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Ashley St. Pierre, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

The September 10, 2024 **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:

Ashley St. Pierre
Bill Steer
Caren Gagne
Chantal Phillips
Howard Wesley
Jeanie Fuscaldo ®
Julie Bertram
Louise Sargent
Nanak Sidhu, Student Trustee
Riley Trudeau, Student Trustee

Administrative Staff Present:

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

Regrets: n/a

Other:

Staff, in-coming student trustees, media

Trustees Absent: S. Hall

® attended remotely via Zoom video or audio conference

1.0 Call to Order

Chair St. Pierre called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm. Members of the public were welcomed in person and virtually.

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

Vice Chair Wesley read the Land Acknowledgement.

Chair St. Pierre thanked everyone for attending and kindly asked that we all treat each other with respect during the meeting. The Board will be hosting a question period later in the agenda for members of the public to ask questions of trustees related to anything on the Board's agenda this evening. Guests joining in person can find the form on the front table. Once complete, please pass it to the Executive Assistant at the front to confirm submission. Guests joining virtually can find a link to a virtual survey located in the meeting chat. Please complete this survey and your question will be submitted to the Executive Assistant automatically. Members of the public can submit questions freely in alignment with the Board's By-law regarding question period (BL-114) up until this item arises on the agenda.

2.0 Requests for Leaves of Absence

Motion: 24-09-01 L. Sargent/C. Gagne

That in accordance with BL-102, be it resolved that Trustee Hall be granted a leave of absence from the September 10, 2024 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 two student trustees.

3.2 Declaration of Conflict of Interest n/a

4.0 Approval of the Agenda

Motion: 24-09-02, L.Sargent/C.Gagne

That the agenda for the Board meeting of September 10, 2024 be approved as amended. The amendment being the addition of Chippewa school rebranding update requested by Trustee Sargent. – CARRIED

5.0 Student Trustee Welcome

Chair St. Pierre and Director Myles welcomed incoming Student Trustees Sidhu and Trudeau to the Board and administered the oaths of office.

5.1 Motions for Appointment

Motion: 24-09-03, C. Phillips/J. Bertram

That Nanak Sidhu of Chippewa Secondary School be appointed as Student Trustee for the 2024/25 school year as recommended by the NNDSB Student Senate. – CARRIED

Motion: 24-09-04, B. Steer/C.Gagne

That Riley Trudeau of Secondary School be appointed as Indigenous Student Trustee for the 2024/25 school year as recommended by the NNDSB Indigenous Youth Circle. – CARRIED

5.2 Declarations of Office

Director Myles led Student Trustee Sidhu and Student Trustee Trudeau through the Declaration of Office to complete the formal swearing-in process.

5.3 Honour Song

Superintendent Gray introduced Zachary Beaudette who performed the honour song in celebration of the new student trustees.

6.0 Review of Previous Minutes

Motion: 24-09-05, C. Phillips/J.Bertram

That the minutes of the June 11, 2024 regular board meeting be approved. – CARRIED.

Motion: 24-09-06, C.Gagne/H.Wesley

That the minutes of the July 15, 2024 special board meeting be approved. – CARRIED.

7.0 Communication to the Board

7.1 Information Items

7.1.1 Presentation – School Climate Survey Report

Director Myles clarified the nature of the survey report and thanked SO Smylie and her team for their extensive work on it. SO Smylie noted that we have implemented the survey since the passing of the *Safe Schools Act* in 2012. The anonymous survey provides schools data for bullying prevention plans and for plans to promote a positive school environment. Principal Emily Samuel spoke about how the data is used and also new ways to look at the data. She noted the value of this survey as a tool that helps us measure how the community feels about their school experience. Trustees were provided the opportunity to ask questions surrounding the survey. Trustee Fuscaldo asked about vaping detection in schools. SO Smylie responded that a small section on the subject is provided in the report and that we have purchased vaping detectors which will be installed in schools shortly. She expects that the next time we present results we will see a finer level of data. Trustee Phillips asked about anonymity and SO Smylie advised that it is a very strict condition of the survey. Trustee Steer commented that he was pleased to hear the reference to our MYSP in the report. Trustee Fuscaldo asked about safeguards to protect identify in small schools. SO Smylie noted we are very cautious on how the data is presented and the results are only shared back with the school administrator to disseminate that data and use for future planning. It is not shared between schools.

7.1.2 Monthly Tender Report June-August 2024

It was noted that August was a nil report.

7.1.3 Outdoor Learning Administrative Guideline

The guideline has completed the consultation phase and was provided for information.

7.1.4 CW and Board meeting dates 2024-25

Consensus was reached to move the March meeting to March 18, 2025 due to the March break. Trustee Fuscaldo asked about virtual attendance at PSHS. Manager Glenn Morrison noted that virtual meetings can be attended from any venue. Regarding PSHS, we would have to consider extra IT and support measures including: whether a meeting room is available, having staff there to support the meeting and to accept the public. The Director also noted these constraints and was pleased that zoom allows the freedom to attend from anywhere.

