



Jay Aspin, Chair

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Craig Myles, Director of Education

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The September 13, 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  
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, Executive Assistant  
Tim Graves, Superintendent of Education  
Seija Van Haesendonck, Superintendent of Business

**Invited Guests:**

W. McQuabbie, Henvey Inlet First Nation

**Trustees Absent:**

Rob Learn

**Other:**

Staff, media and community partners

**1.0 Call to Order**

Chair Aspin called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm. Thanks were expressed for the flexibility to convene later than expected due to the preceding public Committee of the Whole meeting.

**1.1 Land Acknowledgement**

Chair Aspin read the land acknowledgement aloud.

**1.2 Opening Prayer by Elder**

Chair Aspin welcomed elder W. McQuabbie of Henvey Inlet First Nation to the Board meeting. Elder McQuabbie is a traditional knowledge keeper and offered a prayer aloud in Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe language) and spoke about her gratitude for the inclusive culture that lives in Near North schools and how important it is for Indigenous students to be “seen and acknowledged” in Near North schools.

Chair Aspin thanked Elder McQuabbie for her words and presence at the meeting.

## 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 both Student Trustees.

### 3.2 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

NIL

## 4.0 Approval of the Agenda and Previous Minutes

*Motion: 22-09-01, D. Breault/ J. Cochrane*

That the agenda for the Board meeting of September 13, 2022, be approved, together with the minutes of the June 14, 2022 meeting. – **CARRIED.**

## 5.0 Student Trustee Welcome

### 5.1 Motion for Appointment- C. Darling

*Motion: 22-09-02, N. King/ C. Gagne*

Be it resolved that Cecilia Darling, of Almaguin Highlands Secondary, be appointed for a second term as the Student Trustee for the 2022/2023 school year, as recommended by the Near North Student Senate. – **CARRIED**

*Motion: 22-09-03, N. King/ L. Sargent*

Be it resolved that Allen Lewis-Trodd of Parry Sound High School, be appointed for a second term as the Indigenous Student Trustee for the 2022/2023 school year, as recommended by the Indigenous Youth Circle. – **CARRIED**

### 5.2 Oath of Allegiance

In the presence of trustees and the Board's Secretary (Director Myles), Chair Aspin lead Student Trustee Darling and Student Trustee Lewis through the Oaths to complete the formal swearing-in process.

Student Trustee Lewis and Student Trustee Darling were warmly reintroduced to the Board and school community as the Student Trustee representatives for 2022-2023.

## 6.0 Communication to the Board

### 6.1 Information Items

6.1.1 *Monthly Tender Report- September 2022*

6.1.2 *Professional Development Opportunities Calendar*

6.1.3 *2022/2023 Board of Trustees meeting schedule*

6.1.4 *NNDSB 2022 Summer Learning Report*

- 6.1.5 *COVID-19 Management Report*
- 6.1.6 *NNDSB Virtual School Report*
- 6.1.7 *Safe Schools Report - Prioritizing Safety in Schools*

Chair Aspin referred trustees to the board reports submitted for information as part of the agenda package for each item. The floor was opened for questions or comments with none rose.

## 6.2 Director's Update

Opening remarks to welcome the school community back and recognize the significant work that has gone into planning for the 2022/2023 school year. Thanks to staff, union partners, and coterminous school boards for their collaborative leadership. As part of his report, the Director highlighted:

