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Erika Lougheed, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

The October 10, 2023 **Public Session Board Meeting** 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
Albany Benson, Student Trustee
Dora Chen, Student Trustee

Trustees Absent:

Nil.

Administrative Staff Present:

Craig Myles, Director of Education ®
Deb Bartlett, Communications Officer ®
Gay Smylie, Superintendent of Education
Krista Messenger, Executive Assistant
Melanie Gray, Superintendent of Teaching and Learning ®
Seija Van Haesendonck, Superintendent of Business
Timothy Graves, Superintendent of Education ®

Other:

Staff, media, union and community partners

® attended remotely via Zoom video or audio conference

* arrived following the roll call. Attendance is noted within the minutes.

1.0 Call to Order

Chair Lougheed called the meeting to order at 6:55 PM. Members of the public were welcomed in person and virtually and directed to the question period submission forms/survey link.

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

Chair Lougheed read the Land Acknowledgement out loud.

2.0 Requests for Leaves of Absence

Chair Lougheed confirmed Trustee Phillips provided notice that she would be joining late, and so it was determined that a motion would be made on her behalf.

Motion: 23-10-01, S. Hall/ J. Bertram

In accordance with BL-102, be it resolved that Trustee Phillips be granted a leave of absence from the October 10, 2023 Board meeting, as confirmation of regrets was provided in advance of the meeting. -CARRIED.

3.0 Attendance

3.1 Confirmation of Quorum

Attendance indicated that 10 trustees were present for the meeting, including both Student Trustees.

3.2 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

The floor was opened for trustees to declare conflicts of interest, with none rose.

4.0 Approval of the Agenda

Review of the agenda for the meeting of October 10, 2023. The floor was opened for amendments or additions, with none rose.

Motion: 23-10-02, L. Sargent/ J. Fuscaldo

That the agenda for the Board meeting of October 10, 2023 be approved. – CARRIED.

5.0 Presentation: SafeSchools Community Partnership Recognition

5.1 Welcome Guest- R. Drolet, School Liaison Officer, North Bay Police Services

Trustees were referred to the brief included in the agenda outlining the exemplary endeavours of Const. Roger Drolet throughout his service as the school liaison officer.

Const. Drolet has been invited as a guest to the Board meeting to receive recognition from the Board of Trustees and was joined by the North Bay Police Services Chief of Police, Chief Tod. Introductory comments were provided by the Chair and Director regarding the role of liaison officers to work with school community stakeholders to provide education, violence prevention and emergency preparedness. NNDSB's Safe Schools Team notes that Const. Drolet is an asset at both the school and board level. He has provided hundreds of students with education through school and class presentations on bullying, cyber-bullying, online safety, the distribution of intimate images, consent, the importance of reporting and more.

The floor was opened for trustees, with remarks offered in support of Const. Drolet's service to students and recent promotion to Sergeant. Closing remarks from Board Chair Loughheed to thank Const. Drolet and Chief Todd for every effort to foster safe and inclusive environments within NNDSB schools and the broader community.

Trustee Phillips has joined the meeting virtually.

6.0 Review of Previous Minutes

6.1 2023 09 12 Board of Trustee- Regular meeting minutes

It is noted that the minutes of the regular session held on September 12, 2023 were included in the agenda package. The floor was opened for amendments or additions, with none rose.

Motion: 23-10-03, J. Bertram/ A. St. Pierre

That the minutes of the September 12, 2023 Board meeting be approved. – CARRIED.

7.0 Communication to the Board

7.1 7.1 Information Items

- 7.1.1 Monthly Tender Report- September 2023*
- 7.1.2 Professional Development Opportunities Calendar*
- 7.1.3 Monthly Meeting Calendar*
- 7.1.4 Safe Schools Report*
- 7.1.5 Elementary Class Size Compliance Report*
- 7.1.6 Enrolment Report*
- 7.1.7 Summer Learning Report*
- 7.1.8 Theatre Outreach On Stage Report*

Chair Lougheed 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 from trustees:

- Question raised regarding 7.1.4- Safe Schools Report to request an alternative presentation of the percentages outlined in the report using the actual number of students involved. Superintendent Smylie referred trustees to the limitations described in the report, with closing comments from the Director regarding the hesitation to disclose any identifying information (as the report is intended to illustrate trends).
- Appreciation was expressed to the Director for bringing forward the preliminary enrolment report. It is recognized that the report fully addresses the previous inquiries.

