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Craig Myles, Director of Education

The February 15, 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
Rob Learn
Student Trustee A. Lewis Trodd
Student Trustee C. Darling

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

Trustees Absent:

Nichole King

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 unfortunately, an Elder would not be joining the Board this evening. The NNDSB Board of Trustees will continue to hold space with this agenda item at each meeting, with recognition for the importance of this item.

2.0 Requests for Leaves of Absence

Chair Aspin inquired if the Director's Office had received any notices of regret from trustees for the meeting this evening. It is noted that no correspondence was received to this end. Chair Aspin confirmed there would be no motion entertained for this item.

3.0 Attendance

3.1 Confirmation of Quorum

Attendance indicated that 10 trustees are present for the meeting, including the two

student trustees.

3.2 Declaration of Conflict of Interest
NIL

4.0 Approval of the Agenda and Previous Minutes

Motion: 22-02-01, J. Cochrane/ D. Breault

That the agenda for the Board meeting of February 15, 2022 be approved, together with the minutes of the January 11, 2022 meeting. – **CARRIED.**

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 comments were offered on each item as noted below:

5.1.1 *Professional Development Opportunities Calendar*

- Chair Aspin noted that for any trustees who missed the Public Education Symposium event on January 28th, recordings of the workshops are available to watch on the OPSBA website.

5.1.2 *Monthly Tender Report- February 2022*

- Director Myles noted two tenders are outlined on the report regarding HVAC upgrades in schools.
- The floor was opened for questions with none rose.

5.1.3 *Administrative Guideline Report*

- Director Myles noted the report contained in the package contains the outcomes of the consultation period and the final version of NNDSB's "Supporting Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions" Administrative Guideline. Following the meeting this evening, this guideline will be placed on the board's website and become the board's operational procedure.
- Chair Aspin noted that following the Board's rigorous review of the bylaws, staff have made considerable progress updating Administrative Guidelines under the leadership of Director Myles, which is very commendable.

5.1.4 *NNDSB Charity Works Report*

- Report contained in the package following the NNDSB Charity meeting on February 2, 2022, that all trustees were invited to attend.
- Report contains a motion for the Board's consideration to support the recommendation from the Charity Works to pursue and research the establishment of an NNDSB Foundation to allow the board to fundraise more actively.
 - It is noted that this direction was initiated by Chair Aspin, noting several other school boards use this model. Three examples were

of boards that have developed and fully utilized foundations for the benefit of their students were referenced, noting one board had raised \$1.7 million with this process.

- Director Myles invited to comment and noted he is pleased to be investigating further and reporting back on next steps for consideration
- The floor was opened for comments, with none rose.
- Chair Aspin noted the following motion would be tabled under Items for Decision, *“That the Board approve the recommendation from the Charity Works Committee to pursue and research the establishment of an NNDSB Foundation to assist and benefit our area students”*.

5.1.5 COVID-19 Management Update

- Director Myles was invited to speak to this item, and offered opening remarks to note how the health and safety of the board’s staff and students continue to be the number one priority. NNDSB continues to work with coterminous boards, transportation partners, union partners, and the health unit.
- The floor was opened for questions, noting that Superintendent Graves is on hand for support, as the board’s COVID lead.
 - Vice-Chair Cochrane echoed the Director’s recognition for the work of all NNDSB staff and offered his sincere appreciation.
- Chair Aspin acknowledged all members of the NNDSB team on behalf of trustees, noting that despite challenges of procuring PPE, rapid tests, screening tools, staff have done a commendable job. Further, all parents and guardians of students and staff families were acknowledged for their patience, understanding and support.

