



Jay Aspin, Chair

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

Craig Myles, Director of Education

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The May 10, 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 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  
Student Trustee A. Lewis Trodd

**1.0 Call to Order**

Chair Aspin called the meeting to order at 6:50 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 Trustee King had communicated her regrets. Chair Aspin confirmed a resolution would be tabled to accept Trustee King's regrets.

*Motion: 22-05-01, J. Cochrane/ B. Steer*

In accordance with BL-102, be it resolved that Trustee King be granted a leave of absence from the May 10, 2022 Board meeting, as confirmation of regrets was provided in advance of the meeting. – **CARRIED.**

**3.0 Attendance**

3.1 Confirmation of Quorum

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

Attendance indicated that nine trustees are present for the meeting, including one student trustee.

### 3.2 Declaration of Conflict of Interest NIL

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

*Motion: 22-05-02, A. Bottomley/ C. Gagne*

That the agenda for the Board meeting of May 10, 2022, be approved, together with the minutes of the April 12, 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. 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- May 2022*

- Brief contained in the package.

#### 5.1.3 *Graduation 2022 Report*

- Brief contained in the package.
- Chair Aspin noted the Director's Office will be following up with a more fulsome schedule to provide the dates of elementary school graduations for trustees to consider attending. It is noted that graduations are a truly special time for trustees and the return to in-person celebrations after two years is very well received.
  - Trustee Gagne and Trustee Sargent confirmed they have been approached by schools within their zone to attend graduation celebrations and would confirm this attendance with the Director's Office.

The floor was opened for further 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:

- Overview provided regarding professional development opportunities for staff in outdoor education. The Forest Practitioner course is being offered to educators in May and June in partnership with the Child and Nature Alliance in Canada. The course involves four days of in-person learning at the Canadian Ecology Centre in Mattawa, and 11 months of independent online study.
- The Outdoor Ways of Learning and Sharing (OWLS) program update provided. Recall that this began as a pilot project in 2019 to deliver interdisciplinary

- outdoor learning experiences to primary students. The program has expanded to provide these opportunities in all grades.
- NNDSB has been asked to give a presentation on the success of the board's CAN Bike program at the Ontario Healthy School Conference later this month.
  - Update provided regarding the ongoing 3:2 consolidation work.
    - At Chippewa Secondary School, the auditorium interior and exteriors updates are almost 90 per cent complete and power to the new field scoreboard and maintenance building will begin this month.
    - At West Ferris Secondary School, the hospitality suite and cosmetology classroom are complete, and the learning commons has some adjustments to be made, but the book collection and technology has been reinstalled and space will be ready for use this month.
    - A further report will be presented next month.

Board Chair Aspin thanked Director Myles for the thorough report presented and noted there is no doubt that much is happening in the board at this time of the year. The floor was opened for questions and comments:

- Trustee Sargent commended the Director on the report, noting that the detail is much appreciated given trustees were not able to visit schools for some time. Specifically, the 3:2 update is much appreciated, and it is hoped that trustees will continue to be apprised of the next project phase involving track upgrades.
  - Director Myles thanked Trustee Sargent for her continued interest in the 3:2 work.
- Appreciation for the thorough report echoed by Trustee Learn, with an additional comment to note his interest in seeing the Sundridge outdoor classroom space project moving along. This item has been ongoing and will be well worth the wait.

### 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:

- High regards expressed for the work of the MYSP Committee culminating in the report being presented later this evening. It is remarkable to think all this work has been completed through the pandemic. The Board should take great pride in how the committee is ensuring the plan is being assessed and measured, as these are the keys to assessing progress.
- The event hosted in partnership with Northern Ontario Film Studio over the weekend to announce the partnership between both organizations is receiving some very positive press. The students who attended spoke so well and allowed attendees to truly envision how the partnership will benefit the school community and community at large.

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:

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- Trustees referred to the regional report to the Northern Caucus was included, along with the meeting minutes of this meeting. Note that Trustee Steer attended virtually, in keeping with his earlier resolution about attendance through this means should be the default. It is expected that hybrid attendance will be in place in future to allow for flexibility.
- Comments expressed to encourage trustees to consider attending the OPSBA's Annual General Meeting next month. The agenda is full of many rich professional development and networking opportunities.