7.2 Director's Update

7.2.1 Board Report

Trustees were referred to the reports contained in the agenda package. Director Myles spoke to a few highlights from the monthly board report, with special recognition given to the days of significance recognized this month, the professional activity outcomes, and ongoing partnerships to provide the OWLS program as an example of the board's commitment to Excellence in Innovation.

The floor was opened for questions or comments regarding the Director's report, with none rose.

7.3 Chair's Remarks

The Chair provided a verbal report centering on recognizing NNDSB educators on World Teacher Day. An update was shared with trustees that a Chair's Council will be struck to review the Director's employment contract. Acknowledgement was provided to the people of Israel and Palestine given the Israel– Hamas conflict. Heartfelt solidarity and well-wishes for peace were extended to all those affected.

7.4 OPSBA Report

Trustee Steer provided a verbal report calling attention to the upcoming Northern Caucus event scheduled for October 13-14, 2023 in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. A reminder was provided about the tour occurring tomorrow with OPSBA Executive Director Donaldson and President Abraham. The final itinerary has been shared with trustees.

7.5 Student Trustees' Update

7.5.2 *Indigenous Youth Circle (IYC) Update*

Student Trustee Benson provided an overview of the report included in the agenda package. Trustees received an update about the events secondary schools planned for National Indigenous Peoples Day and activities to acknowledge the week of Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day.

7.5.1 *Student Trustee Report*

Student Trustee Chen provided an overview of the report included in the agenda package. Key highlights are noted as the introduction of extra-curricular fairs to introduce students to clubs and offer tips for academic success. Schools have started selling student cards, which provide student discounts at located businesses, as well as access to school events and games.

7.6 Community Involvement

7.6.1 *Scheduled Delegations*

7.6.2 *Question Period*

It is noted that there are no scheduled delegations for this evening. Chair Lougheed noted the Board would move to its public question period. Submissions of questions will now be closed to organize the list for review.

It is noted that there are no questions submitted in—person or virtually for review by trustees.

8.0 Items for Decision

8.1 Report from Committee of the Whole- Private Session

Motion: 23-10-04, S. Hall/ A. St. Pierre

That the DPA Committee report be approved as presented, as recommended by the Committee of the Whole in private session. – CARRIED.

Clarifying comment noted the report discussed constitutes the first half of a two-part deliverable.

8.2 Report from Committee of the Whole- Public Session

Motion: 23-10-05, H. Wesley/ J. Fuscaldo

WHEREAS the Near North District School Board places significant value on its diverse rural communities and their vital role in shaping public education;

AND WHEREAS the Near North District School Board recognizes the immense benefits of providing rural schools that students can easily access by foot or a short bus ride, fostering healthy living and engagement in before and after-school programs;

AND WHEREAS rural elementary schools serve as a hub for educational, cultural, and community activities, fostering a sense of belonging and unity among students, families, and residents;

AND WHEREAS, despite a previously declining enrolment, the Board has demonstrated

exceptional operational efficiency and worked closely with the Ministry of Education to maintain the operation of rural elementary schools;

AND WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education to ensure equal access to quality education for all students, regardless of their geographical location or socio-economic background;

AND WHEREAS Bill 98 outlines the circumstances under which a board may be required to sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of a school site, part of a school site, or school property, granting the Minister various powers in such dispositions, including the authority to create regulations;

AND WHEREAS the Near North District School Board currently possesses vacant space that could potentially lead to the consolidation or closure of rural elementary schools;

AND WHEREAS the Near North District School Board was required to close and integrate two rural elementary schools to secure funding for a new capital school project in the Town of Parry Sound;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Near North District School Board hereby strongly implores the Ministry of Education not to exercise their authority granted by bill 98 for the closure of rural elementary schools;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to OPSBA Northern Caucus and the Ministry of Education for their consideration. – CARRIED.

