetings. Given the vast geography NNDSB encompasses, the local trustee voice is imperative to ensure appropriate representation.
- Clarification requested to confirm if providing prior notice absolves the vacation from office for three missed meetings. It is noted that the responsibility lies with trustees to provide notice, and when notice is provided it is not counted as a missed meeting.
- Question raised regarding the date of effectiveness. Chair Aspin confirmed this requirement is effective today, on a go-forward basis.
- For clarity, trustees were requested to provide their advance notice of regrets to the Director's Assistant, with a copy to Director Myles.
- Question regarding the applicability to student trustees. It is noted that the bylaws apply to all trustees, which includes student trustees. Staff to review the Student Trustee regulation to determine if the seat vacation possibility is applicable and report back.
- It is noted that this expectation is not new, as it is an obligation under The Education Act; however, NNDSB did not have a formal process for accepting regrets.

With no further questions to note, Chair Aspin noted this process is now in effect and inquired if the Director's Office had received any notice of regret from trustees for the meeting this evening. Director Myles advised there were no regrets to note.

**3.0 Attendance**

**3.1 Confirmation of Quorum**

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

**3.2 Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

NIL

**4.0 Approval of the Agenda and Previous Minutes**

*Motion: 22-01-01, J. Cochrane/ A. Bottomley*

That the agenda for the Board meeting of January 11, 2022 be approved- **CARRIED.**

**5.0 Approval of Previous Minutes**

5.1 2021 12 07 Annual Organizational Meeting minutes

5.2 2021 12 07 Regular Session minutes

5.3 2021 12 20 Special Meeting minutes

*Motion: 22-01-02, B. Steer/ C. Gagne*

That the minutes of the three meetings of the Board of Trustees held in December 2021 are approved. - **CARRIED.**

## **6.0 Business Arising**

Nil report.

## **7.0 Communication to the Board**

### **7.1 Information Items**

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

#### *7.1.1 Professional Development Opportunities Calendar*

- Brief contained in the package.
- Note the date of the OBSPA's Public Education Symposium has been set for January 28, 2022. Trustees were encouraged to advise the Director's Assistant if they are able to attend.

#### *7.1.2 Administrative Guidelines Report*

- Director Myles spoke to this item and noted this is another Administrative Guideline being presented following the conclusion of the public consultation period.
- Following the board's receipt this evening it will be placed on the website which meets with the timeline required by PPM 166.

#### *7.1.3 Monthly Tender Report- January 2022*

- No further comments noted.

### **7.2 Director's Update**

#### *7.2.1 Board Report*

Opening remarks from Director Myles to welcome the school community back after the holiday break. As part of his report, the Director also highlighted:

- The Government of Ontario announced on January 3, 2022, that it is temporarily moving the province into Step Two of its Roadmap to Reopen to limit the spread of COVID-19, which meant elementary and secondary students shifted to participating in remote learning.
- This transition was smooth thanks to the experience and lessons learned during the previous school years by school staff, and parents. Since this time, it has been announced that students may return to face-to-face learning on January 17, 2022, so NNDSB staff have shifted to also planning for a safe return. Special recognition offered to staff for this work. NNDSB's number one priority remains the health, safety, and well-being of our staff and students.
- Program highlight noted regarding the SHSM Environmental stream offered at Almaguin Highlands Secondary School, F.J. McElligott Secondary School, and West Ferris Secondary School.

Question raised regarding PPE stock available for the return to in-person learning. Director Myles noted that NNDSB has begun to receive the equipment allocated from the ministry and will be ensuring it is deployed to schools in an efficient manner. Further comment from the board's COVID lead, Superintendent Graves, to note NNDSB has received the three-ply cloth masks that will be provided to students, stock of medical-surgical masks, as well limited stock of non-fit tested N95 masks for any staff who request this. NNDSB awaits further rapid antigen testing supplies.

Question raised regarding board plans around staff absenteeism. Director Myles noted that the executive team recognized this as an area of concern given the increased transmissibility of the omicron strand. Planning is underway to determine operating thresholds and alternative staffing options.

### *7.2.1 2021 at NNDSB: A Year in Review*

Opening remarks from the Director to note this report is contained in the package and designed to complement the Director's Annual Report presented in December.

