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Erika Lougheed, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

The April 11, 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 ®*

Trustees Absent:

Nil.

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 5:31 p.m.

1.1 Land acknowledgement

Chair Lougheed read the declaration aloud.

1.2 Attendance

Attendance indicated that eight trustees are present.

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil.

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). - **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.

Trustee Phillips has joined the meeting.

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.

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: S. Hall/ J. Fuscaldo

That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of April 11, 2023, be approved. - **Carried.**

5.0 Review of Previous Minutes

5.1 2023 03 28 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: J. Fuscaldo/ H. Wesley

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

6.0 Business Arising

It is noted that there is no business arising brought forward for discussion.

Student Trustees Trodd and Darling have joined the meeting.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Notice of Motion- Trustee Steer

Trustees were referred to the Notice of Motion filed by Trustee Steer contained in the agenda package requesting Board support to bring a motion forward to the OPSBA

Annual General Meeting to request OPSBA begin to study the four-day workweek model and its prospective impact on the education system.

It is noted that to proceed to discussion, the motion requires a seconder. The floor was opened for expressions of support. Trustee Hall 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 the four-day workweek model is becoming increasingly popular and so it is prudent that OPSBA begins to gather articles and studies the impacts this could have on the education system.
- It is recognized that this was brought forward by the NNDSB Board to the 2022 OPSBA Annual General Meeting, where the motion failed to gain consensus. Trustee Steer noted he wished to bring it forward again to the 2023 AGM if there was unanimous support from the NNDSB Board for this attempt.
- Comment raised by Trustee Sargent that it is too premature to begin this investigation, and the time would be better spent on more pressing provincial matters.
- Question raised on what the impact would be on the NNDSB Board if the resolution was brought forward. Trustee Steer noted it would proceed to an OPSBA committee to begin the investigation. Clarification that there would be no direct impact/ action required by NNDSB staff or trustees to bring this forward.

With no further comments to note, trustees were asked by a show of hands to confirm support for the motion presented by Trustee Steer. It is noted that seven trustees are in favour, and two trustees are opposed. Confirmation from Trustee Steer that he will not seek a motion for approval at the Board meeting, given the consensus was not unanimous. Thanks were expressed to Trustee Steer for bringing this forward to the Board for consideration.

7.2 Code of Conduct Review

Trustees were referred to the Code of Conduct (Governance Policy 205) contained in the agenda package. In alignment with Ontario Regulation 246/18, the Board is required to review its Trustee code of conduct by May 15, 2023 and determine if changes are required or confirm the existing code of conduct. Chair Lougheed noted all trustees signed off on the Code of Conduct at the 2022 Inaugural meeting. OPSBA is recommending that boards refrain from making amendments at this time, as potential changes are expected from the ministry as a result of the OPSBA consultation on this issue.

The floor was opened for questions or comments regarding this item, with none rose. It is noted that consensus is expressed to confirm the existing Code of Conduct. Chair Lougheed noted a motion will come forward in regular session to confirm this approval.

7.3 Question Period Process Review

Trustees were referred to By-law 113 included in the agenda package regarding Question Period. It is noted that notice was shared at the previous meeting that a discussion would be coming forward to determine the process for this item, and how it can be made more accessible. Highlights of the discussion are noted as:

- Trustee Bertram was invited to open the discussion, as this item was brought forward through her initiative. Thoughts offered to have it placed on the agenda early so that the agenda could be amended.
- Comments from Trustee Sargent to note a form was used previously. Members of the public were welcomed to complete it and submit it to the Executive Assistant in advance of the meeting. When Question Period came up on the agenda, the Chair would read and respond to the questions submitted.
- Support from Trustee Hall to accept questions from virtual participants. A numbering system will be important so the 10-minute time period can be respected.
- Point raised by Trustee Fuscaldo that a mechanism will need to be established to respond to remaining questions submitted if the Question Period time expires.
- Municipal perspective offered by Chair Lougheed, where Question Period would be added closer to the end of an agenda as sometimes the responses are provided through presentations and comments offered.
- Clarification that the Question Period process is outside the delegation process, (which is more formal).
- Point raised by Trustee Phillips that there should be an option to extend the timeframe beyond 10 minutes.

Chair Lougheed summarized the process developed through discussion will include receipt of in-person or electronic questions, which will be ordered, and the item will be tabled closer to the end of the agenda. Chair Lougheed noted there would be an option to extend the timeline through motion with majority approval.

Chair Lougheed noted the process would be structured as per the discussion. Trustees were thanked for their participation in this discussion.

7.4 North Bay Elementary School Naming Committee Report

Trustees were referred to the report included in the agenda package. Opening remarks from Chair Lougheed to thank Trustees Hall, Steer, and Sargent for their participation on this committee and involvement in the process undertaken. Director Myles expressed gratitude to all members of the Renaming Committee, and in particular, the committee chair, Superintendent Melanie Gray, for their tireless work and commitment to this important process. The committee has worked hard to ensure many voices were heard and that the outcome truly represents the diversity and inclusivity that we strive for in the Near North school community.

Superintendent Gray provided a review of the process undertaken and noted the committee was so pleased with the high level of school and community engagement. A special thanks was offered to Nipissing First Nation Chief and Council for their thoughtful consideration, and the School Council Chairs involved for their active role in seeking input through the consultation process.

It is noted that the report concludes with a recommendation that the Board of Trustees approve the name choice supported through community consultation and recommended by the Naming Committee. Final survey results based on submissions by students, parents, and community members indicate the top choice to be Maple View Public School.

Chair Lougheed opened the floor for comments or questions, with none rose. Consensus was expressed for the name Maple View Public School by show of hands by trustees. Chair Lougheed confirmed a motion would be passed in regular session to confirm approval.

8.0 Motion to Adjourn

Motion: L. Sargent/ S. Hall

That we do now adjourn at 7:00 PM. – **Carried**