As the time was quickly approaching 8:00 PM, a motion was made to extend the meeting.

Motion: 23-10-06, L. Sargent/ S. Hall

That the Board meeting be extended to 8:30 PM. - CARRIED.

8.3 Capital Project Award- Chippewa Secondary School

Motion: 23-10-07, J. Bertram/ H. Wesley

That the Near North District School Board awards tender NNDSB 2023-026 Chippewa Secondary School East Wing Roofing Replacement Phase 1, to Blanchfield Roofing Company Limited in the amount of \$361,250.00 plus HST. – CARRIED.

8.4 Ontario Student Trustees Association (OSTA) Fall General Meeting- Approval of Attendance

Motion: 23-10-08, L. Sargent/ S. Hall

That the NNDSB Board of Trustees approves the attendance of Student Trustee Benson and Student Trustee Chen to attend the Fall 2023 OSTA General Meeting. -CARRIED.

8.5 Levying Education Taxes Bylaw 2024

Motion: 23-10-09, J. Fuscaldo/ J. Bertram

Whereas subsection 257.7(1) of the Education Act requires the Board to levy the tax rates prescribed under section 257.12 of the Act;

And whereas Ontario Regulation 400/98 prescribes the tax rates under subsection 257.12 of the Act;

Be it resolved that the NNDSB Board of Trustees enacts that the rates set out in Ontario Regulation 400/98 for 2024 are levied in localities within the area of jurisdiction of the Board on the property indicated in section 257.7 of the Act. – CARRIED.

8.6 Trustee Honorarium

Motion: 23-10-10, J. Fuscaldo/ S. Hall

That the Near North District School Board approves the trustee honoraria for 2023-2024 as presented, effective November 15, 2023. – CARRIED.

8.7 Parent Involvement Committee- Community Representative Nomination

Motion: 23-10-11, J. Fuscaldo/ H. Wesley

That Laura Walker be appointed as a community representative to serve on the Parent Involvement Committee with a term effective immediately and lasting until October 2024. – CARRIED.

9.0 Committee Reports

9.1 Audit Committee Report

9.1.1 Verbal report

Committee Chair Hall was invited to speak to this item. An update was shared with trustees regarding the previous meeting. Key highlights included Trustee Hall being acclaimed as the Audit Committee Chair, preliminary information sharing regarding the audit approach, and a reminder that the Audit Committee is still recruiting for an external committee member. The floor was opened for questions:

- Question raised regarding the requirements of the external audit committee member. SBO Van Haesendonck noted the candidate must have detailed knowledge of financial processes, but there is no specific designation required.
- Question raised regarding any initial concerns raised by the auditor. It is noted that the meeting focused on the intended strategy so there was no discussion about concerns. As a reminder, the auditor does not present directly to the Board of Trustees, but rather to the Audit Committee. All trustees are invited to attend committee meetings.

9.2 Multi-Year Strategic Plan Committee Report

9.2.1 Meeting Minutes- May 31, 2023 (official) and October 3, 2023 (unofficial)

9.2.2 Verbal report

Committee Chair Steer was invited to speak to this item. An update was shared with trustees regarding the virtual community meeting planned for Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 6:30 PM. Key highlights were shared to note the meeting is a new requirement of *The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act (2023)*, and will focus on providing parents and community members with information on the Board's planned spending related to the 2023-24 plan. Trustees are encouraged to attend and share the details within their networks.

9.3 Committee Meeting Minutes Presented for Information

9.3.1 Special Education Advisory Committee- June 15, 2023

Minutes of the Public Session Board Meeting of the Near North District School Board held October 10, 2023

9.3.2 First Nations Advisory Committee- June 22, 2023

The Chair opened the floor for any comments or questions regarding the meeting minutes presented for information, with none rose.

10.0 Next Meeting Date

Chair Lougheed confirmed the Board of Trustees will meet next on November 14, 2023.


