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Craig Myles, Director of Education

The April 12, 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

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:

N/A

1.0 Call to Order

Chair Aspin called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and thanked the public for joining.

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

Chair Aspin read the land acknowledgement aloud.

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: 22-04-01, J. Cochrane/ B. Steer

That the agenda for the Board meeting of April 12, 2022, be approved, together with the minutes of the March 22, 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*

- Brief contained in the package.

5.1.2 *Monthly Tender Report- April 2022*

- Brief contained in the package.

5.1.3 *Administrative Guideline Report*

- Brief contained in the package.

The floor was opened for questions or comments on the information items, with none rose.

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:

- With warmer weather beginning to arrive, thoughts have turned to renewal. We look forward to new growth, a resurgence of energy and resilience.
- NNDSB is pleased to share that the Community Use of Schools program has resumed. Applications are being accepted as of April 4, 2022. Further information can be found on the website under the Community Use of Schools page.
- Work continues with the development of the board's budget. Progress is aligned with the milestones articulated in the Budget Procedures manual and remains on track to be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval at the meeting on June 14, 2022.
- Reminder that the Multi-Year Strategic Planning implementation survey is closing on Friday, April 15, 2022. All stakeholders are encouraged to provide their feedback. The data will be used to measure the implementation status of the 2021-2026 MYSP. The survey can be found on the website.
- Note that the Parent Involvement Committee is hosting a workshop with Dr. Peg Dawson on Monday, May 2. The workshop is geared to families to suggest strategies that can be used to help children acquire the critical skills they need to be successful students.

Board Chair Aspin opened the floor for questions:

- Question raised by Trustee Sargent regarding the board's stance on returning to mandatory masking in schools, considering the new variants and information

circulating.

- Director Myles acknowledged the timeliness of the inquiry, as Executive Council has discussed this today. Further information would be shared in the days ahead through the board's communication protocol. It is noted that the government has advised they do not intend to reinstate mask mandates, and NNDSB is not able to supersede this decision. NNDSB continues to encourage hand hygiene and enhanced sanitizing efforts in schools.
- Question raised by Trustee Learn to determine if the resumption of community use of schools includes sports.
 - Director Myles confirmed it does, and invited the board's COVID lead, Superintendent Graves to provide further information. Superintendent Graves noted that sporting groups are welcome to apply for community use of school permits through schools. There could be certain circumstances where a full resumption is not possible, however NNDSB is looking forward to welcoming the community into schools for a variety of purposes.
- Follow-up question from Trustee Learn to determine if the Board of Trustees would be returning to in-person meetings.
 - Director Myles noted the intention is to maintain extreme caution on returning to face-to-face meetings. Further, it is noted that the Ministry of Education has provided direction for school boards to continue with virtual meetings.
 - Chair Aspin noted this direction extends until the end of the current trustee term.
 - Trustee Learn noted he is aware of other boards who have returned to face-to-face meetings. Chair Aspin noted that despite this, NNDSB would continue to align with the direction of the Ministry and relevant health authorities.

5.3 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:

- In follow-up to the decision at the previous meeting, correspondence was issued to staff on behalf of the Board in recognition of their work throughout the pandemic.
- Correspondence was received from the robotics Team 1305 regarding awards the team received. Note that the funding received through the Trustee Initiative Fund is well spent, as the team has many achievements to be proud of over the years.

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 provided a verbal report to note:

- NNDSB's virtual meeting proposed resolution was discussed at the Northern Caucus meeting earlier this week. Note that this will be brought forward at OPSBA's Annual General Meeting in June for discussion.

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- Colleagues were very interested in NNDSB's PSW program initiative. This was discussed as part of the quarterly updates as a very successful endeavour.
- Early conversation is happening around what the ramifications of a four-day work week would mean for the education system.

Chair Aspin thanked Trustee Steer for his report and opened the floor for questions, with none rose.

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. Highlights shared are noted as:

- Continuing initiatives from last month, students are still collecting donations for Ukraine in several schools including West Ferris, Chippewa, and Almaguin.
- The Student Senate has created an updated timeline to organize the election of the senate positions to have newly appointed Senators from each school to attend meetings by May.
- The Student Senate is continuing to focus on mental health by finalizing a plan to advocate for student voice and mental health, and to support the student population with their mental health struggles.

