

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 | **5:45 PM**

Virtual:	In-Person:
Join zoom meeting Meeting ID: 899 1167 8742 Passcode: 859936 Dial in: 1 855 703 8985	North Bay Boardroom NNDSB Head Office 963 Airport Rd., North Bay, ON.

AGENDA

1.0 Call to Order

1.1 Land acknowledgement

We would like to open this meeting by acknowledging the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe, on which all schools of the NNDSB are situated. The Board Office is specifically located on the traditional territory of the Nipissing First Nation. We value the cultures, histories and relationships with the Indigenous People of Turtle Island. We are grateful to be gathered here today.

1.2 Attendance

Confirmation of Quorum

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

2.0 In-Camera

Motion: 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(2.1).

3.0 Arise and Report

4.0 Approval of the Agenda ✓

Motion: That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of January 9, 2024, be approved.

5.0 Review of Previous Minutes ✓

5.1 2023 12 12 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Motion: That the minutes for the Committee of the Whole meeting of December 12, 2023, be approved.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Union partner correspondence ✓

6.2 Notices of Motion- Trustee Bertram ✓

7.0 Adjournment

Motion: That on January 9, 2024 we do now adjourn at ____pm.



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Erika Lougheed, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

The December 12, 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
Ashley St. Pierre, Vice-Chair ®
Bill Steer
Chantal Phillips *
Howard Wesley ®
Jeanie Fuscaldo ®
Julie Bertram ®
Louise Sargent
Shane Hall
Albany Benson, Indigenous 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

Other:

Staff, media, and community partners

® attended remotely via Zoom video or audio conference
* joined the meeting following the roll call. Attendance is noted within the minutes.

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 5:33 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(2.1).
- 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

Trustee Phillips has joined the meeting in person.

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: S. Hall/ J. Bertram

That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of December 12, 2023, be approved. - CARRIED.

5.0 Review of Previous Minutes

5.1 2023 11 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/ S. Hall

That the minutes for the Committee of the Whole meeting of November 14, 2023 be approved. – CARRIED.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Notice of Motion- Trustee Sargent

Trustees were referred to the Notice of Motion filed by Trustee Sargent contained in the agenda package proposing that the Board consider rescinding the motion passed in December 2022 to rename and rebrand Chippewa Secondary School.

It is noted that to proceed to discussion, the motion requires a seconder. The floor was open for expressions of support. Trustee Bertram seconded the motion. Chair Lougheed noted Trustee Sargent is permitted to speak first and then the floor will be

opened for discussion by trustees. Highlights are noted as:

- Opening comments by Trustee Sargent to note Chair Lougheed had previously advised that if the Board wished to have further discussion about the Chippewa Secondary School renaming process, it needed to begin by rescinding the motion that began the process. It is noted that trustees have expressed interest in reviewing the decision, so the notice of motion to rescind has been brought forward to allow further discussion to occur.
- Chair Lougheed passed the chairship to Trustee Hall to offer perspective as a trustee. As the Temporary Meeting Chair, Chair Hall offered the floor to Trustee Lougheed. Trustee Lougheed noted she felt confident in the decision already made by trustees, as it was aligned with human rights best practices. It is felt that the goals could be achieved within the existing committee structure so a motion to rescind is not needed. Stories of hurt and harm have been shared with Trustee Lougheed, so this must be considered with whenever next steps are decided. At this point in the agenda, Chair Hall transitioned the chairship back to Trustee Lougheed. Board Chair Lougheed resumed the meeting.

With no further comments to note, the motion was read aloud by the Chair. Trustees were reminded that the motion would require a two-thirds majority on the prevailing side to carry. A recorded vote was conducted. Recorded vote results are noted as:

Trustee:	In Favor	Against	Abstain	Absent
Bertram, Julie	X			
Fuscaldo, Jeanie	X			
Hall, Shane	X			
Phillips, Chantal		X		
Sargent, Louise	X			
St. Pierre, Ashley	X			
Steer, Bill	X			
Wesley, Howard	X			
Lougheed, Erika		X		
TOTAL:	7	2	0	0

It is noted that the motion has achieved the required threshold of a two-thirds majority. Chair Lougheed thanked trustees for their participation and noted the motion would be brought forward to the Board meeting for approval.