11.0 Motion to Adjourn

Motion: 23-10-12, J. Bertram/ A. St. Pierre

Be it resolved, that on October 10, 2023, we do now adjourn at 8:06 pm. – CARRIED

EL/km.


Erika Lougheed
Chair


Craig Myles
Director of Education

RESOLUTION SUMMARY

23-10-01 S. Hall J. Bertram	In accordance with BL-102, be it resolved that Trustee Phillips be granted a leave of absence from the October 10, 2023 Board meeting, as confirmation of regrets was provided in advance of the meeting. -CARRIED.
23-10-02 L. Sargent J. Fuscaldo	That the agenda for the Board meeting of October 10, 2023 be approved. – CARRIED.
23-10-03 J. Bertram A. St. Pierre	That the minutes of the September 12, 2023 Board meeting be approved. – CARRIED.
23-10-04 S. Hall A. St. Pierre	That the DPA Committee report be approved as presented, as recommended by the Committee of the Whole in private session. – CARRIED.
23-10-05 H. Wesley J. Fuscaldo	WHEREAS the Near North District School Board places significant value on its diverse rural communities and their vital role in shaping public education; AND WHEREAS the Near North District School Board recognizes the immense benefits of providing rural schools that students can easily access by foot or a short bus ride, fostering healthy living and engagement in before and after-school

	<p>programs;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS rural elementary schools serve as a hub for educational, cultural, and community activities, fostering a sense of belonging and unity among students, families, and residents;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS, despite a previously declining enrolment, the Board has demonstrated exceptional operational efficiency and worked closely with the Ministry of Education to maintain the operation of rural elementary schools;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education to ensure equal access to quality education for all students, regardless of their geographical location or socio-economic background;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS Bill 98 outlines the circumstances under which a board may be required to sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of a school site, part of a school site, or school property, granting the Minister various powers in such dispositions, including the authority to create regulations;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS the Near North District School Board currently possesses vacant space that could potentially lead to the consolidation or closure of rural elementary schools;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS the Near North District School Board was required to close and integrate two rural elementary schools to secure funding for a new capital school project in the Town of Parry Sound;</p> <p>NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Near North District School Board hereby strongly implores the Ministry of Education not to exercise their authority granted by bill 98 for the closure of rural elementary schools;</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to OPSBA Northern Caucus and the Ministry of Education for their consideration. – CARRIED</p>
<p>23-10-06 L. Sargent S. Hall</p>	<p>That the Board meeting be extended to 8:30 PM. - CARRIED.</p>
<p>23-10-07 J. Bertram H. Wesley</p>	<p>That the Near North District School Board awards tender NNDSB 2023-026 Chippewa Secondary School East Wing Roofing Replacement Phase 1, to Blanchfield Roofing Company Limited in the amount of \$361,250.00 plus HST. – CARRIED.</p>

Minutes of the Public Session Board Meeting of the Near North District School Board held October 10, 2023

23-10-08 L. Sargent S. Hall	That the NNDSB Board of Trustees approves the attendance of Student Trustee Benson and Student Trustee Chen to attend the Fall 2023 OSTA General Meeting. -CARRIED.
23-10-09 J. Fuscaldo J. Bertram	Whereas subsection 257.7(1) of the Education Act requires the Board to levy the tax rates prescribed under section 257.12 of the Act; And whereas Ontario Regulation 400/98 prescribes the tax rates under subsection 257.12 of the Act; Be it resolved that the NNDSB Board of Trustees enacts that the rates set out in Ontario Regulation 400/98 for 2024 are levied in localities within the area of jurisdiction of the Board on the property indicated in section 257.7 of the Act. – CARRIED.
23-10-10 J. Fuscaldo S. Hall	That the Near North District School Board approves the trustee honoraria for 2023-2024 as presented, effective November 15, 2023. – CARRIED.
23-10-11 J. Fuscaldo H. Wesley	That Laura Walker be appointed as a community representative to serve on the Parent Involvement Committee with a term effective immediately and lasting until October 2024. – CARRIED.
23-10-12 J. Bertram A. St. Pierre	Be it resolved, that on October 10, 2023, we do now adjourn at 8:06 pm. – CARRIED