7.1.5 Chippewa Re-Branding Update

Trustee Sargent asked for an update having expected the process would be completed last spring. She emphasized the intent of the motion and expressed concern that other things were being considered. Superintendent Smylie acknowledged Trustee Sargent's concern that the Rebranding Process was not completed last spring. She explained that the process was not bound by a timeline and the extensive planning and steps taken by the Chippewa Rebranding Committee as outlined in the June Report did not allow time for the consultation

and final voting to occur before the end of the school year. Superintendent Smylie explained that since the June board report, the consultation process has been completed, there are five names and over the next period of time, voting will be upcoming to select two of the names of the five and then one of the two and an announcement made via an assembly. This will be followed by a report to the Board in November.

7.2 Director's Update

Director Myles welcomed everyone back to the new school year noting many changes ie new Minister of Education. He extended a special welcome to our new student trustees Nanak Sidhu and Riley Trudeau. Nanak has been appointed president of the OSTA. He also noted how proud we are of other NNDSB provincial representation including: Trustee Steer the chair of OPSBA northern caucus, SBO Van Haesendonck on the OSBIE board of directors, Lisa Lamoureux, past president of OPC, and Emily Samuel member at large OPC. Media interviews provincially with Nanak Sidhu and Principal Krause also occurred. Director Myles provided a short summary of the upcoming PA Day staff learning. He noted his confidence in all our staff whose efforts are always focused on student achievement and well-being.

Motion: 24-09-07, L.Sargent/C.Gagne

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

7.3. Chair's Remarks

Chair St. Pierre hoped everyone had a restful and refreshing summer. As we gather this evening to begin another school year, I am filled with optimism. We are in a very important role and we have much to accomplish. As we navigate the year I encourage all of us to remain adaptable and innovative. Change is constant and how we respond to it will define our success. Let us stay open to new ideas, embrace diverse perspectives and be proactive in addressing the challenges that come our way. I look forward to working alongside you this year and am confident that together with our administration we further student success in Near North DSB.

I was pleased to attend and give opening remarks at the Leadership conference in August to our principals, vice-principals, managers and administrators. We should be very proud of our strong team. I also attended the Indigenous Trustees' Council Annual August meeting with OPSBA where we collaborated and shared best practices. The new Minister of Education was present and answered many questions.

7.4 OPSBA Report

Trustee Steer reported that the Board's proposed Living Consciously resolution was recently passed and congratulated our Board on making this significant impact. Trustee Steer also noted that he was appointed Northern Caucus Chair.

7.5 Student Trustee Reports

Student Trustees Sidhu and Trudeau provided brief introductory remarks highlighting their enthusiasm on the Student Senate and the Indigenous Youth Circle.

7.6 Community Involvement and Question Period n/a

8.0 Items for Decision

8.1 Report from Committee of the Whole Public Session

Motion: 24-09-08 J. Bertram/J.Fuscaldo

That the Board of trustees are in favour of establishing an Environmental Sustainability Advisory committee. – CARRIED

8.2 OPSBA Annual Dues

Motion: 24-09-09 C.Gagne/C.Phillips

That the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board approve the 2024/25 Ontario Public School Boards' Association membership fees. – CARRIED

8.3 OPSBA Northern Conference

Motion: 24-09-10 J.Bertram/C. Phillips

That the Board of Trustees approve the following trustees to attend the OPSBA Northern Regional meeting in Thunder Bay October 26 and 27, 2024: Bill Steer, Jeanie Fuscaldo, Caren Gagne, Howard Wesley. – CARRIED

8.4 Statement by Treasurer

Motion: 24-09-11 H.Wesley/B.Steer

That the Board approve the Statement by Treasurer regarding Borrowing for Current Expenditures. - CARRIED

Trustee Sargent asked for clarification on this item and how it relates to the spring financial motions that were passed. SBO Van Haesendonck advised that this is an annual process when our bank requires an approved motion.

8.5 Code of Conduct (School Community) Administrative Guideline

Trustee Sargent commented that this AG required discussion and asked if we could hear from our union president, who was present in the meeting, if they had any concerns on their part re cell phone use. She requested it be tabled to the next Committee of the Whole for timely review by her. Director Myles advised that this is a Ministry mandated approval with a deadline. SO Smylie reviewed the revision, consultation and implementation dates. She also explained the extensive consultation phase which was provided in blue on the copy. SO Smylie also explained that the amendments and direction are from PPM 128 and is currently implemented in our schools. No issues have been brought to her attention. PD has been provided to implement PPM 128. Trustee Sargent asked for the union president in the audience to speak on the matter. Chair St. Pierre ruled that asking a guest to speak at a meeting is out of order and not part of our board table. SO Smylie stated that all of our union partners were individually asked to provide feedback and it was incorporated into the final document. Trustee Phillips suggested tabling this item.