7.0 Motion to Adjourn

Motion: S. Hall/ H. Wesley

That we do now adjourn at 6:01 PM. – CARRIED.

December 11, 2023

To: The Trustees of the Near North District School Board

From: The Presidents of the E.T.F.O, O.S.S.T.F. and C.U.P.E.

The local bargaining units that represent education workers and teachers in the Near North District School Board respectfully ask that the NNDSB take immediate action and lobby OPSBA and the Ministry of Education for immediate assistance in addressing the crisis we are facing in the education system. We have reached a point in the NNDSB where we will no longer be able to operate our schools while providing a safe and quality learning environment for the students we serve.

The ongoing contract negotiations at the elementary, secondary, and education worker tables does not address the severe crisis caused by the chronic lack of funding and resources necessary to meet the daily challenges we face in our schools. Drastic measures must be taken throughout the education system from the kindergarten level to the senior administration level.

We are experiencing great difficulty recruiting, training and maintaining qualified people across the education spectrum. At the school level, we require qualified school secretaries, Educational Assistants (EA), Early Childhood Educators (ECEs), Occasional Teachers (OTs), and Permanent Teachers.

We are witnessing an increasing number of students who do not possess the coping skills necessary to regulate their behaviour, let alone interact with peers and adults in the learning environment. Schools have many high academic and behavioural needs students whose challenges we cannot meet due to a lack of trained personnel, resources and poverty wages. Existing and potential EAs are being lured away from the Education Sector with the promise of better working conditions free from violence and better wages.

The NNDSB is facing a severe shortage of occasional teachers who are vital to keeping classrooms functional and schools operational. Behavioural issues in schools and the lack of appropriate supports are an impediment to occasional teaching jobs being filled in the absence of permanent classroom teachers. Regional and remote locations where housing does not exist, and travel distances are a deterrent is impacting the ability of schools to attract and retain quality staff. OTs and educational assistants are in chronic short supply especially East & West Parry Sound and most of the outlying areas of the NNDSB. Permanent teachers are burning out due to the ever-increasing demands of the classroom environment. This is compounded because they are not taking necessary time off for illness or appointments due to the knowledge that their positions will not be covered and other staff will be required to fill the void.

Intervention by OPSBA and the Crown are needed immediately if we are to keep our schools functioning both in the present and in the future. Please consider the following solutions:

- The NNDSB creates a local training program to recruit, properly train, and certify EAs. These EAs could be qualified and compensated on a tiered basis from general school support to working with students in the Autism spectrum to high-needs self-contained classrooms.

- Provide incentives for OTs and other short-term education workers to accept job opportunities in remote locations by paying mileage and guaranteeing either full or half-day assignments, depending upon location.
- Hiring and assigning OTs on a full-year basis to a select number of schools where they are guaranteed work daily but could be designated to a school based upon need.
- Create permanent positions at the elementary and secondary level at full or half-time only. This would eliminate fractioning of FTE. These partial positions often go unfilled or results in constant changeover in teachers.
- Overstaff schools with permanent members for consistency to cover fail-to-fill jobs especially in remote areas.
- Develop a training program for DECE with proper salary incentives.
- Provide housing or travel allowances to attract & maintain teachers/education workers in remote schools.
- Recruitment, training, salary and travel allowances for school secretaries.
- Recruitment, training and salary allowances for custodian services.

Residing in northern Ontario presents challenges in the education sector. Enticing people to relocate from densely populated regions in southern Ontario and other parts of Canada can be difficult. The development of NNDSB training positions for all educators in collaboration with the local colleges and universities and incentive funding to stay in the region following the completion of their education program could assist the NNDSB and other northern school boards to maintain the quality education system our communities need, and our students deserve.

The time to act is now. We do not have the resources within our communities to meet the needs of our most vulnerable children. We need trained social workers and behavioral specialists to be available to provide support in our schools and communities.