- The board will continue to take a careful, cautious approach to the operations of the organization based upon the guidance of the Ministry of Education and adjust accordingly throughout the course of the school year when it is needed.
- Trustees were encouraged to view the data compiled in the report illustrating the progress in the strategic priority areas of the Board's MYSP. Recall this data will be included each month at the request of the MYSP Committee.
  - This month, growth in excellence in innovation was shown by noting that NNDSB has exceeded its planned participation rate in the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) by 16 per cent. Seven per cent of NNDSB's Grade 11 and 12 students participate in the program, where the provincial average is 4.3 per cent.
  - In excellence in relationships, the Director reported that 100 per cent of the 24 personal support worker (PSW) grads who are NNDSB's first cohort have been hired, answering a critical community need. The administrator of one of the training sites, Belvedere Heights, spoke highly of the living classroom model for educating the students.
- It is recognized that the Director was honoured to attend the sharing circle alongside several trustees and NNDSB staff that was hosted by Wasauksing First Nation. The sharing circle supports nurturing relationships following the damage of the Shaptotaun at Parry Sound High School this spring.
- Update provided regarding the work of the Environmental Committee. Work is underway to gather information/data to support the creation of an Environment Action Plan that will support all schools in all regions.
- Overview provided regarding the 3:2 consolidation work. It is noted that the work planned inside the Learning Commons at Chippewa Secondary School was completed in time for students' return.
- Review of the special recognition days to note the meaningful ways the school community will be honouring the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2022.
- Closing remarks offer to thank trustees for their continued support of NNDSB's mission vision and values. Board service is one of the toughest volunteer roles, and trustees are recognized for their dedication and commitment throughout the year.

Chair Aspin thanked the Director for the report and opened the floor for comments:

- Question raised regarding the resumption of trustee visits in schools later in the

fall. Director Myles noted he would be pleased to review the protocols with Executive Council and provide information regarding these next steps.

### **6.3 Chair's Remarks**

The Chair shared remarks regarding board and community engagement initiatives as part of the conversation following the Director's Remarks. Chair Aspin's remarks centered on activities throughout the summer:

- Thanks expressed for the return to in-person graduations this past June. Trustees were thanked for their participation and representing the Board so well.
- Recall the provincial election was held on June 2, 2022. As a matter of maintaining relationships with the government in power and the local representatives, congratulatory letters were sent to the Minister of Education and the representatives in the NNDSB region.
  - Note that copies are included in the agenda package this evening.
  - As a result of these letters two relationship meetings were arranged with Minister Fedeli in Nipissing and Minister Smith in Parry Sound Muskoka in July
- Remarks offered regarding the unfortunate incident at Parry Sound High School involving the Shaptotaun. As a clear signal of how the Board of Trustees felt about this incident, Chair Aspin, Vice-Chair Cochrane, Indigenous Trustee King, Director Myles, SO Gray and several relevant staff attended a Healing Circle hosted by the Wasauksing First Nation on Perry Island in late August.
- During this past summer our very innovative and successful PSW program experienced its first graduates. As Director Myles has previously indicated in his report, a hearty congratulations to those students and staff responsible for their graduation.
- And in preparation for the school year, Chair Aspin was invited by the Director to say a few words at the Leadership Conference to our educational leaders in our board. This event was, by all reports, very productive and successful and a great way to kick off the school year.

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:

- Trustee Steer has been appointed as the Vice-Chair of OPSBA's northern caucus. The group will continue to meet regularly and bring forward issues on behalf of northern Ontario to the OPSBA table. The next meeting is scheduled for September 30<sup>th</sup>. The AGM will take place following the municipal election.
- OPSBA continues to keep the trustees apprised of labour negotiation developments.

The Chair thanked Trustee Steer for his report and diligence in continuing to represent NNDSB at the provincial level.

## 6.5 Student Trustees' Update

### 6.5.1 *Student Trustee Report*

The Chair invited Student Trustee Darling to speak to this item. Student Trustee Darling provided a verbal report that centered on the excitement within the school community about the start-up of the 2022-23 year. Highlights shared regarding how students are experiencing smooth transitions back to usual routines. The Student Senate will be creating a handbook to orient new members as elections for leadership positions get underway. Upcoming events within the secondary school community include Orange Shirt Day. Events will be planned throughout the board to raise awareness, honour experiences and create resilience within the school community.

Student Trustee Darling expressed gratitude and excitement about continuing in the role of Student Trustee for the 2022-2023 school year.

### 6.5.2 *Indigenous Youth Circle Update*

The Chair invited Indigenous Student Trustee Lewis to speak to this item. Student Trustee Lewis provided a verbal report that centered on fulsome efforts to honour Truth and Reconciliation Day at NNDSB. In response to the damage to the Shaptotaun at Parry Sound High School, the youth of Parry Sound were able to come together for a Talking Circle with community members and supporters. Student Trustee Lewis was unable to attend the event organized by Wasauksing First Nation but has heard many good things that came as a result of this event. With great anticipation, the Indigenous Youth Circle will be hosting their first in-person meeting at Almaguin Secondary School later in the month.