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:

- Many new and exciting seasons are beginning for sports and athletics. Track and field had their first meet a few weeks ago in Midland. Girls' soccer has started up as well with promising teams and nice weather for outdoor games. Badminton players also reached the finals as well this month.
- Earth day was recognized last month within the secondary schools. Almaguin is bringing back paper recycling within their building, and overall promoting sustainable material and recycling properly. At Chippewa, they used social media posts to promote sustainability such as tips like bring a reusable lunch, avoid single-use plastic packaging, and minimize pre-packaged foods.
- The Student Senate has been very busy as well. Information about the Student Senate post has been distributed to schools, and social media platforms across the board. The elections for next year's senators are fast approaching with interviews happening this week. This is a very exciting time for all students passionate about student voice.

Student Trustee Lewis' report was presented by Superintendent Gray. Highlights shared are noted as:

- Much has been happening with the Indigenous Youth Council.
- May 5<sup>th</sup> is recognized as a National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). Schools honoured this day by acknowledging the day on the morning announcements. Schools also took the opportunity to share further resources on the day's meaning. Northern Secondary School provided books and videos about the content. Some of the youth expressed interest in having a school assembly in future to share their experiences with this day.
- In the senate, the topics of "a safe place" and "mental health" were significant topics of discussion. Student Trustee Lewis was able to share his perspective on wellness with the senate, noting it is grounded in Anishinabek ways of life and self-care.
- New senators are in the process of being chosen. His position may be acclaimed, but Student Trustee Lewis confirmed he would welcome the opportunity to mentor

a new Indigenous Student Trustee as well. There is also a consideration to make this a shared position given the volume of work and investment of time required.

- The Indigenous Youth Circle is planning an in-person event this month that all are looking forward to.

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: 22-05-03, B. Steer/ J. Cochrane*

Be it resolved, that NNDSB suggests OPSBA begins to study the four-day work week model as it applies/impacts on the school-educational system. - **CARRIED.**

### **6.2 OPSBA Annual General Meeting- Approval of Attendance**

Trustees were referred to the event agenda included in the agenda package and the floor was opened to indicate interest in attending. It is noted that Trustee King expressed her interest in being considered to attend this event when communicating with the Director's Office regarding regrets for the meeting this evening. It is noted that three additional trustees indicated their interest in attending.

*Motion: 22-05-04, B. Steer/ D. Breault*

Be it resolved that the NNDSB Board of Trustees approves the following trustees to attend the 2022 OPSBA Annual General Meeting:

1. Chair Aspin
2. Vice-Chair Cochrane
3. Trustee Steer
4. Trustee King

- **CARRIED.**

### **6.3 Ontario Student Trustees Association (OSTA) Annual General Meeting- Approval of Attendance**

*Motion: 22-05-05, J. Cochrane/ B. Steer*

Be it resolved that the NNDSB Board of Trustees approves the attendance of Student Trustee Darling and Student Trustee Lewis to attend the 2022 OTSA Annual General Meeting. - **CARRIED.**

### **6.4 Tender Awards for Approval**

Trustees were referred to the report included in the agenda package. It is noted that these tenders are being presented for approval by trustees in alignment with the board's policies due to the project values.

*Motion: 22-05-06, L. Sargent/ C. Gagne*

Be it resolved, that the Near North District School Board awards tender NNDSB 2022-011, HVAC Upgrades, Argyle Public School to 2301149 Ontario Inc (o/a Helix Contracting) in the amount of \$526,562.00 plus HST. - **CARRIED.**

*Motion: 22-05-07, C. Gagne/ J. Cochrane*

Be it resolved, that the Near North District School Board awards tender NNDSB 2022-019, Washroom Upgrades and PA System Upgrades, Mapleridge Public School to Venasse Building Group in the amount of \$490,000.00 plus HST. - **CARRIED.**

## **7.0 Committee Reports**

### **7.1 Multi-Year Strategic Plan Committee Report**

7.1.1 Unofficial meeting minutes- April 26, 2022

7.1.2 MYSP Progress Report

Chair Aspin referred trustees to the supporting information included in the agenda package. The floor was turned to Trustee Steer as the MYSP Committee Chair. Highlights are noted as:

