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Erika Lougheed, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

The February 14, 2023 **Committee of the Whole Public Session** of the Near North District School Board was held in person at the Head Office and via a Zoom video and/or teleconference.

Trustees Present:

Erika Lougheed, Chair
Howard Wesley, Vice-Chair ®
Ashley St. Pierre ®*
Bill Steer ®
Chantal Phillips
Jeanie Fuscaldo
Julie Bertram ®
Louise Sargent
Shane Hall
Allen Lewis Trodd, Student Trustee *
Cecilia Darling, 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
Timothy Graves, Superintendent of Education ®

Other:

Staff, media and community partners

® attended remotely via Zoom video or audio conference

* arrived following roll call. Attendance noted within the minutes

Trustees Absent:

Nil

1.0 Call to Order

Chair Lougheed called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

1.1 Land acknowledgement

Chair Lougheed read the declaration aloud.

1.2 Attendance

Attendance indicated that nine trustees are present, including Student Trustee Darling.

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Vice-Chair Wesley declared a conflict of interest regarding item 6.1- Trustee Initiative Fund- Festival of the Sound application.

Chair Lougheed accepted the declaration and thanked the Vice-Chair for his transparency. As per NNDSB BL-119, Vice-Chair Wesley is not permitted to take part in the discussion of this item, vote or attempt to influence the vote regarding this item.

2.0 In-Camera

At this time, Chair Lougheed 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: B. Steer/ L. Sargent

That the Board move into a Committee of the Whole Private Session in order to discuss items pertaining to The Education Act R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2 section 207(2) clause (b) and (e). - **Carried.**

A brief pause was noted to coordinate the appropriate video conference controls and allow staff and community members time to exit the meeting room. Trustees attending virtually were reminded to secure their space as well to ensure confidentiality.

3.0 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 and open the physical meeting space for in-person guests to re-enter.

It is noted that Trustee St Pierre and Student Trustee Lewis have joined the meeting.

4.0 Approval of the Agenda

Motion: L. Sargent / C. Phillips

That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of February 14, 2023, be approved. - **Carried.**

5.0 Review of Previous Minutes

5.1 2023 01 10 Committee of the Whole

Trustees were referred to the minutes included in the agenda package. The floor was opened for comments or corrections, with none rose.

Motion: L. Sargent / J. Fuscaldo

That the minutes for the Committee of the Whole meeting of January 10, 2023 be approved. – **Carried.**

5.2 2023 02 02 Committee of the Whole

Trustees were referred to the minutes included in the agenda package. The floor was opened for comments or corrections, with none rose.

Motion: B. Steer / J. Fuscaldo

That the minutes for the Committee of the Whole meeting of February 2, 2023 be

approved. – **Carried.**

6.0 Business Arising

It is noted that there is no business arising brought forward for discussion. The floor was opened to trustees for inquiries or comments, with none rose.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Trustee Initiative Fund (TIF) application- Festival of the Sound

Trustees were referred to the TIF application contained in the agenda package. It is noted that the application is requesting \$20,000.00 in funding from the trustee initiative fund. Highlights of the discussion are noted as:

- For the record, Chair Lougheed reiterated that Vice-Chair Wesley has declared a conflict with this agenda item, and therefore will not be invited to comment on this item.
- The Festival of the Sound (FOTS) program has run in the Parry Sound family of schools since 2005, impacting the lives of thousands of NNDSB students in Grades 4-6. This long-standing partnership supports NNDSB's commitment to Excellence in Relationships, as well as providing a unique opportunity for our students.
- Director Myles noted the funding will be to support offering Festival of the Sounds' "Sounding Thunder: The Song of Francis Pegahmagabow" program to intermediate and senior division students in all regions of the Near North District School Board. SO Gray is on hand for further questions and noted that the FOTS Executive Director is in attendance this evening as a member of the public to showcase further support for the application. Sincere thanks were expressed to the FOTS artists, as it is recognized the actual costs associated with this production total \$48,500.00. A significant portion of projected costs will be subsidized by the FOTS.

Chair Lougheed opened the floor for questions or comments regarding the application. Support expressed by Trustee Phillips for the application, with recognition for the opportunity this will create for students.

With no further comments, it is recognized that consensus has been achieved regarding support for this application. A motion will be presented in regular session to confirm.

7.2 Notice of Motion- Trustee Sargent

Trustees were referred to the Notice of Motion filed by Trustee Sargent contained in the agenda package with regard to the separation of Committee of the Whole and Board meetings.

It is noted that in order to proceed to discussion, the notice requires a seconder. The floor was opened for expressions of support. Trustee Bertram noted she will second the motion. Chair Lougheed noted Trustee Sargent is permitted to speak first for up to three minutes, and then the floor will be opened for discussion by trustees. Highlights are noted as:

- Opening comments by Trustee Sargent to recognize that the notice of motion

includes a proposition to amend the Board's by-laws, and so therefore the approval threshold is set at a two-thirds majority (which for NNDSB will be six trustees). Review of the reasons shared previously supporting this position- such as the value of consistency and predictability, separate meetings would limit "pop up meetings" being called during the day, more time can be afforded to thoughtful decision-making, and there will be no further delay to beginning Board meetings on time.

- Point raised by Trustee Steer that the motion combines several items into one motion. Amending by-laws requires significant consideration, as recognized by the Special Advisors' report. It is noted that the by-laws are on a four-year revision cycle already, and so amendments should be collected throughout the cycle and reviewed together for possible amendment.
- Question raised by Vice-Chair Wesley to determine if the Committee of the Whole meetings could be hosted during the day (which would lessen the impact of occupying another evening). Chair Lougheed noted that some Boards of Trustees do use this strategy, though this is not consistent with the practice of NNDSB.
- Question raised by Trustee Bertram regarding the motivation of the previous Board to combine meetings. Staff noted these amendments were brought forward in March 2022 alongside several required changes prompted by amendments to *The Education Act*. At that time, it was recognized as a more efficient way to conduct meetings during the pandemic.
- Director Myles was invited to offer comments and reiterated a previous offer to develop a report that would review the options for trustees to consider in detail. Trustees must not rush into decisions to amend the by-laws and were cautioned on the impact of proceeding too quickly without consideration for proper governance procedures.

Trustees were invited to express opinions regarding support for the motion to be presented to the Board for approval. Closing comments from Chair Lougheed to note there is consensus to move the recommendation forward to the Board meeting for review and approval.

7.3 Board meeting schedule discussion

Chair Lougheed noted that the next Board meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2023, which overlaps with March Break. Trustees were canvassed on the opportunity to shift the meeting date to ensure staff resources are available to attend and support agenda items. Consensus expressed by trustees to shift the meeting to Tuesday, March 28, 2023.

Point raised by Trustee Sargent for the Board to consider this in September, as the overlap with March Break is an annual adjustment. Chair Lougheed accepted this suggestion to review as part of the annual meeting schedule that is reviewed in September.

8.0 **Motion to Adjourn**

Motion: J. Fuscaldo/ J. Bertram

That we do now adjourn at 7:17 PM. – **Carried**