5.2 Director’s Update

5.2.1 Board Report

Opening remarks from Director Myles to touch on a few highlights contained in the Director’s Report. Highlights noted as:

- As briefly mentioned during the COVID-19 report, NNDSB experiencing significant absences that are difficult to fill because of the current environment. Loyal and dedicated staff are the foundation to any successful organization, therefore sincere thanks are expressed to staff who are stepping to the plate. Going above and beyond, the long hours and every effort in support of student achievement and wellbeing do not go unnoticed.
- Next Wednesday, February 23, 2022, is Pink Shirt Day in support of anti-bullying. This year’s theme, Lift Each Other Up, encourages students to consider how they can support diversity and inclusion through their daily actions.
- NNDSB thanks our media partners who continue to shine a light on our PSW program. Update to note the first cohort has been accepted, with 18 students taking part in North Bay with another 12 in Parry Sound. Because of demand, a wait list has been created for September, with a hope that the board will be able to offer the same program again.

Chair Aspin thanked the Director for his report and expressed excitement on behalf of

the Board for the new partnership and opportunities being created for students and the community through the launch of the PSW program. The floor was opened for questions with none rose.

5.3 Chair's Remarks

The Chair provided a report to note NNDSB has received approval from the Ministry for the property at 111 Lavase road, North Bay to proceed to public sale. trustees will recall this was declared surplus by the Board in the spring through the work of the North Bay Facilities Study Committee.

Director Myles was invited to comment and noted staff would be taking time to develop the next steps in the Request for Offers process.

Trustees received Chair Aspin's report with thanks.

5.4 OPSBA Report

5.4.1 Board 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 a brief update on the Northern Caucus meeting. At this meeting, Trustee Steer noted speaking about the need for additional funding in northern school boards given the unique geographic needs in this area.

5.4.2 Student Trustee Handbook

Attention was called to this document contained in the agenda package. It is noted that this resource document was developed in partnership with the Ontario Student Trustee Association (OSTA) and contains rich information on governance and leadership. Trustee Steer encouraged Student Trustee Darling and Student Trustee Lewis Trodd to review.

Chair Aspin commended OPSBA and OSTA for developing the handbook and encouraged all trustees to review it to gain a fulsome understanding of the role of student trustees.

5.5 Student Trustee's Update

The Chair invited the student trustees 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:

- There has been positive feedback from students regarding the shift back to traditional semesters. Students are enjoying once again the immersive high school experience with clubs, sports and multiple daily classes!
- Secondary schools including West Ferris and Almaguin have been holding information events for incoming high school students. Informational nights were organized featuring details about courses, specialized programs, clubs, high school life, and anything students should know before entering grade nine.
- Update shared regarding how schools have had many different initiatives and elements to acknowledge and celebrate black history month.

Student Trustee Lewis Trodd provided a verbal report regarding the work of the Indigenous Youth Circle (IYC). Highlight shared are noted as:

- The IYC is so pleased to be able to meet in person again. During these meetings, positive comments are noted about the return to semester system as well. Students are looking forward to being able to drum once again.
- The IYC is looking to share a survey with students to better understand student mental health and other cultural events.

The Chair thanked the student trustees for their reports. The floor was opened for comments, with none rose.

6.0 Items for Decision

6.1 Report from Committee of the Whole Public Session

Motion: 22-02-02, J. Cochrane/ D. Breault

That the Board of Trustees appoints Mrs. Judy Kleinhuis to the Audit Committee as an External Member to fill a three-year term effective immediately and ending on February 15, 2025, as recommended by the Audit Selection Committee, and accepted during the Committee of the Whole meeting. - **CARRIED.**

Motion: 22-02-03, L. Sargent/ A. Bottomley

That the Board of Trustees of Near North District School Board approves the 2022/23 allocation from the Trustee Initiative Fund in the amount of \$16,670 in support of the purchase of STEM resources, and that the Near North District School Board authorize and direct the Superintendent of Business to do all actions necessary, and execute all required documentation, to give effect to this approval, as accepted during the Committee of the Whole meeting. - **CARRIED.**

Motion: 22-02-04, B. Steer/ C. Gagne

That the Board of Trustees of Near North District School Board move that OPSBA give consideration, as it transitions out of the pandemic, that Board meetings, except for the AGM, PES and Labour Relations or any meeting deemed necessary, at the call of the President; in reducing our environmental/carbon footprint, will remain virtual, as accepted during the Committee of the Whole meeting. - **CARRIED.**