If we are to continue to keep our schools open and functional, it falls upon the NNDSB to lobby OPSBA and the Crown to intervene and develop meaningful tools to recruit, train and retain education workers in the public education system.

Parker Robinson, President
OSSTF, D4 – T/OT BU

Trevor Russell, President
CUPE 1165

Margret Soroye, President
NNOT-ETFO

Rob Hammond, President
NNTL-ETFO

Troy Simkins, President
OSSTF D4 -ESSP BU

Title:	Notice of Motion – NNDSB Community Planning & Partnerships and Climate Change
Contact:	Julie Ann Bertram
Date Submitted:	January 9, 2024
Mandate:	In alignment with NNDSB Bylaw 102, Trustee Bertram provided notice to the Secretary of the Board, Director Myles, requesting an item be placed on the agenda for discussion during the January 9 Committee of the Whole meeting.
Background:	<p>In accordance with the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (OPHS) Healthy Environments and Climate Change Guideline, 2018, the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (NBPSDHU), in collaboration with 6 other northern health units (NOCCH), released a Climate Change Health Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) Assessment called Climate Change and Health in Northern Ontario.</p> <p>The reality of climate change is here and widely recognized in our local communities, as demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organization of Climate Action Parry Sound, March 2019, • The declaration of a climate emergency by the Municipality of West Nipissing, April 2019, • The pledge by North Bay City Council to act and consider climate change in their planning decisions, June 2019, • The coming together of the Almaguin Climate Action Group, 2022, • The ongoing efforts of the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority. • The release of the Final Report: Climate Change and Food Security Study in September 2022 by the Anishinabek Nation <p>NNDSB Governance Manual Policy Item GP-212</p> <p>Approved by the Board of Trustees on June 22, 2020, Policy Item GP-212 (page 73) complies with the Ontario Ministry of Education’s Community Planning and Partnership (CPP) Guideline to share planning information that “will allow school boards and other entities to work together to the benefit of boards, students and the community, and to optimize the use of public assets owned by school boards.”</p> <p>At a meeting on December 5, 2023, NNDSB Governance Item GP-212 was brought to the attention of representatives of the NOCCH cooperative as a</p>

	<p>means to share planning information and the NOCCH report with the NNDSB.</p> <p>The NOCCH Report states that “Through identifying specific climate change hazards relevant to northern Ontario, those who will be most sensitive to the impacts, and the current best approaches to adapt, this report provides insight to inform policy, guide future programming, and inspire effective action” p.35</p> <p>Context The urgency of northern hazards and the health impacts of climate change is apparent in multiple reports, the V&A assessments, and the coming together of various organizations trying to mitigate the foreseeable challenges.</p> <p>GP-212 can help by deepening the NNDSB’s partnership with the NBPSDHU to adapt to these challenges.</p> <p>This motion seeks to clarify the current Status of GP-212 so that the board can understand how to engage NOCCH representatives from the NBPSDHU in this process.</p> <p>WHEREAS on June 22, 2020; the Board of Trustees approved Governance Manual Item GP-212 Re: Community Planning and Partnerships outlining procedures to share planning information with potential eligible partners;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS the NNDSB Capital Plan identifies schools as “the lifeblood of every community” and the need to explore partnerships for underutilized schools;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS as identified in the 2021-2026 Strategic Plan, stakeholders want to know more about the NNDSB’s outreach to stakeholders, rightsholders, and partners;</p>
<p>Resolution:</p>	<p>BE IT RESOLVED That the Board of Trustees receive an update from the Director of Education about the implementation status of GP-212, noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The invitation of community organizations, First Nations partners, and stakeholders to participate in information-sharing annual meetings (GP-212 4.1) ▪ The formal documentation of information exchanged (GP-212 4.2) ▪ The status of entities considered as eligible partners (GP-212 5.3) ▪ The suitability of schools for facility partnerships (GP-212-6.1), and ▪ The availability of an annual Partnership List Report (GP-212 7.1)