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Erika Lougheed, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

The October 10, 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 ®
Jeanie Fuscaldo
Julie Bertram
Louise Sargent
Shane Hall
Albany Benson, Student Trustee
Dora Chen, 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

Trustee Regrets:

Chantal Phillips

® attended remotely via Zoom video or audio conference

1.0 Call to Order

Chair Lougheed called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

1.1 Land acknowledgement

Chair Lougheed read the declaration aloud.

1.2 Attendance

Attendance indicated that 10 trustees were present, including the two Student Trustees.

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Nil.

2.0 In-Camera

At approximately 5:35 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: L. Sargent/ S. Hall

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)(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.

3.0 Arise and Report

At approximately 5:55 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.

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: J. Bertram/ A. St. Pierre

That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of October 10, 2023, be approved. - CARRIED.

5.0 Review of Previous Minutes

5.1 2023 09 12 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: S. Hall/ J. Fuscaldo

That the minutes for the Committee of the Whole meeting of September 12, 2023 be approved. – CARRIED.

6.0 Business Arising

6.1 CSS Renaming Work- Trustee Discussion

It is noted that the Board determined that this item would be placed on the agenda at the previous meeting, and that Trustee Bertram would submit a notice of motion to begin the conversation. Trustees were referred to the Notice of Motion filed by Trustee Bertram requesting the CSS renaming work be suspended pending further consultation with First Nation rightsholders. It is noted that to proceed to discussion, the motion requires a seconder. The floor was open for expressions of support. Trustee Fuscaldo seconded the motion. Chair Lougheed invited Trustee Bertram to speak first and then opened the floor for discussion by trustees. Highlights are noted as:

- Opening comments to note it is felt the update contained within a recent board

correspondence undermines the work of the renaming committee, and appropriate notice was not provided in advance to committee members.

- Trustee Bertram spoke to the lack of Indigenous consultation in the Chippewa school renaming process and proposed a suspension of the renaming work until such consultation takes place, with a reallocation of funds towards the revitalization of Anishinaabemowin.
- Review of the community voices integral to a strong process including First Nations leaders, CSS students and their parents, as well as the commitments and interpretations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- Clarifying comments were provided regarding the governance process. The Board cannot pass a motion that appears to contravene a motion already approved by the Board. If the Board wishes to reframe the parameters of the renaming process, it must first address the motion passed on this item previously.
- Question raised regarding the impact of rescinding the previous motion on the current process and work of the renaming committee. It is expected that this would nullify the work of the committee.
- Question raised about splitting up the motion's recommendations and proceeding with a discussion on developing an Indigenous communication pathway at the meeting this evening. It is acknowledged that this is not something for the Board to rush into and it should instead take time to consider this work appropriately and thoughtfully.
- Trustee St Pierre recognized the need to discuss the CSS renaming process as a whole. The Chair concurred and called upon trustees individually to share perspectives. General themes emerging from the comments shared included a recognition to thoughtfully consider next steps and the importance of engaging with Indigenous rightsholders.
- Concluding comments from the Director on the importance of procedural fairness.

Chair Lougheed concluded the discussion by recognizing the motion will not proceed. Next steps will be left with trustees to consider and action as discussed. Sincere appreciation was extended to trustees for their commitment to upholding principles of good governance and fostering a productive discussion.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Notice of Motion- Vice-Chair Wesley

Trustees were referred to the Notice of Motion filed by Vice-Chair Wesley contained in the agenda package requesting the Board advocate for safeguards to rural education following the implementation of *The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act*.

It is noted that to proceed to discussion, the motion requires a seconder. The floor was open for expressions of support. Trustee Fuscaldo seconded the motion. Chair Lougheed noted Vice-Chair Wesley is permitted to speak first and then the floor will be opened for discussion by trustees. Highlights are noted as:

- Opening comments by Vice-Chair Wesley to note the motion highlights the importance of rural elementary schools in fostering community relationships. Concern was about the potential closure of these types of schools as outlined in

Bill 98. The motion calls for the Ministry of Education not to exercise its authority under Bill 98 for such closures and requests the transmission of a carried motion to OPSBA Northern Caucus and the Ministry of Education for consideration.

- A question was raised regarding the application to current builds. Vice-Chair Wesley clarified the motion is intended to be “future focused”, and not to interfere with the capital projects the Board has currently underway.

With no further comments to note, the motion was read aloud by the Chair. 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 Vice-Chair Wesley for bringing this forward to the Board for consideration.

7.2 Recorded Meetings Report

Trustees were referred to the report included in the agenda package. Note this report stems from a discussion at the Committee of the Whole meeting on May 9, 2023, where the Director was tasked with overseeing the development of a staff report assessing the feasibility of recording and posting public meetings on YouTube. Introductory comments were provided regarding the content of the report. The floor was opened for discussion, with key takeaways summarized as:

- Request tabled for trustees attending the OPSBA Northern Caucus event to raise this initiative at the meeting to see how other DSBs have navigated the implementation challenges and considerations. Trustee Steer noted he would be pleased to do this, and report back to the trustees with any information.
- Review of other DSBs of similar size to NNDSB that have moved forward with posting meetings as another knowledge source to consider.
- Initial observations offered regarding the YouTube platform considerations mentioned in the report. Comments on the live stream could be disabled, and it is expected that the technology enhancements would be limited to an encoder. Director Myles confirmed this would be taken under advisement.

With no further comments to note, Chair Lougheed thanked trustees for the discussion. The Board looks forward to receiving input from the OPSBA trustees to inform its next steps.

7.3 Toronto Youth Cabinet- Endorsement Request

Trustees were referred to the correspondence included in the agenda package. The Toronto Youth Cabinet is seeking endorsement for their letters addressed to the Minister of Education pertaining to a province-wide student nutrition program and student mental health. Through discussion, it was determined that the correspondence would be forwarded to the Student Senate and the Indigenous Youth Circle for consideration through the Student Trustees. The Student Trustees will provide their recommendations to the Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

8.0 **Motion to Adjourn**

Motion: J. Fuscaldo/ S. Hall

That we do now adjourn at 6:52 PM. – CARRIED.