

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Tuesday, January 14, 2025| 5:00 PM

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 Closed Session

Motion:

That the Committee move into Closed Session in order to discuss items pertaining to *The Education Act* R.S.O. 1990, c.E.2 section 207(2) (a) (e) property and litigation.

3.0 Approval of the Agenda ✓

Motion:

That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of January 14, 2025 be approved.

4.0 Review of Previous Minutes ✓

Motion:

That the minutes for the Committee of the Whole meeting of December 10, 2024 be approved.

5.0 Notice of Motion – Trustee Steer ✓

Motion:

That in the interests of applying more resources to student success and well-being, the NNDSB Board of Trustees draft a letter to the Minister of Education asking the Ministry to initiate, study and begin consultations regarding efficiencies within the four-school board system model. And that the NNDSB also drafts a letter to OPSBA asking it to advocate the same with the Ministry of Education on its' member boards' behalf.

6.0 Adjournment

Motion:

That on January 14, 2025 we do now adjourn at _____ pm.



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Ashley St. Pierre, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

The December 10, 2024 **Committee of the Whole Public Session** of the Near North District School Board was via videoconference using the Zoom platform.

Trustees Present:

Ashley St. Pierre
Howard Wesley
Jeanie Fuscaldo
Caren Gagne
Shane Hall
Chantal Phillips
Julie Bertram
Bill Steer
Louise Sargent
Student Trustee Trudeau
Student Trustee Sidhu

Regrets: n/a

Administrative Staff Present:

Craig Myles, Director of Education
Gay Smylie, Superintendent
Seija Van Haesendonck, Superintendent of Business
Timothy Graves, Superintendent
Melanie Gray, Superintendent
Patricia Lupton, Executive Assistant
Deb Bartlett, Communications
Maureen Egan, Director's Office
Glenn Morrison, Manager IT
Liana Blaskievich, Corporate Affairs

Other:

Staff, Union partners, media

All attended remotely via Zoom vide

All attended remotely via Zoom video

1.0 Call to Order

Chair St. Pierre called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

1.1 Land acknowledgement

Vice-Chair Wesley read the declaration aloud.

1.2 Attendance

Attendance indicated that 11 trustees were present including two Student Trustees.

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest n/a

2.0 Closed Session

Motion: CW 24-12-01, L.Sargent/B.Steer

That the Committee move into Closed Session in order to discuss items pertaining to *The Education Act* R.S.O. 1990, c.E.2 section 207 (2) (a) and (e). – CARRIED

3.0 Approval of the Agenda

Motion: CW 24-12-02, J. Bertram/C.Phillips

That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of December 10, 2024, be approved.- CARRIED.

4.0 Review of Previous Minutes

Motion: CW 24-12-03, C.Phillips/H.Wesley

That the minutes for the Committee of the Whole meeting of November 12, 2024 be approved. – CARRIED.

5.0 Math Achievement Action Plan

Superintendent Mel Gray and Math Lead Kim Pauli presented highlights and information regarding the 2024-2025 Math Achievement Action Plan. Beginning in September 2023, boards were required to adopt provincial achievement priorities and metrics to help students improve EQAO scores in reading, writing and math. Boards must develop, implement and monitor their math achievement action plans to the ministry three times a year. Resources and tools have been provided to educators and digital tools will help teachers to understand student learning levels and provide targeted supports. Director Myles thanked Superintendent Gray and Math Lead Kim Pauli for the presentation and their team in leading math success for all students.

6.0 Low Barrier Shelter

Trustee Phillips requested this item be placed on the agenda and addressed her concerns surrounding security at Chippewa Secondary. Trustee Phillips noted the ongoing actions and costs to date by the Board and suggested trustees act and reach out to the City of North Bay to address concerns. Trustees discussed and carried the following motion:

Motion: 24-12-04, C. Phillips/H.Wesley

That the board write a letter requesting a meeting with the City of North Bay regarding the low barrier shelter near Chippewa Secondary School. - CARRIED

7.0 Adjournment

Motion: CW 24-12-05, S.Hall/B.Steer

That on December 10, 2024 we do now adjourn at 7:16 pm. - CARRIED

Title:	Notice of Motion Trustee Steer – Ontario School Board Efficiencies
Contact:	Trustee Bill Steer
Date Submitted:	January 14, 2025
Background:	<p>When school boards face reduced funding the effects ripple through the education system. Tightened budgets force school boards to make difficult decisions across their systems. The lack of resources can hinder the ability to provide quality education, disproportionality affecting students in low-income areas where schools may be underfunded. The strain on educators and staff can impact morale and retention, compounding the challenges. In the long term, reduced investment in education during economic hardships can widen achievement gaps and weaken community development.</p>
Information:	<p>In the interests of applying more resources to student success and well-being, the NNDSB asks OPSBA to advocate the Ministry of Education to initiate a study/investigation (<i>community consultation, government appointee, commission as examples of a process</i>) of the viability/efficiencies of consolidating the existing four boards' system in a new way.</p> <p>This motion understands the fundamental cultural, language and religious rights of all Ontarians (Canadians). Historically each province looked at the delivery of education in their own way by context at the time of inception. The Canadian education system has been shaped by the federal nature of the country, and specifically by section 93 of the <i>Constitution Act, 1867</i> and by the adoption of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982, and specifically the inclusion of section 23.</p> <p>Ontario's population is increasing and becoming more culturally diversified. As well there is a growing First Nations' population.</p> <p>Within public education there have been increased demands for accountability and for higher student performance and for greater parental choice and involvement.</p> <p>As per above, provincial decision makers have welcomed this situation and have responded by beginning to restructure the Canadian educational system in contemporary ways. There continues to be an increased diversification and enrichment of programs offered and, not</p>

	<p>surprisingly, by a considerable increase in expenditures on education (Education Price Index). (Food security and transportation as two examples.)</p> <p><i>“OPSBA and our member trustees know that healthy schools are the foundation of thriving communities. However, last year's (2023) local school board budgets revealed a troubling trend: an increasing number of boards are grappling with deficits, which poses significant challenges in preserving essential classroom resources. Since 2018, when per pupil funding was \$12,282.44, we have seen a downward trend, particularly since the height of the pandemic. Adjusted for inflation, per pupil funding now stands at \$11,506.03, creating a gap of \$776.41 per student—marking the lowest level of funding in over a decade. With approximately 1.4 million students in our English public system, this equates to a shortfall exceeding \$1 billion, further widening the funding gap in public education.”</i> (OPSBA submission Nov. 12, 2024 – CEF)</p> <p>In addition to decreasing costs, consolidation can be seen as a means of increasing the access for all students to a quality education (student success and wellbeing).</p> <p>There has not been a study of “magnitude” in Ontario since the Hall-Dennis Report - officially titled "Living and Learning: The Report of the Provincial Committee on Aims and Objectives of Education in the Schools of Ontario" - is arguably the most famous government issued education report in Ontario's history (1968).</p>
<p>Recommendation:</p>	<p>That in the interests of applying more resources to student success and well-being, the NNDSB Board of Trustees draft a letter to the Minister of Education asking the Ministry to initiate, study and begin consultations regarding efficiencies within the four-school board system model. And that the NNDSB also drafts a letter to OPSBA asking it to advocate the same with the Ministry of Education on its' member boards' behalf.</p>