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Craig Myles, Director of Education

The March 22, 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
Rob Learn
Student Trustee A. Lewis Trodd
Student Trustee C. Darling

Trustees Absent:

N/A

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

Guests:

F. Truong, WFSS student
M. Moore, CSS student (represented by family)

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 11 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: 22-03-01, A. Bottomley/ D. Breault

That the agenda for the Board meeting of March 22, 2022 be approved, together with the minutes of the February 15, 2022 meeting. – **CARRIED.**

5.0 Presentation: Student recipients of Rotary Club of North Bay Award

5.1 Welcome guests- M. Moore and F. Truong

Chair Aspin referred trustees to the brief included in the agenda outlining how the Board will be welcoming outstanding students whose exemplary endeavours provide shining examples of the MYP priorities.

Director Myles provided opening remarks to recognize both students for their commitments to community service and acknowledged how these NNDSB students are acting as ambassadors for the board's mission vision and values, and how student achievement and well-being is at the core of our work.

Superintendent Smylie welcomed the secondary school principals, who in turn offered their regards on behalf of the school communities for the work of the students. Highlights noted as:

- Principal Tucker Petrick noted that M. Moore is an exceptional student in all regards and it is a pleasure to offer public regards on behalf of the Chippewa Secondary School community. Note that M. Moore is represented this evening by her family. M. Moore is recognized for her dedication to volunteerism, academics and the community culture of the school.
- Principal Kajganich noted that F. Truong is involved in many programs in the West Ferris Secondary School community (such as robotics, lego initiatives, etc) as well as the broader community.

Chair Aspin opened the floor for trustees to offer their comments:

- Chair Aspin congratulated the students and spoke to the importance of recognizing their outstanding achievements.
- Trustee Sargent echoed the Chair's comments and noted that being reminded of the high calibre of students within NNDSB is a most enjoyable part of being a trustee.
- Trustee Gagne inquired what the students' future goals might be. F. Truong noted she intends to pursue biomedical engineering, and M. Moore's family noted she intends to pursue post-secondary studies in law.

6.0 Communication to the Board

6.1 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:

6.1.1 *Professional Development Opportunities Calendar*

- Brief contained in the package.

6.1.2 *Monthly Tender Report- April 2022*

- Brief contained in the package.

6.1.3 *Administrative Guideline Report*

- Brief contained in the package.
- Chair Aspin noted that the Board's decision in September to provide expressed approval for administrative guidelines (AGs) to proceed directly to public consultation once reviewed by Executive Council continued to be an efficient process.
- Director Myles noted that this is made possible through the diligent work of Executive Council and their dedicated teams.

6.2 Director's Update

6.2.1 *Board Report*

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

- Staff and students welcomed back following the March Break. Update provided regarding COVID-19 management in schools following the direction provided by the Province regarding the lifting of restrictions. The board's COVID-19 management team continues to work diligently behind the scenes to ensure NNDSB has strong processes in place.
- The monthly kudos recognition was awarded to J. Brisebois, the North Bay Board Office Receptionist. J. Brisebois went above and beyond to lend support to the I.T. team with a data entry project. This cross-departmental collaboration and problem solving is a hallmark of our strategic commitment to excellence in relationships, and a shining example of our values in the delivery of excellent educational opportunities for all.
- NNDSB remains thoroughly committed to answering the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action by actioning Indigenous Education priorities and initiatives focused on equitable outcomes for learners. NNDSB has purchased a license for an unlimited number of learners to participate in 4 Seasons of Reconciliation cultural competency learning in support of this commitment.

Trustees expressed their sincere thanks for the sincere dedication and hard work of staff and the Director's leadership to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of NNDSB students throughout the pandemic. A suggestion was raised to write a letter to express their formal gratitude. Chair Aspin noted he would be pleased to support this and offered his regards as well for the work of staff.

6.2.2 MYSP Mid-Year Strategic Update

Director Myles referred trustees to the report contained in the agenda package that provides an overview of the work that has been accomplished toward meeting the 2021/22 goals across each of the MYSP's priorities. Highlights noted as:

- The report shows increased communication and collaboration throughout the board with a forward momentum toward common goals.
- The board is meeting and or exceeding the goals that we have set for ourselves for the year. Where we had planned to implement new processes, we are now moving to a stage of deepening our understanding and perfecting our practice.
- Progress within the strategic priority of excellence in innovation is noted with how the board contains to sustain online learning. Efforts to update school infrastructure for improved connectivity have begun with the successful application of a Ministry grant proposal.
- Progress within the strategic priority of excellence in communication is noted with the increased volume and frequency of external communications. The use of analytics for public communication is allowing us to see positive trends whereby users to the website have increased by almost 50% and time spent on the site has increased as well.
- Progress within the strategic priority of excellence in relationships is noted with the continued work with the equity secretariate and local Indigenous partners to ensure opportunities to learn more about student and teacher learning needs and to provide appropriate PD opportunities.
- Progress within the strategic priority of excellence in teaching and learning is noted through the way system staff are deepening their understanding of strategic planning and mindful gathering of evidence. This will help system staff to support schools in SIPSAWB planning and in 6-week cycle monitoring as we return to a more normal teaching and learning environment in schools.

