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Erika Lougheed, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

The May 9, 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 6:01 p.m.

1.1 Land acknowledgement

Chair Lougheed read the declaration aloud.

1.2 Attendance

Attendance indicated that seven trustees are present.

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil.

2.0 In-Camera

At approximately 6:05 PM, 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 Fuscaldo has joined the meeting.

Trustee St. Pierre has joined the meeting.

3.0 Arise and Report

At approximately 6:35 PM, 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.

Student Trustees Trodd and Darling have joined the meeting.

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: B. Steer/ C. Phillips

That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of May 9, 2023, be approved. - **Carried.**

5.0 Review of Previous Minutes

5.1 2023 04 11 Committee of the Whole

Trustees were referred to the minutes included in the agenda package. The floor was opened for comments or corrections. It is noted that under item 7.4, the trustees recognized for their participation on the new North Bay elementary school renaming committee should include Trustee Sargent.

Motion: L. Sargent/ C. Phillips

That the minutes for the Committee of the Whole meeting of April 11, 2023 be amended to add Trustee Sargent to the statement regarding trustees who participated on the new North Bay elementary school renaming committee, as part of item 7.4. – **Carried.**

Motion: S. Hall/ J. Bertram

That the minutes for the Committee of the Whole meeting of April 11, 2023 be approved as corrected. – **Carried.**

6.0 Business Arising

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

7.0 New Business

7.1 Notice of Motion- Trustee Bertram

Trustees were referred to the Notice of Motion filed by Trustee Bertram contained in the agenda package requesting Board support to begin recording public meetings and posting the recordings on YouTube.

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 Bertram 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 Bertram to recognize the recording of meetings promotes transparency. Unlike the meeting minute summary, video recording ensures that all discussion is captured.
- Question raised regarding the scope of the request. It is noted that the request applies to all publicly accessible meetings of the Board of Trustees, inclusive of Board of Trustee committee meetings.
- Question raised regarding costs. Trustee Bertram did not expect this to be the case, as Zoom video conference has recording capabilities.
- Point raised that the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario considers meeting minutes to be the official record of the meeting, even when a recording is available.
- Supportive comments expressed from a perspective of capturing meeting context and ensuring accessibility for members.
- It is recognized that the placement and timeline recommendations within the Notice of Motion are suggestions that can be adjusted based on website design requirements.
- Director Myles noted recordings also promote learning and would allow members of the public to observe formal meeting processes and know what to expect during delegations. It is recognized that Excellence in Communication is also a pillar of the MYSP. Hesitations for the Board to consider are noted as concerns about confidentiality (particularly at the committee level), legal implications, limitations this may out on student presenters, additional taxing on staff resources, and a potential lack of candour as a result of being recorded.

After discussion and amendment, the consensus was expressed for the following resolution, “BE IT RESOLVED that the NNDSB live-streams public meetings, keeps the recorded videos accessible on the NNDSB YouTube Channel, and links them to the NNDSB website; pending the receipt of a legal opinion and a report from staff to review the logistics. Implementation will be subject to the timeline identified in the staff report”.

In alignment with the Board’s direction, Director Myles noted a legal opinion will be sought, and he will oversee the development of an objective and thorough report for trustees’ review to determine if this is possible to move forward with. It is noted that the

report will include separate recommendations and/or processes for Board meetings and committee meetings. The expected timeline for receipt will be Fall 2023.

Closing comments from Director Myles to express gratitude to trustees for holding off on their decision-making until the staff report is received. It is noted that this is a careful observance of parliamentary procedure and ensures the prioritization of the health, safety and well-being of staff and students.

7.2 Chair's Update- Meeting with Dreamcoat Fantasy Theatre

Trustees were referred to the report included in the agenda package in follow-up to a meeting between the Board of Trustees and Dreamcoat Fantasy Theatre company. The Board of Trustees was represented by Chair Lougheed and Dreamcoat Fantasy Theatre (DFT) was represented by Acting Chair S. Clausen and Executive Director M. Beam. It is recognized that Superintendent Smylie attended as a resource to Chair Lougheed.

It is noted that the meeting was very positive. All parties agreed that meeting privately allowed for a more conversational approach. Superintendent Smylie supported the Chair's reflections on the meeting and noted it also provided an opportunity to thank DFT for the many years of community partnership and emphasize the board's ongoing intention to support performances through attending shows.

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

8.0 **Motion to Adjourn**

Motion: J. Bertram/ H. Wesley

That we do now adjourn at 7:11 PM. – **Carried**