- Introductory comments to refer to the minutes where it is noted there is further work to do about gathering numerical data points across the strategic pillars. The MYSP committee will be continuing this work in the month ahead.
- Through the work of the committee, a very comprehensive report is being presented for information this evening.
- Review of the thorough process that brought the Board and the Committee to this point- noting all the previous public consultation and data gathering efforts. The intention is to survey stakeholders again next spring to continuously evaluate NNDSB's progress, along with the numerical data points to be identified.
- The Director was invited to share further highlights. It is noted that the MYSP drives every effort within the board. Trustees were thanked again for their leadership in setting this plan.
  - The data received through the survey demonstrates the board is moving in a positive direction in the four priorities of the MYSP- excellence in teaching and learning, excellence in innovation, excellence in communication, and excellence in relationships.
  - This data was compared to the data gathered in advance of establishing the 2021-2026 MYSP to examine its impact.
  - Review of the major accomplishments noted within the data.
  - In his closing comments, the Director expressed pride in the gains made by the board and the next steps for future growth. The MYSP committee emphasized the value of continuous data collection in order to truly make data informed next steps.
- Closing comments from Chair Aspin to give recognition to the adage 'you can't manage what you cannot measure' and the extra effort by the MYSP Committee to create these metrics ensure the Board can determine the results. This qualitative analysis speaks to the positive results seen by staff, students and community members.

The floor was opened for questions, with none rose.

### **7.2 Committee Meeting Minutes Presented for Information**

7.2.1 PIC- unofficial minutes- April 6, 2022

7.2.2 SEAC- unofficial minutes- April 14, 2022

7.2.3 Parry Sound Build Committee- unofficial minutes- May 5, 2022

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

Vice-Chair Cochrane provided brief remarks as the Parry Sound Build Committee Chair to note a few highlights from the recent committee meeting. Details included a review of the working drawing progress, next steps on approaching the Town of Parry Sound for site plan approval and the ongoing consultation efforts with First Nations. Staff were thanked for their continued work on this exciting project.

**8.0 Next Meeting Date**


Chair Aspin noted the Board of Trustees would meet next on June 14, 2022.

**9.0 Motion to Adjourn**

*Motion: 22-05-08, L. Sargent/ B. Steer*

That we do now adjourn at 7:56 pm. – **CARRIED**

  
 Jay Aspin  
 Chair

  
 Craig Myles  
 Director of Education

**RESOLUTION SUMMARY**

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 22-05-01<br>J. Cochrane B.<br>Steer  | In accordance with BL-102, be it resolved that Trustee King be granted a leave of absence from the May 10, 2022 Board meeting, as confirmation of regrets was provided in advance of the meeting. – CARRIED. |
| 22-05-02<br>A. Bottomley<br>C. Gagne | That the agenda for the Board meeting of March 22, 2022 be approved, together with the minutes of the February 15, 2022 meeting- CARRIED.  |
| 22-05-03<br>B. Steer<br>J. Cochrane  | Be it resolved, that NNDSB suggests OPSBA begins to study the four-day work week model as it applies/impacts on the school-educational system. - CARRIED.  |
| 22-05-04<br>B. Steer<br>D. Breault   | Be it resolved that the NNDSB Board of Trustees approves the following trustees to attend the 2022 OPSBA Annual General Meeting:<br>1. Chair Aspin<br>2. Vice- Chair Cochrane<br>3. Trustee Steer            |

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

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|-------------------------------------|--|
|                                     | 4. Trustee King<br>- CARRIED.  |
| 22-05-05<br>J. Cochrane<br>B. Steer | Be it resolved that the NNDSB Board of Trustees approves the attendance of Student Trustee Darling and Student Trustee Lewis to attend the 2022 OTSA Annual General Meeting. - CARRIED.  |
| 22-05-06<br>L. Sargent<br>C. Gagne  | Be it resolved, that the Near North District School Board awards tender NNDSB 2022-011, HVAC Upgrades, Argyle Public School to 2301149 Ontario Inc (o/a Helix Contracting) in the amount of \$526,562.00 plus HST. - CARRIED.          |
| 22-05-07<br>C. Gagne<br>J. Cochrane | Be it resolved, that the Near North District School Board awards tender NNDSB 2022-019, Washroom Upgrades and PA System Upgrades, Mapleridge Public School to Venasse Building Group in the amount of \$490,000.00 plus HST. – CARRIED |
| 22-05-08<br>L. Sargent<br>B. Steer  | Be it resolved that we do now adjourn at 7:56 pm. – CARRIED  |