Highlights noted regarding the 2021 Year in Review report are noted as:

- The report is structured to provide substantiation to the objectives outlined in the Ombudsman's Report and Special Advisor's report, such as leadership, governance, financial accountability, human resources, and public confidence.
- As trustees will know, the outcomes of this work have been integrated into the multi-year strategic plan.
- Key programming highlights were noted such as the provincial recognition received for our summer learning programs and the launch of the PSW program.

Comment from Vice-Chair Cochrane to note how pleased he is with the momentum and progress over the last year at NNDSB. The improvements were attributed to the leadership of the Director of Education, as well as the cohesiveness of the trustees under the leadership of Chair Aspin.

Chair Aspin offered a comment to note how pleased he was with the report, and reflected on 2018, where trustees were given a public mandate to reform and rejuvenate the Near North board. With the strong support of the Board of Trustees and the solid leadership of Director Craig Myles and the senior leadership team, the goals are being accomplished despite the harsh, disruptive pandemic conditions. On behalf of all trustees, Chair Aspin offered the heartiest congratulations to everyone for working so hard toward the achievement of these goals.

### 7.3 Chair's Remarks

The Chair referred trustees to correspondence included in the Board package, directed to the Minister of Education on behalf of the Halton District School Board's SEAC. Chair Aspin suggested these items be referred to NNDSB's SEAC to review.

*Motion: 22-01-03, J. Cochrane/ B. Steer*

That the correspondence from the Halton District School Board be referred to the NNDSB SEAC committee for review and recommendation. - **CARRIED.**

Trustees received Chair Aspin's report with thanks.

#### 7.4 OPSBA Report

The Chair invited Trustee Steer to lead the Board through this item. Trustee Steer offered a verbal report centering on:

- Encouragement to register for the OPSBA's Public Education Symposium.
- Update to note OPSBA is reviewing administrator bargaining unit positions. This will be ratified locally within the next six months.
- Consideration to continue with virtual meetings (with the exception of PES, Labour Relations Conference, and the OPSBA's AGM) to reduce financial and environmental impacts.

Question from Trustee Gagne regarding the scope of the PES Conference. Trustee Steer noted the full program is available on the OPSBA's website. This conference is a valuable professional development opportunity for trustees regarding current issues in public education. Chair Aspin added his encouragement to attend, noting the valuable networking component as well.

#### 7.5 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. Highlights shared are noted as:

- In December, schools recognized the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women. Secondary schools pledged to support this concerning issue. They took the time to help prevent and address gender-based violence by remembering survivors and speaking up against harmful behaviors.
- the International Thespian Society Festival was held at Almaguin Highlands Secondary School that included performers, designers, and art students to participate in various workshops, for musical theatre and drama experiences. Numerous guest speakers also attended the festival virtually with amazing opportunities for students to engage and ask questions to professionals in this field.

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

### 8.0 **Items for Decision**

#### 8.1 Report from Committee of the Whole Public Session

*Motion: 22-01-04, J. Cochrane/ D. Breault*

Be it resolved that the NNDSB Board of Trustees approves the trustee committee membership allocations for 2022 as agreed during the preceding Committee of the Whole meeting. – **CARRIED.**

It is noted that there is one vacant remaining on the Audit Committee, so trustees are encouraged to consider this opportunity and express interest to Chair Aspin or the Director's Assistant.

*Motion: 22-01-05, L. Sargent/ A. Bottomley*

Be it resolved that Allen Lewis Trodd of Magnetawan First Nation be appointed as the Indigenous Student Trustee for the 2021/2022 school year, as recommended by the Indigenous Youth Circle. – **CARRIED.**

It is noted the Board would now move to the swearing in of the Indigenous Student Trustee Elect. Chair Aspin welcomed Mr. Rodney Stanger to sing an Honour Song to acknowledge the appointment of the Indigenous Student Trustee and to honour the work the Indigenous Student Trustee Elect has been doing with the Student Senate and the Indigenous Youth Circle.

Following the conclusion of the Honour Song, Chair Aspin formally introduced Student Trustee Lewis Trodd, as NNDSB's Indigenous Student Trustee for the 2021/2022 school year. Director Myles offered congratulations on behalf of all staff and students and noted that through A. Lewis Trodd, indigenous youth can find strength in their own voices for leadership opportunities in NNDSB and broader communities. This is an exciting opportunity to work together with trustees, student leaders and senior staff to influence the future direction of education.