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

- A short meeting occurred earlier in the month that focused on goal setting. A follow-up conversation will take place to further develop the ideas proposed.
- The IYC is looking forward to their first in-person meeting planned for May.

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: 22-04-02, B. Steer/ 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.

7.0 Committee Reports

7.1 First Nations Advisory Council Report

7.1.1 Meeting minutes- March 3, 2022

7.1.2 Indigenous Education report

Chair Aspin referred trustees to the supporting information included in the agenda package. Director Myles was invited to provide opening remarks before inviting Superintendent Gray to speak further. Highlights are noted as:

- Director Myles spoke to how NNDSB's work at all levels within the board in support

of Indigenous student well-being, transitions and pathways, parent and community engagement, as well as system and educator capacity are rooted in our Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

- NNDSB recognizes the importance of co-operation and communication between Indigenous partners and as a board, remain committed to ensuring equitable outcomes for indigenous students.
- Superintendent Gray noted that the indigenous education team has experienced growth this year, with a staff member returning after working directly with the Ministry of Education for some time.
- The report contains many exciting initiatives such as program expansions, pathway enhancements within the Specialist High School Major (SHSM) experience. New and refreshed supports and ideas around the indigenous graduation coach model while working with the Ministry to support additional alternative secondary programming.
- Student Trustee Lewis was credited for his perseverance in his role, given the staffing changeovers that have occurred. Student Trustee Lewis is a shining representative of indigenous youth within NNDSB.

Chair Aspin thanked SO Gray and the indigenous education lead for the thorough report and noted it is through these efforts that NNDSB has developed a strong reputation regarding indigenous education opportunities. The floor was opened for questions, with none rose.

7.2 Finance Committee Report

7.2.1 Meeting minutes- March 23, 2022

7.2.2 Terms of Reference- For Approval

Trustees referred to the supporting information included in the agenda package. Vice-Chair Cochrane was invited to speak to this item. Highlights noted as:

- The March 23rd meeting is noted as the first meeting following the trustees' committee annual reorganizational process. Vice-Chair Cochrane was pleased to be affirmed as the Committee Chair for another year.
- The Committee also reviewed its Terms of Reference, with amendments proposed for the Board's review and approval this evening.
- Trustees will recall that the Finance Committee was developed to oversee a few key elements: the Trustee Initiative Fund, Accumulated Surplus, and the development of a Budget Procedures manual. From the minutes, it is noted that the committee is continuing to monitor these items, with no issues to bring forward at this point.

7.3 Special Education Advisory Committee Report

7.3.1 Meeting minutes- March 25, 2022

7.3.2 Board report- For Approval

Director Myles was invited to provide opening remarks before turning to Superintendent Graves for further information. Highlights of the information shared are noted as:

- SEAC minutes and draft correspondence are contained in the agenda package for review and approval.

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- Note that the SEAC regularly receives letters of correspondence from other board SEACs for review. In this case, the SEAC recognized the value in adding support as it relates to the importance of ensuring the “universal design for learning” is embedded in the resources provided by the ministry, as well as the e-learning courses so that they comply with accessibility standards, remain relevant, and maintained regularly.
- As a northern board, there are further challenges with the technology infrastructure needed to deliver learning online. NNDSB recognizes all of the government’s efforts in this regard, so it is important to continue to advocate for these efforts to continue and ensure no child is left unconnected.
- Chair Aspin thanked SEAC for the report and referred trustees to the draft correspondence. It is noted that the Board Chair should be copied on the submission following the Board’s approval to ensure adherence to good governance practice.

With no further questions or comments, a motion was tabled to provide approval for the submission of the correspondence, with the amendment to ensure Chair Aspin is copied.

Motion: 22-04-03, J. Cochrane/ L. Sargent

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board approves the submission of the letter to the Minister of Education regarding online learning, as recommended by the Special Education Advisory Committee. – CARRIED.