6.2 Ontario Student Trustee Association - Board Council Conference

Motion: 22-02-05, J. Cochrane/ L. Sargent

That the Board approve the attendance of Student Trustee Darling and Student Trustee Lewis Trodd at the Virtual OSTA-AECO Board Council Conference February 18 to 19, 2022. - **CARRIED.**

6.3 MYSP Committee- Terms of Reference for Approval

Chair Aspin noted this item will be deferred for discussion as part of the Multi-Year Strategic Plan Committee report presented as part of agenda item 7.1.

6.4 2022/2023 School Year Calendar Approval

Motion: 22-02-06, D. Breault/ A. Bottomley

That the Board approve the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar. - **CARRIED.**

6.5 Capital Project Listing for Approval

Motion: 22-02-07, J. Cochrane/ C. Gagne

That the Near North District School Board approve proceeding with the 2021-22 Capital Projects as listed. - **CARRIED.**

7.0 Committee Reports

7.1 Multi-Year Strategic Plan Committee Report

7.1.1 Meeting minutes

7.1.2 Board report

Opening remarks from Chair Aspin to note he is pleased to see the MYSP Committee is continuing with their work, noting how critical it is to ensure this plan remains top of mind with trustees. Committee Chair Steer led the report to note with the MYSP in place, the next step is to assess the plan's effectiveness through evaluation/ progress metrics. It is noted that a presentation has been included in the agenda package. The Director was invited to speak to this item. Highlights of the information shared are noted as:

- It is important to note that the introduction of the MYSP and the focused priorities that were mindfully developed by trustees, consultants and the senior team is an introduction of change in practice and more importantly a significant positive cultural shift.
- Leading experts agree that large-scale change may take 5–10 years to become part of normal classroom life in the majority of schools. There will ebb and flow as NNDSB progresses toward full scale change, recognizing the significant collaboration required to ensure deep learning toward sustainable cultural change.
- As a next step, the MYSP Committee will be looking to establish metrics focused on the measurement of the MYSP fulfillment/success. The metrics will consider where we were (baseline data), the time and learning required for change (the work) and how we measure progress against the baseline data to inform our focus on the MYSP priorities.
- Within the MYSP, four strategic priorities were identified- Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Excellence in Innovation, Excellence in Relationships and Excellence in Communication. The committee intends to develop metrics, both qualitative and quantitative, that would be indicative of our progress towards meeting these priorities and their goals.

Trustee Steer noted the MYSP looks forward to reporting back on these metrics at the next meeting and welcomed questions about the information shared.

Chair Aspin noted the momentum of this item and echoed how organizational change takes time. Instituting metrics will allow the committee to measure progress and growth. The floor was opened for questions and comments:

- Vice-Chair Cochrane noted in his experience with implementing organizational change in other boards, a critical step is staff involvement/ support for the change. This is best done through transparency and putting effort into external communication, which are actions NNDSB has undertaken as part of the process.

With no further questions or comments, Chair Aspin called attention to the updated MYSP Committee Terms of Reference included in the package for approval. The floor was opened for questions with none rose.

Motion: 22-02-08, B. Steer/ J. Cochrane

That the Board approves the amendments to the Multi-Year Strategic Planning Committee's Terms of Reference, as recommended by the MYSP Committee. – **CARRIED.**

At this time, Chair Aspin revisited the resolution regarding the NNDSB Charity Works' intention to explore the development of a foundation. The floor was opened for questions or comments, with none rose.

Motion: 22-02-09, J. Cochrane/ D. Breault

That the Board approve the recommendation from the Charity Works Committee to pursue and research the establishment of an NNDSB Foundation to assist and benefit our area students. - **CARRIED.**

7.1 Committee Meeting Minutes Presented for Information

7.1.1 SEAC meeting minutes- January 22, 2022

Chair Aspin referred trustees to the committee minutes included for information purposes and invited Director Myles to provide brief remarks. Director Myles recalled for trustees how there were two items deferred to SEAC for consideration by the Board and invited Superintendent Graves to share the outcome.