The floor was opened for questions and comments:

- Vice-Chair Cochrane noted how refreshing it is to be part of a board that displays leadership and ownership about important community needs such as the PSW program.
- Trustee Steer offered accolades to the Director and staff under his leadership for the continued entrenchment and focus on the MYSP.

Chair Aspin thanked the Director for his report and noted this mid-term report provides significant evidence of how focused the board remains on the thorough implementation of the MYSP. The Director received the trustees' positive comments with gratitude and reiterated how this work is accomplished through the dedication of the senior team, their teams, and the Director's Office.

6.3 Chair's Remarks

The Chair shared remarks regarding Board and community engagement initiatives following the Director's Remarks. Chair Aspin's verbal report centered on:

- Comments to note our thoughts are with the Ukrainian people, particularly the school-aged children who we can relate to as an educational organization.
- Recognition for Student Trustee Darling's words and participation in the "Break the Bias" media campaign. This campaign gathered perspectives leading up to

International Women's Day using the hashtag "break the bias". The Almaguin News online paper published her inspiration quote: "The future of equality rests in everyone's hands. To make gender equity possible as a community, we need to stop protecting and start educating. We must celebrate the trials, and triumphs of women: those in sports, STEM, the skilled trades, positions of power, women who support families, and those who are forging change for girls today. #BreakTheBias."

Trustees received Chair Aspin's report with thanks.

6.4 OPSBA Report

The Chair invited Trustee Steer to lead the Board through this item. Trustee Steer provided a verbal report to note:

- The resolution put forward by NNDSB following the February 15, 2022 meeting regarding the continuance of virtual meetings was accepted for inclusion at the OPSBA's Annual General Meeting in June.
- Note that the Annual General Meeting will be held in person in June. Further information will be forthcoming.

Trustee Bottomley raised a question regarding the Board's focus on environmentalism, and how this can be brought forward to an agenda for discussion. Chair Aspin noted that a request may be submitted to him as Board Chair.

6.5 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. Highlights shared are noted as:

- Students have been truly accomplishing great things in the past month. Two Grade 11 students at Chippewa Secondary created a mural to commemorate Black history and the power of education to eradicate racism. At Almaguin Highlands, two students have been accepted to the SHAD program taking place this summer.
- NNDSB volleyball and basketball teams are reaching the end of their season with both Chippewa and Almaguin teams reaching the finals in NDA, MPS and GBSSA. Nordic skiing teams attended their final competition in the past week, with amazing results from students from the Near North Board. In addition, outdoor education classes are now shifting into their spring season after many successful winter camping expeditions.

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

- The IYC has deferred their meeting due to conflicting schedules. The group remains focused on getting to know each other and considering what the next steps will be.
- The absence of the Indigenous Education Lead has resulted in the IYC losing a bit of momentum, but it is expected that the group will be reconvening in time to offer a more fulsome report to trustees next month.

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

7.0 Items for Decision

7.1 Report from Committee of the Whole Public Session

Motion: 22-03-02, J. Cochrane/ D. Breault

Be it resolved, that the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board endorses the modifications to update our By-Laws, as discussed during the Committee of the Whole meeting. - CARRIED.

With this approval, Chair Aspin requested that the refreshed copy of the bylaws be circulated to all trustees and posted on the board's website. Director Myles noted he would be pleased to ensure this is completed.

Motion: 22-03-03, C. Gagne/ D. Breault

Be it resolved, that in accordance with Section 4 (1) (b) Ontario Regulation 412/00, the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board does not designate any municipality within its jurisdiction as a low population municipality. – CARRIED.

Motion: 22-03-04, J. Cochrane/ C. Gagne

Be it resolved, that in accordance with Ontario Regulation 412/00, the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board approves the report of the Determination and Distribution of trustees as presented during the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Be it further resolved that, based on the calculations contained in the report, trustee distribution is approved as follows:

- Zone 1 will have a distribution of four trustees. The lead municipality is identified as the City of North Bay
 - Zone 2 will have a distribution of one trustee. The lead municipality is identified as the Municipality of Callander
 - Zone 3 will have a distribution of one trustee. The lead municipality is identified as the Municipality of Powassan
 - Zone 4 will have a distribution of one trustee. The lead municipality is identified as the Town of Parry Sound
 - Zone 5 will have a distribution of one trustee. The lead municipality is identified as the Township of Perry.
- CARRIED.