Chair Aspin reopened the floor for comments regarding item 7.2.2- Finance Committee Terms of Reference for approval. With no further comments to note, a motion was tabled to confirm the Board’s support of the amendments proposed.

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

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board approves the amendments to the Finance Committee’s Terms of Reference, as recommended by the Finance Committee. – CARRIED.

It is noted that the time is drawing close to 8:00 PM, so a motion for a 30-minute extension was tabled.

Motion: 22-04-05, B. Steer/ L. Sargent

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board approves an extension of the board meeting of April 12, 2022, until 8:30 PM. – CARRIED.

7.4 W.J. Fricker Committee Report

7.4.1 Minutes- March 28, 2022

7.4.2 Terms of Reference- For Approval

7.4.3 Board report

Trustee Steer invited to speak to this item. Trustees were referred to the minutes and draft Terms of Reference for approval, with a motion tabled to confirm the decision.

Motion: 22-04-06, B. Steer/ L. Sargent

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board

approves the W.J. Fricker Build Committee's Terms of Reference, as recommended by the W.J. Fricker Build Committee. – CARRIED.

Trustee Steer referred trustees to the report included in the package. It is noted that the Fricker build is continuing along on schedule with the underground infrastructure well underway leading up to the planned reopening in September 2023.

The floor was opened for questions with none rose. Chair Aspin thanked Trustee Steer for the report.

7.5 Parry Sound Build Committee Report

7.5.1 Minutes- April 4, 2022

7.5.2 Terms of Reference- For Approval

Chair Aspin referred trustees to the amended Terms of Reference included in the agenda package for approval. The floor was opened for questions or comments, with none rose.

Motion: 22-04-07, J. Cochrane/ N. King

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board approves the Parry Sound Build Committee's Terms of Reference, as recommended by the Parry Sound Build Committee. – CARRIED.

Vice-Chair Cochrane provided a verbal report with highlights noted as:

- The committee met on April 4, 2022, with the minutes contained in the agenda package. It is noted that this was the committee's first meeting following the trustees' committee annual reorganizational process. Vice-Chair Cochrane was pleased to be affirmed as the Committee Chair for another year.
- As a reminder, there is a dedicated place on the board's website for updates and information about the JK-12 Parry Sound build that the public is invited to review.

The floor was opened for questions and comments, with none rose. Chair Aspin thanked Vice-Chair Cochrane for the report.

7.6 Committee Meeting Minutes Presented for Information

7.6.1 Audit Committee- unofficial minutes- March 28, 2022

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

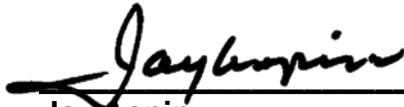
8.0 Next Meeting Date

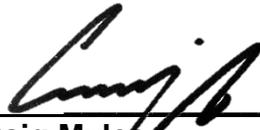
Chair Aspin noted the Board of Trustees would meet next on May 10, 2022.

9.0 Motion to Adjourn

Motion: 22-04-08, J. Cochrane/ C. Gagne

That we do now adjourn at 8:01 pm. – **CARRIED**


 Jay Aspin
 Chair


 Craig Myles
 Director of Education

RESOLUTION SUMMARY

22-04-01 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.
22-04-02 B. Steer 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.
22-04-03 J. Cochrane L. Sargent	Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board approves the submission of the letter to the Minister of Education regarding online learning, as recommended by the Special Education Advisory Committee. – CARRIED.
22-04-04 J. Cochrane C. Gagne	Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board approves the amendments to the Finance Committee’s Terms of Reference, as recommended by the Finance Committee. – CARRIED.
22-04-05 B. Steer D. Breault	Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board approves an extension of the board meeting of April 12, 2022, until 8:30 PM. – CARRIED.
22-04-06 B. Steer L. Sargent	Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board approves the W.J. Fricker Build Committee’s Terms of Reference, as recommended by the W.J. Fricker Build Committee. – CARRIED.
22-04-07 J. Cochrane N. King	Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board approves the Parry Sound Build Committee’s Terms of Reference, as recommended by the Parry Sound Build Committee. – CARRIED.
22-04-08 J. Cochrane C. Gagne	Be it resolved that we do now adjourn at 8:01 pm. – CARRIED