



963 Airport Road North Bay, ON P1B 8H1
Phone: 705.472.8170
Website: www.nearnorthschools.ca

Craig Myles, Director of Education

The May 10, 2022 **Committee of the Whole Public Session** 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
Rob Learn *
Cecilia Darling, Student Trustee

Trustees Absent:

Nichole King
Allen Lewis Trodd, Student Trustee

Administrative Staff Present:

Craig Myles, Director of Education
Gay Smylie, Superintendent of Education
Deb Bartlett, Communications Officer
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

* Joined the meeting 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 eight trustees are present at this point in the meeting, including one student trustee.

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

NIL

2.0 Approval of the Agenda and Previous Minutes

Motion: J. Cochrane/ C. Gagne

That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of May 10, 2022, and the minutes of the previous meetings of April 12, 2022, be approved - **Carried**.

3.0 In-Camera

At this time, Chair Aspin advised the Committee of the Whole would be moving into a private session. Members of the public were excused and advised they would be permitted back into the meeting once the Board arose in public session.

Motion: A. Bottomley/ D. Breault

That the Committee of the Whole move into an in-camera session. - **Carried.**

A brief pause was noted to coordinate the appropriate video conference controls.

4.0 Arise and Report

The Committee arose and reported in the public session of the Committee of the Whole. A brief pause was noted to coordinate the appropriate video conference controls to permit members of the public to re-enter the virtual meeting.

Trustee Learn has joined the meeting. At this point it is noted that nine trustees are present, including Student Trustee Darling.

5.0 Business Arising

Chair Aspin noted this is a nil report this evening.

6.0 New Business

6.1 OPSBA Award- Trustee Steer

Chair Aspin invited Trustee Steer to speak to this item. Trustees were referred to the brief included in the agenda package regarding the criteria for the 2022 OPSBA Bernardine Yackman Award. In his capacity as the Board's OPSBA representative, Trustee Steer noted that he is pleased to be seeking consensus to nominate Board Chair Jay Aspin for this award. It is noted that the award is given to an individual for outstanding contributions to education with special recognition for Northern Ontario service. Trustee Steer noted Board Chair Aspin's length of service and commitment to public service have served students and the education system very well.

Vice-Chair Cochrane noted his full support for the nomination of Board Chair Aspin recognizing how his leadership has positively impacted NNDSB in many ways.

Closing comments from Chair Aspin to thank trustees for their support for the nomination. Appreciation was expressed to trustees for continuing to work together alongside administration. This practice has elevated the NNDSB Board of Trustees, and the work accomplished.

6.2 Notice of Motion- "Four-Day Work Week Investigation"- Trustee Steer

It is noted that Trustee Steer provided a Notice of Motion in alignment with NNDSB Bylaw 102. Chair Aspin referred trustees to the brief included in the agenda package and advised Trustee Steer would be given one minute to speak to this item and then the floor would be open to discuss and determine consensus.

Minutes of the Public Session Board Meeting of the Near North District School Board held May 10, 2022

Remarks from Trustee Steer to note he is seeking consensus to bring a motion forward recommending OPSBA begin to investigate the four-day work week model as its application and impact to the educational system. It is noted that there is increasing traction for this work week model with employers in the province so proactive engagement by OPSBA would be very timely.

Chair Aspin inquired a trustee was willing to second the proposed motion as outlined on Trustee Steer's Notice of Motion. Vice-Chair Cochrane noted he would be pleased to; therefore, Chair Aspin opened the floor for discussion on this item. Highlights are noted as:

- Trustee Bottomley noted his support given the positive environmental impact expected. Specifically, a reduction in the use of school buses would decrease the carbon footprint immensely.
- Trustee Gagne noted her support to initiate this investigation, given other fields are looking at this progressive model as well (such as the medical field).
- Vice-Chair Cochrane reflected on a suggestion that arose during his mining career. Despite initial hesitations, the four-day work week has proven to be a very positive model for employee satisfaction and productivity.
- Trustee Breault inquired if this request would require any action by NNDSB administration. Clarification to note Trustee Steer is recommending OPSBA investigate so that findings can be shared with all provincial colleagues. With this clarification, Trustee Breault expressed her full support.
- Trustee Sargent suggested involving union federations in this discussion so their perspectives could be fully incorporated. Trustee Steer noted this is a preliminary motion, though it is expected that OPSBA would consider this in alignment with how other labour relations issues are managed.