Motion: 22-03-05, D. Breault/ L. Sargent

Be it resolved, that the Board of Trustees of Near North District School Board approves the allocation from the Trustee Initiative Fund in the amount of \$7,520.20 in support of Journey into Learning 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: 22-03-06, J. Cochrane/ L. Sargent

Be it resolved, that the Board of Trustees of Near North District School Board approves the allocation from the Trustee Initiative Fund in the amount of \$7,500 in support of the Festival of the Sound's school music education program, 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.

7.2 Ferris Glenn CVRIS Tender Award

- A report is included in the package regarding this item.

Motion: 22-03-07, J. Cochrane/ B. Steer

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board approves the award of tender NNDSB 2022-005 HVAC Upgrades for Ferris Glen Public School to Kenalex Construction Ltd in the amount of \$1,096,700 plus HST, as part of the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS) Funding. – CARRIED.

8.0 Committee Reports

8.1 Multi-Year Strategic Plan Committee Report

8.1.1 Meeting minutes

8.1.2 Board report

Trustee Steer was invited to speak to this item as the chair of the MYSP Committee.

Highlights are noted as:

- At the Board of Trustees meeting in February, the MYSP Committee provided an update on their ongoing work regarding the evaluation of the Multi-Year Strategic Plan, with a note that the next step would be to assess the plan's effectiveness with the development of metrics.
- Since that time, the MYSP committee has continued to meet and has developed metrics to measure the goals defined under each of the four pillars of the MYSP (excellence in teaching and learning, excellence in innovation, excellence in relationships and excellence in communication).
- As a next step, a survey has been developed and the committee is seeking responses to measure the implementation status of the 2021- 2026 MYSP.
- The survey was opened on Friday, March 11, 2022 and will remain open until April 15, 2022.
- Following the closure of the survey, the MYSP Committee will meet to review the data. The key findings, trends and information provided by stakeholders will be reviewed to establish metrics in preparation for providing a report to the Board. It is anticipated that this report will be presented at the May meeting.

Chair Aspin thanked Trustee Steer for this report.

8.2 Special Education Advisory Committee Report

8.2.1 Meeting minutes

8.2.2 Board report- For Approval

Director Myles provided introductory comments to note a report and minutes are contained in the agenda package for review. Superintendent Graves was invited

to speak to the information further as the superintendent representative on the SEAC Committee.

Superintendent Graves brought forward a recommendation from SEAC for the Board's consideration regarding changes to the committee membership. It is noted that Nipissing First Nation has confirmed they have new representation, and the current SEAC Chair would be pleased to be appointed into the "community member" role. Board Chair Aspin opened the floor for comments and noted it is important for the Board to support its committees to run efficiently and effectively. No comments or questions were raised.

Motion: 22-03-08, D. Breault/ L. Sargent

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board approves the amendments to the Special Education Advisory Committee's membership as follows:

- Ms. Albina Lavictorie is appointed as the Community Representative
- Representatives for the Nipissing First Nation are accepted as:
 - Caroline Labrecque (primary)
 - Carole Couillard (alternate)
- CARRIED.

8.3 North Bay Facilities Study Committee Report

8.3.1 Minutes

8.3.2 Board report

8.3.3 Committee name change- For Approval

8.3.4 Terms of Reference- For Approval

Director Myles provided opening comments to refer trustees to the minutes and the report contained in the agenda package. Superintendent Smylie was invited to provide further information as the Committee Chair. Highlights of the information presented are noted as:

- In February, NNDSB received approval from the ministry to proceed to public sale regarding the maintenance shop property (located at 111 Lavase Road, North Bay) but the business case for the retrofit of the Widdifield building was declined.
- Subsequently, NNDSB received notice that the Ministry was opening a 2022-23 Capital Priorities Program opportunity. Projects submitted to this round would be expected to open no later than the 2026-27 school year.
- Knowing the benefits to students and the school community that would be realized through the consolidation into Widdifield, coupled with the support expressed from the community for this idea- NNDSB has decided to resubmit to the 2022-23 Capital Priorities Program. If successful, this project consolidates Alliance elementary school, the Laurentian Learning Centre as well as the Board's administration and maintenance facilities into the former Widdifield Secondary School building.
- The new Widdifield submission further emphasized the programming benefits for students under this model as well as partnership possibilities that would significantly enrich the school/community relationships.

