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Ashley St. Pierre, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

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The September 10, 2024 **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:**

Ashley St. Pierre, Chair  
Howard Wesley  
Caren Gagne  
Bill Steer  
Chantal Phillips  
Jeanie Fuscaldo ®  
Julie Bertram  
Louise Sargent

**Administrative Staff Present:**

Craig Myles, Director of Education  
Melanie Gray, Superintendent of Education ®  
Gay Smylie, Superintendent  
Seija Van Haesendonck, Superintendent of Business  
Timothy Graves, Superintendent ®  
Deb Bartlett, Communications Officer  
Maureen Egan, Executive Assistant ®  
Glenn Morrison, Manager IT

**Regrets:** Shane Hall

**Other:**

Staff, Union partners, media

**Regrets:** n/a

® attended remotely via Zoom video or audio conference

**1.0 Call to Order**

Chair St. Pierre called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

- 1.1 Land acknowledgement  
Vice-Chair Wesley read the declaration aloud.
- 1.2 Attendance  
Attendance indicated that 9 trustees were present.
- 1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest n/a

**2.0 Approval of the Agenda**

Motion: CW 2024-09-01 C.Gagne/J.Bertram

That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of September 10, 2024, be approved as amended. The amendment being the addition by Trustee Fuscaldo of item 4.4 Status of Ad Hoc committee - CARRIED.

### **3.0 Review of Previous Minutes**

Motion: CW 2024-09-02 C.Phillips/S.Hall

That the minutes for the Committee of the Whole meeting of June 11, 2024 be approved. – CARRIED.

Motion: CW 2024-09-03 C.Phillips/S.Hall

That the minutes for the Special Committee of the Whole meeting of July 15, 2024 be approved. – CARRIED.

Trustee Fuscaldo asked that it be noted that she objected to the format of the July 15 Special CW meeting.

### **4.0 Business Arising**

#### **4.1 Communications Report to Trustees from Director Myles**

Director Myles explained that this report has been provided as an executive summary in response to the issue being raised in May regarding correspondence sent to the Board. The report was drafted during the summer and provides the insights the trustees were asking. The Director said that if trustees wanted to review the lengthy detailed report, they are to contact his office.

#### **4.2 Strengthening School Board Governance and Accountability - Regulatory Reforms to Support the *Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023***

#### **4.3 OPSBA Correspondence to Minister of Education August 14, 2024**

Director Myles explained that the attachments refer to ongoing changes to the Trustee Code of Conduct, Ethics Commission and attendance at Board meeting and invited Trustee Steer to comment. Trustee Steer commented that this was recently discussed at OPSBA and acknowledged there are many questions and dates to be worked out with the new minister which will take some time. Trustee Phillips asked for clarification regarding the new Trustee Code of Conduct and effective date. Director Myles commented that we have very little latitude regarding the changes and Trustee Steer noted that with a new Minister we are in a holding pattern. Trustee Sargent suggested this is something the Bylaw Committee can monitor.

#### **4.4 Ad Hoc Committee**

Trustee Fuscaldo asked for a status update on the formation of the ad hoc committee to gather data on the McDougall PS area and next steps. Trustee Sargent suggested that Trustee Fuscaldo could lead the committee. Trustee Gagne asked that the Director provide a template to ensure manageability. Director Myles will provide a report on the composition of the committee.

### **5.0 New Business**

#### **5.1 Notice of Motion Environmental Sustainability Committee**

Trustee Fuscaldo introduced the motion and Trustee Bertram seconded it for discussion: Be it resolved that a Near North District School Board Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee be established.

Trustee Fuscaldo explained that once the committee is struck, the committee would finalize the draft terms of reference (item 5.2) and the Environmental Policy (item 5.3 ) and bring to the Board for approval. Director Myles thanked Trustee Fuscaldo for her work on this important item and suggested that before we continue, we gather feedback from OPSBA, legal and others. This will ensure the proper composition is considered. He has reached out to Hicks Morley, who specializes in education law and governance to get an opinion. Trustee Steer agrees noting the composition must be carefully vetted. Trustee Bertram suggested agreeing on the motion now rather than waiting on a legal opinion. Trustee Sargent agreed noting that the intent today was simply to form a committee. Vice-Chair Wesley supports starting the committee and then work with the opinions gathered from legal and OPSBA. Consensus was reached to strike a committee with membership to be determined later. Trustee Sargent asked that it be a standing item on the CW agendas moving forward.

**Motion: CW 2024-09-04, J. Fuscaldo/J. Bertram**

That the NNDSB trustees are in favour of establishing an Environmental Sustainability Advisory committee. - CARRIED

- 5.2 Terms of Reference for Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - included for information purposes only.
- 5.3 Environmental Policy Board Report - included for information purposes only.

**6.0 Adjournment**

**Motion: CW 2024-09-05 C. Phillips/J. Bertram**

That on September 10, 2024 we do now adjourn at 6:23pm. - CARRIED