Motion: 24-09-12 J.Bertram/B.Steer

That the Board extend the meeting to 8:45 pm. CARRIED

Motion: 24-09-13, L.Sargent/C.Phillips

That the Board defer the approval of the Code of Conduct as and table it at the October meeting. – DEFEATED

Trustee Fuscaldo suggested that later in the school year Director Myles could reach out to our union partners for an update. Director Myles concurred and will dialogue with the union presidents further into the school year.

Trustee Phillips asked for a recorded vote.

	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Bertram, Julie	x			
Fuscaldo, Jeanie			x	
Gagne, Caren	x			
Hall, Shane				x
Phillips, Chantal	x			
Sargent, Louise			x	
St. Pierre, Ashley	x			
Steer, Bill	x			
Wesley, Howard	x			

Motion: 24-09-14 H.Wesley/J.Bertram

That the Board approve the changes to the Code of Conduct (School Community) Administrative Guideline as per PPM 128. - CARRIED

8.6. SEAC Membership

Motion: 24-09-15, C.Phillips/L.Sargent

That the Board appoint Leigh Armstrong and alternate Tricia Bain to the NNDSB Special Education Advisory Committee for the term of the current school board.- CARRIED

9.0 Committees

9.1 Parent Involvement Committee Report Year End Report

Motion: 24-09-16, C.Gagne/J.Bertram

That the Parent Involvement Year-End Report is received as presented, as recommended by the Parent Involvement Committee. -CARRIED

9.2 SEAC Minutes Official Minutes - May 23, 2024

10.0 Next meeting Date: October 8, 2024

11.0 Adjournment

Motion: 24-09-17 CP/CG

That on September 10, 2024 we do now adjourn at 8:44 pm. – CARRIED



Ashley St. Pierre
Chair



Craig Myles
Director

RESOLUTION SUMMARY

24-09-01 L.Sargent C. Gagne	That in accordance with BL-102, be it resolved that Trustee Hall be granted a leave of absence from the September 10, 2024 board meeting as confirmation of regrets was provided in advance of the meeting. - CARRIED
24-09-02 L.Sargent C.Gagne	That the agenda for the Board meeting of September 10, 2024 be approved as amended. The amendment being the addition of Chippewa school rebranding update requested by Trustee Sargent. – CARRIED
24-09-03 C.Phillips J.Bertram	That Nanak Sidhu of Chippewa Secondary School be appointed as Student Trustee for the 2024/25 school year as recommended by the NNDSB Student Senate. – CARRIED
24-09-04 B.Steer C.Gagne	That Riley Trudeau of Secondary School be appointed as Indigenous Student Trustee for the 2024/25 school year as recommended by the NNDSB Indigenous Youth Circle. – CARRIED
24-09-05 C.Phillips J.Bertram	That the minutes of the June 11, 2024 regular board meeting be approved. – CARRIED.
24-09-06 C.Gagne H.Wesley	That the minutes of the July 15, 2024 special board meeting be approved. – CARRIED.
24-09-07 L.Sargent C.Gagne	That the meeting be extended meeting to 8:30 pm. - CARRIED
24-09-08 J.Fuscaldò C.Phillips	That the Board of trustees are in favour of establishing an Environmental Sustainability Advisory committee. – CARRIED
24-09-09	That the Board of Trustees for Near North District School Board

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C.Gagne C.Phillips	approve the 2024/25 Ontario Public School Boards' Association membership fees. – CARRIED
24-09-10 J.Bertram C.Phillips	That the Board of Trustees approve the following trustees to attend the OPSBA Northern Regional meeting in Thunder Bay October 26 and 27, 2024: Bill Steer, Jeanie Fuscaldo, Caren Gagne, Howard Wesley. – CARRIED
24-09-11 H.Wesley B.Steer	That the That the Board approve the Statement by Treasurer regarding Borrowing for Current Expenditures. - CARRIED
24-09-12 J.Bertram B.Steer	That the Board extend the meeting to 8:45 pm. CARRIED
24-09-13 L.Sargent C.Phillips	That the Board defer the approval of the Code of Conduct as and table it at the October meeting.– DEFEATED
24-09-14 H.Wesley J.Bertram	That the Board approve the changes to the Code of Conduct (School Community) Administrative Guideline as per PPM 128. - CARRIED
24-09-15 C.Phillips L.Sargent	That the Board appoint Leigh Armstrong and alternate Tricia Bain to the NNDSB Special Education Advisory Committee for the term of the current school board.- CARRIED
24-09-16 C.Gagne J.Bertram	That the Parent Involvement Year-End Report is received as presented, as recommended by the Parent Involvement Committee. -CARRIED
24-09-17 S.Hall H. Wesley	That on September 10 , 2024 we do now adjourn at 8:44 pm. – CARRIED