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Erika Lougheed, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

The March 28, 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
Bill Steer
Chantal Phillips
Jeanie Fuscaldo ®
Julie Bertram ®
Louise Sargent
Shane Hall
Allen Lewis Trodd, Student Trustee
Cecilia Darling, Student Trustee *

Trustees Absent:

Ashley St. Pierre

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 ®
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

1.0 Call to Order

Chair Lougheed called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

1.1 Land acknowledgement

Chair Lougheed read the declaration aloud.

1.2 Attendance

Attendance indicated that 10 trustees are present, including Student Trustee Lewis.

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil.

2.0 In-Camera

Chair Lougheed noted the Board would not be going in-camera this evening.

3.0 Arise and Report

Not applicable.

4.0 Approval of the Agenda

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

Motion: L. Sargent / S. Hall

That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of March 28, 2023, be approved. - **Carried.**

5.0 Review of Previous Minutes

5.1 2023 02 14 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: C. Phillips/ H. Wesley

That the minutes for the Committee of the Whole meeting of February 14, 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.

Student Trustee Darling has joined the meeting.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Trustee Initiative Fund (TIF) application- Journey into Learning

Trustees were referred to the TIF application contained in the agenda package. It is noted that the application is requesting \$13,626.90 in funding from the trustee initiative fund. Note that the funding is being requested to support the expansion of the Journey into Learning Kits for ELK students with a book called “Outside, You Notice”. This book is written by a local author, and the book has received accolades (such as the 2021 Northern Lights Book Award). Chair Lougheed opened the floor for questions or comments regarding the application:

- Clarification to note the amount will be drawn from the 2022-23 TIF budget, but the amount will cover two years’ worth of Journey into Learning Kits.
- Question raised about the amount remaining in the TIF. Confirmation to note it sits at approximately \$30,000 excluding the application under consideration currently.
- Closing comments to note that TIF applications are accepted on an ongoing basis throughout the year and must have a trustee nominator to be considered.

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 Steer

Trustees were referred to the Notice of Motion filed by Trustee Steer contained in the agenda package with regard to making committee meeting dates publicly available. the

separation of Committee of the Whole and Board meetings.

It is noted that to proceed to discussion, the motion requires a seconder. The floor was opened for expressions of support. Vice-Chair Wesley noted he will second the motion. Chair Lougheed noted Trustee Steer 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 Steer to recognize that making committee meeting dates available to the public is an important part of the Board's strategic commitment to Excellence in Communication with the MYSP. The inspiration for this Notice of Motion came forward at a recent MYSP meeting where further efforts regarding ways to contact trustees, delegation procedures, and website accessibility were noted. It is noted that this work will continue at the operational level, as the Communications team will be working on new website templates to increase user-friendliness.
- Supporting comments from the Director to note he would be pleased to support these efforts of trustees, if the motion is supported, by adding the meeting dates to the Director's staff newsletter and the monthly letter to NNDSB families.
- Question raised about members of the public attending Board meetings in person and being able to ask questions. Chair Lougheed noted this is under consideration for the next meeting and directed the discussion back to the current topic.
- Question raised regarding also posting meeting joining information. Interest expressed in this idea to complement the meeting dates. It is recognized that committees continue to meet virtually, and so this will be investigated further to ensure the appropriate parameters/ safeguards are put in place.

Closing comments from Chair Lougheed to note there is consensus to move the recommendation forward to the Board meeting for review and approval. Thanks were expressed to Trustee Steer for bringing this forward to the Board for consideration.

8.0 Motion to Adjourn

Motion: C. Phillips/ B. Steer

That we do now adjourn at 6:21 PM. – **Carried**