With no further comments to note, Chair Aspin noted his support for this motion to be presented to OPSBA, as the pandemic has provided a refreshed perspective on virtual work and productivity possibilities. It is noted that consensus is achieved on this item and a motion will be presented for approval during the regular session.

6.3 Notice of Motion- "Fossil Fuel Elimination Planning"- Trustee Bottomley

It is noted that Trustee Bottomley provided a Notice of Motion in alignment with NNDSB Bylaw 102. Chair Aspin referred trustees to the brief included in the agenda package and advised Trustee Bottomley would be given one minute to speak to this item and then the floor would be open to discuss and determine consensus.

Before presenting, Trustee Bottomley offered an apology to Chair Aspin, Trustee Steer and Director Myles for the remarks he made via communication of his preliminary comments on introducing this motion to the Board. The apology was verbally accepted by all three individuals.

Remarks from Trustee Bottomley to note he is seeking consensus to bring a motion forward requiring NNDSB to eliminate the use of all fossil fuels by the year 2035. The Director would be responsible for developing an achievement plan, which is to be presented to Board by January 2023. Trustee Bottomley noted NNDSB must act immediately while there is hope. Trustee Bottomley noted he is currently working with a municipality to take inventory of what needs to be changed and develop solutions.

Minutes of the Public Session Board Meeting of the Near North District School Board held May 10, 2022

Technology has advanced to the point of making this manageable, and by developing these plans now NNDSB can be prepared and able to react swiftly should any government funding opportunities to offset costs be presented.

The floor was opened for questions and discussion. Highlights are noted as:

- Trustee Steer recalled the previous resolution passed by the Board on May 18, 2021, that directed NNDSB to implement practices and procedures towards reducing its environmental impacts. The motion being proposed by Trustee Bottomley is much too prescriptive and therefore he is not in support.
- Trustee Breault inquired if other school boards in the province have made this commitment. Trustee Bottomley noted he was not aware of any in Canada, though there are examples in the United States of America.
- Trustee Learn noted the proposed timeline is not achievable. Though the technology may be created, it is not readily available or affordable.
- Trustee Gagne noted climate change is cyclical and there are schools of thought that dispel humankind’s ability to affect any change.
- Trustee Sargent noted the board has made some progress and this momentum should continue with further discussions.
- Chair Aspin invited Director Myles to speak to the board’s work on this item. The Director noted NNDSB is doing many good things throughout the board’s operations to ensure NNDSB is doing the best it can within its means to help reduce the environmental footprint. The May 2021 resolution cited by Trustee Steer precipitated the formation of an Environmental Committee that has initiated many projects, partnerships and programs that have furthered this commitment.

With no further comments from trustees, Chair Aspin recognized Trustee Bottomley’s fortitude and passion on this topic. Following the previous resolution, Director Myles ensured much progress has been made. Chair Aspin noted the current Board’s term will end in November 2022, so it is not prudent to commit the Director to a plan that extends so far beyond the current term. Chair Aspin noted he could not support the motion brought forward but remained in full support of Trustee Bottomley’s previous motion concern environment passed on May 18, 2021. The outcome of the current motion ought not to misconstrue the Board’s support towards mitigating the negative impacts of climate change.

To confirm if consensus has been achieved, Chair Aspin advised a recorded vote would be conducted. The proposed resolution was read aloud, and trustees were called upon individually to cast their vote.

Proposed motion: BE IT RESOLVED, that the NNDSB put in place a plan crafted by the Director of Education to eliminate the use of all fossil fuels by the NNDSB by the year 2035. The Director will develop such a plan no later than the January 2023 NNDSB Board meeting”

Trustee:	Vote in Favour	Vote Against	Abstain	Absent
Aspin, J.		✓		
Cochrane, J.		✓		
Bottomley, A.	✓			
Breault, D.		✓		

Minutes of the Public Session Board Meeting of the Near North District School Board held May 10, 2022

Gagne, C.		✓		
King, N.				✓
Learn, R.		✓		
Sargent, L.	✓			
Steer, B.		✓		
Total	2	6		1

Based on the results of the poll, it is noted that consensus has not been achieved on this item.

With no further business to note, Chair Aspin noted the Board would proceed to adjournment.

7.0 Motion to Adjourn

Motion: B. Steer/ J. Cochrane

That we do now adjourn at 6:44 PM. – **Carried**