The Chair thanked the Student Trustees for their reports.

## 7.0 **Items for Decision**

### 7.1 Report from Committee of the Whole- Private Session

*Motion: 22-09-04, B. Steer/ D. Breault*

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the reports as presented during the in-camera session. – **CARRIED**

### 7.2 Report from Committee of the Whole- Public Session

*Motion: 22-09-05, J. Cochrane/ C. Gagne*

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the creation of a governance policy regarding Student Trustees and Trustee Social Media Etiquette, as confirmed during the Committee of the Whole meeting. – **CARRIED**

### 7.3 OPSBA Annual Dues

*Motion: 22-09-06, B. Steer/ J. Cochrane*

Be it resolved, that the Board of Trustees for the Near North District School Board approve the 2022/23 Ontario Public School Boards' Association membership fees. – **CARRIED.**

### 7.4 Statement by Treasurer

*Motion: 22-09-07, J. Cochrane/ D. Breault*

That the Board approves the Statement by Treasurer regarding Borrowing for Current

Expenditures. – **CARRIED.**

**7.5 Borrowing Resolutions**

*Motion: 22-09-08, J. Cochrane/ D. Breault*

That the Board of Trustees for the Near North District School Board approve the Borrowing Resolutions for the fiscal year 2022-2023 as presented on September 13, 2022. – **CARRIED.**

**7.6 Code of Conduct- Annual Review and Approval**

Chair Aspin noted that this item has been tabled as a reminder of responsibilities and continued adherence to the bylaws. It is noted that the Code of Conduct (GP 205) will be retabled at the Inaugural Meeting in support of the Board's commitment to good governance.

*Motion: 22-09-09, J. Cochrane/ L. Sargent*

That the Board of Trustees has reviewed and confirmed approval to adhere to the Code of Conduct. – **CARRIED.**

It is noted that the time is quickly approaching 8:00 PM, therefore as a point of order- Trustee Sargent tabled a motion for extension to ensure the remaining agenda items may be discussed.

Chair Aspin accepted the motion and called for a seconder to extend the meeting for an additional 5 minutes.

*Motion: 22-09-10, L. Sargent/ D. Breault*

That the Board approves the extension of the meeting to 8:30 PM. – **CARRIED.**

**8.0 Committee Reports**

**8.1. Audit Committee Report**

*8.1.1. Unofficial Minutes- June 21, 2022*

*8.1.2. Multi-Year Internal Audit Plan- For Approval*

Chair Aspin invited Vice-Chair Cochrane to speak to this item. Trustees were referred to the corresponding attachments in the agenda package. As the Audit Committee Chair, Vice-Chair Cochrane drew attention to the Internal Audit plan being presented for approval this evening. This is an annual requirement for the Audit Committee to bring forward to the Board of Trustees. It is noted that the work in 2022-22 focused on auditing orientation and staff training processes within the H.R. department. Work for 2022-23 will be focused on an updated risk assessment across all areas to develop the next multi-year audit plan.

Chair Aspin opened the floor for questions reading the Internal Multi-Year Audit Plan, with none rose.

*Motion: 22-09-11, J. Cochrane/ B. Steer*

That the Board of Trustees approves the internal Multi-Year Audit Plan as presented, as recommended by the Audit Committee. – **CARRIED.**

**8.2. Finance Committee Report**

8.2.1. *Unofficial Minutes- September 6, 2022*

8.2.2. *Quarterly Report*

Chair Aspin invited Vice-Chair Cochrane to speak to this item. Trustees were referred to the corresponding attachments in the agenda package. As the Finance Committee Chair, Vice-Chair Cochrane drew attention to the quarterly report included as an information item for trustees. As noted, the information in the report is as of August 31st (our school year-end). At the time of the Committee’s first meeting, the Finance department was still working to close off many year-end processes, so the surplus reflected in the report is not a true reflection of the year-end position. Thanks was expressed to the members of the Finance Committee for the good discussion during the meeting. Closing comments to recognize SBO Van Haesendonck and the Finance department for their excellent work.