- A secondary case was also developed to explore possibilities in the West Nipissing planning area included in the Board's 2020 Capital Plan. It is noted that the Capital Plan commits to monitoring enrollment of underutilized schools. A future option was included in the Capital Plan to consider the possibility of West Nipissing secondary students attending a North Bay planning area school. As part of the exploratory business case, this idea was not pursued further. Rather, consideration was given to how the board could continue to operate programming in West Nipissing for all students while maintaining a rich learning environment. It is noted that further consultation with the West Nipissing community and coterminous partners were firmly included as part of the exploratory business case.
- Funding requests submitted to the 2022-23 Capital Priorities Program are required to open no later than the 2026-27 school year and NNDSB looks forward to receiving a response from the Ministry.
- The committee has also prepared a recommendation for the Board to consider renaming the committee to reflect the scope more appropriately. As such the North Bay Facilities Study Committee is seeking Board approval to change its name to the North Bay Consolidation Committee (NBCC).

Board Chair Aspin opened the floor for comments and noted that the name change is appropriate given that the work has evolved beyond the completion of the facilities study. Alongside the JK-12 school build in Parry Sound, this consolidation to transform the Widdifield building into an educational hub is a top priority for the Board. No further comments or questions were noted.

Motion: 22-03-09, B. Steer/ D. Breault

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board approves the change of name from the North Bay Facilities Study Committee to the North Bay Consolidation Committee, as recommended by the committee. – CARRIED.

Motion: 22-03-10, C. Gagne/ J. Cochrane

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board approves the North Bay Consolidation Committee's Terms of Reference, as amended to reflect the change in its name. -CARRIED.

8.4 Committee Meeting Minutes Presented for Information

8.4.1 Equity Advisory Circle Notes- February 6, 2022

8.4.2 Parent Involvement Committee- February 16, 2022

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

9.0 Next Meeting Date

Chair Aspin noted the Board of Trustees would meet next on April 12, 2022.

10.0 Motion to Adjourn

Motion: 22-03-11, B. Steer/ D. Breault

That we do now adjourn at 8:00 pm. – **CARRIED**

Jay Aspin
 Chair

Craig Myles
 Director of Education

RESOLUTION SUMMARY

22-03-01 A. Bottomley D. Breault	That the agenda for the Board meeting of March 22, 2022 be approved, together with the minutes of the February 15, 2022 meeting- CARRIED .
22-03-02 J. Cochrane D. Breault	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board endorses the modifications to update our By-Laws, as discussed during the Committee of the Whole meeting.- CARRIED .
22-03-03 C. Gagne D. Breault	BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with Section 4 (1) (b) Ontario Regulation 412/00, the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board does not designate any municipality within its jurisdiction as a low population municipality. – CARRIED .
22-03-04 J. Cochrane C. Gagne	BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with Ontario Regulation 412/00, the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board approves the report of the Determination and Distribution of trustees as presented during the Committee of the Whole meeting. Be it further resolved that, based on the calculations contained in the report, trustee distribution is approved as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Zone 1 will have a distribution of four trustees. The lead municipality is identified as the City of North Bay ○ Zone 2 will have a distribution of one trustee. The lead municipality is identified as the Municipality of Callander ○ Zone 3 will have a distribution of one trustee. The lead municipality is identified as the Municipality of Powassan ○ Zone 4 will have a distribution of one trustee. The lead municipality is identified as the Town of Parry Sound ○ Zone 5 will have a distribution of one trustee. The lead municipality is identified as the Township of Perry. - CARRIED
22-03-05 D. Breault L. Sargent	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Near North District School Board approves the allocation from the Trustee Initiative Fund in the amount of \$7,520.20 in support of Journey into Learning

Minutes of the Public Session Board Meeting of the Near North District School Board held March 22, 2022

	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.
22-03-06 J. Cochrane L. Sargent	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Near North District School Board approves the allocation from the Trustee Initiative Fund in the amount of \$7,500 in support of the Festival of the Sound’s school music education program, 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.
22-03-07 J. Cochrane B. Steer	BE IT RESOLVES, that the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board approves the award of tender NNDSB 2022-005 HVAC Upgrades for Ferris Glen Public School to Kenalex Construction Ltd in the amount of \$1,096,700 plus HST, as part of the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS) Funding- CARRIED
22-03-08 D. Breault L. Sargent	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board approves the amendments to the Special Education Advisory Committee’s membership as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Albina Lavictorie is appointed as the Community Representative • Representatives for the Nipissing First Nation are accepted as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Caroline Labrecque (primary) ○ Carole Couillard (alternate) - CARRIED.
22-03-09 B. Steer D. Breault	BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board approves the change of name from the North Bay Facilities Study Committee to the North Bay Consolidation Committee, as recommended by the committee. – CARRIED.
22-03-10 C. Gagne J. Cochrane	BE IT RESOLVES, that the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board approves the North Bay Consolidation Committee’s Terms of Reference, as amended to reflect the change in its name. -CARRIED.
22-03-11 B. Steer D. Breault	BE IT RESOLVED, that we do now adjourn at 8:00 pm. – CARRIED