Superintendent Graves noted that within the committee minutes, it is noted that regarding the item pertaining to mandatory vaccinations, the NNDSB SEAC elected not to take action. The item relating to fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) has already been acted upon by SEAC by way of a supporting letter in the 2020/2021 school year.

Chair Aspin thanked Director Myles and Superintendent Graves for providing the report back to trustees.

8.0 Next Meeting Date

Chair Aspin noted the Board of Trustees meeting in March is currently scheduled to overlap with the March Break, and suggested deferring it by a week to ensure that staff are available to attend. With no comments of opposition, a motion was tabled to formalize the decision.

Motion: 22-02-10, J. Cochrane/ A. Bottomley

That the NNDSB Board of Trustees approves the decision to move the March Board of Trustees meeting to occur on Tuesday, March 22, 2022. – **CARRIED**

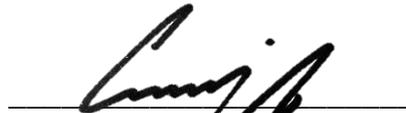
9.0 Motion to Adjourn

Motion: 22-02-11, D. Breault/ R. Learn

That we do now adjourn at 7:40 pm. – **CARRIED**



Jay Aspin
Chair



Craig Myles
Director of Education

RESOLUTION SUMMARY

22-02-01 J. Cochrane D. Breault	BE IT RESOLVED, that the agenda for the Board meeting of February 15, 2022 be approved, together with the minutes of the January 11, 2022 meeting. – CARRIED.
22-02-02 J. Cochrane D. Breault	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees appoints Mrs. Judy Kleinhuis to the Audit Committee as an External Member to fill a three-year term effective immediately and ending on February 15, 2025, as recommended by the Audit Selection Committee, and accepted during the Committee of the Whole meeting. - CARRIED.
22-02-03 L. Sargent A. Bottomley	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Near North District School Board approves the 2022/23 allocation from the Trustee Initiative Fund in the amount of \$16,670 in support of the purchase of STEM resources, and that the Near North District School Board authorize and direct the Superintendent of Business to do all actions necessary, and execute all required documentation, to give effect to this approval, as accepted during the Committee of the Whole meeting. - CARRIED.
22-02-04 B. Steer C. Gagne	BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Near North District School Board move that OPSBA give consideration, as it transitions out of the pandemic, that Board meetings, except for the AGM, PES and Labour Relations or any meeting deemed necessary, at the call of the President; in reducing our environmental/carbon footprint, will remain virtual, as accepted during the Committee of the Whole meeting. - CARRIED.
22-02-05 J. Cochrane L. Sargent	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approve the attendance of Student Trustee Darling and Student Trustee Lewis Trodd at the Virtual OSTA-AECO Board Council Conference February 18 to 19, 2022. - CARRIED.
22-02-06 D. Breault A. Bottomley	BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board approve the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar. - CARRIED.
22-02-08 B. Steer J. Cochrane	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves the amendments to the Multi-Year Strategic Planning Committee’s Terms of Reference, as recommended by the MYSP Committee. – CARRIED.

Minutes of the Public Session Board Meeting of the Near North District School Board held February 15, 2022

22-02-09 J. Cochrane D. Breault	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approve the recommendation from the Charity Works Committee to pursue and research the establishment of an NNDSB Foundation to assist and benefit our area students. - CARRIED.
22-02-10 J. Cochran A. Bottomley	BE IT RESOLVED, that the NNDSB Board of Trustees approves the decision to move the March Board of Trustees meeting to occur on Tuesday, March 22, 2022. – CARRIED
22-02-11 D. Breault R. Learn	BE IT RESOLVED, that we do now adjourn at 7:40 pm. – CARRIED