Chair Aspin reiterated his comments offered during Committee of the Whole to note how valuable this moment is toward strengthening NNDSB's indigenous education and opportunities.

Comment raised from the floor to request an "Indigenous Youth Circle Report" be added as a standing item to the Board's agenda as part of the Student Trustee Report. Chair Aspin noted he would entertain a Notice of Motion for consideration. Trustees voiced their support for this addition, and as such, a formal motion was tabled.

*Motion: 22-01-06, L. Sargent/ J. Cochrane*

Be it resolved that the NNDSB Board of Trustees approve the addition of "Indigenous Youth Circle Report" as a standing item to be reported on as part of the Student Trustee Report. – **CARRIED.**

Chair Aspin invited Student Trustee Lewis Trodd to speak. Student Trustee Lewis Trodd expressed gratitude to R. Stanger for the drumming song and for being welcomed into this position.

## 8.2 OPSBA Public Education Symposium Attendance

*Motion: 22-01-07, B. Steer/ J. Cochrane*

Whereas the OPSBA has based the registration fee for the virtual Public Education Symposium event on board enrollment,

And whereas enrollment for NNDSB is aligned with the 5,000 – 30,000 pupil registration category,

Be it resolved that the Board approves the event registration cost of \$750 to attend the OPSBA Public Education Symposium scheduled on Friday, January 28, 2022. – **CARRIED.**

Reminder to confirm participation interest with the Director's Assistant by January 20, 2021 so that the registration can be submitted by the deadline.

**9.0 Committee Reports**

9.1 Committee Meeting Minutes Presented for Information

9.1.1 Parry Sound Build Committee meeting minutes- December 20, 2021

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

**10.0 Next Meeting Date**

Chair Aspin confirmed the Board of Trustees would meet next on Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

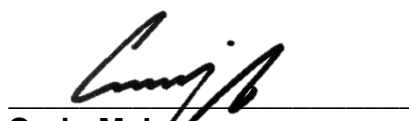
**11.0 Motion to Adjourn**

*Motion: 22-01-08, D. Breault/ L. Sargent*

That we do now adjourn at 7:30 pm. – **CARRIED**



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Jay Aspin  
Chair



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Craig Myles  
Director of Education

**RESOLUTION SUMMARY**

22-01-01 J. Cochrane A. Bottomley	That the agenda for the Board meeting of January 11, 2022 be approved- <b>CARRIED.</b>
22-01-02 B. Steer C. Gagne	That the minutes of the three meetings of the Board of Trustees held in December 2021 are approved. - <b>CARRIED.</b>
22-01-03 J. Cochrane B. Steer	That the correspondence from the Halton District School Board be referred to the NNDSB SEAC committee for review and recommendation. - <b>CARRIED.</b>
22-01-04 J. Cochrane D. Breault	Be it resolved that the NNDSB Board of Trustees approves the trustee committee membership allocations for 2022 as agreed during the preceding Committee of the Whole meeting. – <b>CARRIED.</b>
22-01-05 L. Sargent A. Bottomley	Be it resolved that Allen Lewis Trodd of Magnetawan First Nation be appointed as the Indigenous Student Trustee for the 2021/2022 school year, as recommended by the Indigenous Youth Circle. – <b>CARRIED.</b>
22-01-06 L. Sargent J. Cochrane	Be it resolved that the NNDSB Board of Trustees approve the addition of “Indigenous Youth Circle Report” as a standing item to be reported on as part of the Student Trustee Report. – <b>CARRIED.</b>

**Minutes of the Public Session Board Meeting of the Near North District School Board held January 11, 2022**

<p>22-01-07 B. Steer J. Cochrane</p>	<p>Whereas the OPSBA has based the registration fee for the virtual Public Education Symposium event on board enrollment,</p> <p>And whereas enrollment for NNDSB is aligned with the 5,000 – 30,000 pupil registration category,</p> <p>Be it resolved that the Board approves the event registration cost of \$750 to attend the OPSBA Public Education Symposium scheduled on Friday, January 28, 2022. – <b>CARRIED.</b></p>
<p>22-01-06-08 D. Breault L. Sargent</p>	<p>That we do now adjourn at 7:52 pm. – <b>CARRIED</b></p>