8.3. Committee Meeting Minutes Presented for Information

8.3.1. *Equity Advisory Circle minutes- May 26, 2022*

8.3.2. *First Nations Advisory Council minutes- June 2, 2022*

8.3.3. *Special Education Advisory Council minutes- June 16, 2022*

Chair Aspin referred trustees to the committee minutes included for information purposes. Director Myles was invited to provide comments. It is noted that the committees noted above provide crucial oversight to many specialized programs and supports within the NNDSB, so trustee participation and dedication to these committees are critical. Trustees King and Gagne were recognized for their committee leadership in this regard.

The floor was opened for questions or comments with none rose.

**9.0 Next Meeting Date**

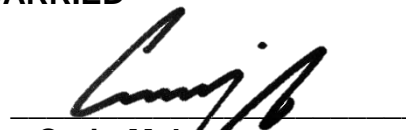
Chair Aspin confirmed the Board of Trustees would meet next on Tuesday, October 11, 2022.

**10.0 Motion to Adjourn**

*Motion: 22-09-12, J. Cochrane/ A. Bottomley*

That we do now adjourn at 8:14 pm. – **CARRIED**

  
Jay Aspin  
Chair

  
Craig Myles  
Director of Education

**RESOLUTION SUMMARY**

<p><b>22-09-01</b> D. Breault J. Cochrane</p>	<p>That the agenda for the Board meeting of September 13, 2022, be approved, together with the minutes of the June 14, 2022 meeting. - CARRIED.</p>
<p><b>22-09-02</b> N. King C. Gagne</p>	<p>Be it resolved that Cecilia Darling, of Almaguin Highlands Secondary, be appointed for a second term as the Student Trustee for the 2022/2023 school year, as recommended by the Near North student Senate. - CARRIED</p>
<p><b>22-09-03</b> N. King <b>L. Sargent</b></p>	<p>Be it resolved that Allen Lewis-Trodd of Parry Sound High School, be appointed for a second term as the Indigenous Student Trustee for the 2022/2023 school year, as recommended by the Indigenous Youth Circle. - CARRIED</p>
<p><b>22-09-04</b> B. Steer D. Breault</p>	<p>Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the reports as presented during the in-camera session. - CARRIED</p>
<p><b>22-09-05</b> J. Cochrane C. Gagne</p>	<p>Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the creation of a governance policy regarding Student Trustees and Trustee Social Media Etiquette, as confirmed during the Committee of the Whole meeting. - CARRIED</p>
<p><b>22-09-06</b> B. Steer J. Cochrane</p>	<p>Be it resolved, that the Board of Trustees for the Near North District School Board approve the 2022/23 Ontario Public School Boards' Association membership fees. - CARRIED.</p>
<p><b>22-09-07</b> J. Cochrane D. Breault</p>	<p>That the Board approves the Statement by Treasurer regarding Borrowing for Current Expenditures. - CARRIED.</p>
<p><b>22-09-08</b> J. Cochrane D. Breault</p>	<p>That the Board of Trustees for the Near North District School Board approve the Borrowing Resolutions for the fiscal year 2022-2023 as presented on September 13, 2022. - CARRIED.</p>
<p><b>22-09-09</b> J. Cochrane L. Sargent</p>	<p>That the Board of Trustees has reviewed and confirmed approval to adhere to the Code of Conduct. - CARRIED.</p>
<p><b>22-09-10</b> L. Sargent D. Breault</p>	<p>That the Board approves the extension of the meeting to 8:30 PM. - CARRIED.</p>

**Minutes of the Public Session Board Meeting of the Near North District School Board held September 13, 2022**

<b>22-09-11</b> J. Cochrane B. Steer	That the Board of Trustees approves the internal Multi-Year Audit Plan as presented, as recommended by the Audit Committee. - CARRIED.
<b>22-09-12</b> J. Cochrane A. Bottomley	That we do now adjourn at 8:14 pm - CARRIED.