

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Tuesday, March 18, 2025 | 5:00 PM

AGENDA

1.0 Call to Order

- 1.1 Land acknowledgement
- 1.2 Attendance
Confirmation of Quorum
- 1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

2.0 Closed Session

Motion:

That the Committee move into private session in order to discuss items pertaining to *The Education Act* R.S.O. 1990, c.E.2 section 207(2) (c).

3.0 Approval of the Agenda ✓

Motion:

That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of March 18, 2025, be approved.

4.0 Review of Previous Minutes ✓

Motion:

That the minutes for the Committee of the Whole meeting of February 11, 2025, be approved.

5.0 Business Arising

5.1 Cyber Security update

5.2 Notice of Motion – Trustee Wesley and Trustee Fuscaldo ✓

That the regular Board meeting time shall be changed from 6:30 PM to 2:30 PM, effective March 11, 2025, to improve accessibility, inclusivity, and effectiveness for students, staff, trustees, and the public.

AND THAT The Committee of the Whole meetings shall be scheduled for 1:00 PM to align with the Trustees' prior decision to hold Committee of the Whole meetings on the same day as the regular Board meeting.

6.0 Notices of Motion

- 6.1 Notice of Motion – Trustee Wesley and Trustee Fuscaldo ✓
That the Board of Trustees approve the ongoing operation of McDougall Public elementary school.

7.0 Adjournment

Motion:

That on March 18, 2025 we do now adjourn at _____ pm.



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Ashley St. Pierre, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

The February 11, 2025 **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 ®
Howard Wesley
Jeanie Fuscaldo
Caren Gagne
Shane Hall ®
Chantal Phillips
Julie Bertram
Bill Steer ®
Louise Sargent
Student Trustee Trudeau
Student Trustee Sidhu ®

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
Liana Blaskievich, Exec. Officer Corporate Affairs ®

Other:

Staff, media

Regrets: n/a

1.0 Call to Order

Vice-Chair Wesley 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 25-02-01, C.Gagne/J.Bertram

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 (b). – CARRIED

3.0 Approval of the Agenda

Motion: CW 25-02-02, L.Sargent/J.Bertram

That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of February 11, 2025, be approved as amended. The amendment being the addition of 5.5 update on the McDougall letter to the Ministry and 5.6 update on the school board efficiencies letter. - CARRIED.

4.0 Review of Previous Minutes

Motion: CW 25-02-03, J.Bertram/C.Phillips

That the minutes for the Committee of the Whole meeting of February 11, 2025 be approved. – CARRIED.

5.0 Notice of Motion – Trustees Wesley and Fuscaldo

Trustees were referred to the Notice of Motion filed by Trustees Wesley and Fuscaldo contained in the agenda package regarding daytime CW and Board meetings. It was noted that to proceed to discussion, the notice required a seconder. Trustee Gagne seconded the motion. Trustee Fuscaldo introduced the motion and explained the long distances the majority of board members travel citing safety concerns, poor weather, limited cell service and late arrival to home. She invited trustees to discuss and comment.

Trustee Gagne agreed with the above issues but was concerned with public transparency if meetings are earlier in the day. She suggested deferring to the March meeting to allow for more data to be gathered.

Trustee Bertram noted the low public attendance and referred to a prior motion to record meetings thereby allowing the public to view at their convenience.

Student Trustee Riley queried whether her attendance would be required and whether it would affect school attendance.

Trustee Hall asked how daytime meetings would impact staff.

Director Myles advised that it would prudent for the Board to gather more data and make an informed decision. He would like to consider impacts on the community and whether we are bound in any way by legislation etc. He also noted that our bylaws refer to evening board meetings.

Further discussion included trial periods, addition of satellite offices. Trustee Sargent concurred with deferring the item to March with a possibility of a trial in April.

Motion to Amend: CW 25-02-04, J.Fuscaldo/J.Bertram

That “one time basis on March 18, 2025” be added to the motion. - DEFEATED

Motion to Table: CW 25-02-05, C.Phillips/C.Gagne

That the motion be tabled to the March meeting in order that relevant information can be gathered. - CARRIED

5.5 Status of Correspondence to Ministry

Trustee Fuscaldo asked whether the Ministry had responded to our October 2024 letter regarding McDougall PS given that the Board had asked for a response by the end of February. Director Myles responded that no response has been received to date in the Director's office and that in absence of hearing anything, we are compelled to move forward with original move management plan. Trustee Fuscaldo advised that MPP Smith told her of a Ministry meeting regarding the issue but trustees were not included. She advised that she will be submitting a motion to the March CW meeting for a final decision from our Board. The floor was opened for comment and discussion.

Trustee Sargent noted that since we are in a provincial election we may not hear from the Ministry, and that we should proceed with a decision and look seriously at the new build being 7-12 with k-6 at McDougall PS. She also suggested a review of the budget re funding.

Trustee Philips stated that she was unclear if there is a sitting committee for this. VC Wesley responded that the existing committee deals with financing and construction not pupil placement. VC Wesley noted the board would need information and data to support revisiting the committee's work and decisions. VC Wesley expressed concern that the Ministry had not responded to the Board's October letter. VC Wesley provided a brief summary of enrolment.

Trustee Bertram asked the Board for a decision at the next Board meeting noting it is the Board's decision not the Ministry's.

Trustee Steer asked for more data from the Director and defer so the decision is informed. Director Myles cautioned the Board noting we not only are bound by the Ministry financially, but we are also bound by legal contracts in place by earlier decisions. We may be placing the Board at financial risk. He also said that he would need time to determine the ramifications of reversing an ARC.

5.6 Cost Efficiencies Correspondence to Ministry

Trustee Sargent asked for an update on the letter recently written to the Ministry re efficiencies. Trustee Steer responded that it was going to be discussed at the next OPSBA meeting and noted one other board has written a similar letter.

6.0 Adjournment

Motion: CW 25-02-04, J.Bertram/C.Gagne

That on February 11, 2025 we do now adjourn at 7:24 pm. - CARRIED

Title:	NOTICE OF MOTION - ADJUST REGULAR BOARD MEETING TIME
Contact:	Jeanie Fuscaldo & Howard Wesley
Date Submitted:	Feb 10, 2025
Mandate:	In alignment with NNDSB Bylaw 102, I am providing notice to the Secretary of the Board, Director Myles, requesting an item be placed on the agenda for discussion during the February Committee of the Whole meeting.
Background:	<p>Whereas the current schedule for Committee of the Whole meetings at 5:00 PM and Board meetings at 6:30 PM presents challenges for trustees, staff, students, and community members;</p> <p>Whereas adjusting the meeting times to earlier in the day would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support traveling board meetings by aligning with standard working hours and minimizing late-night travel; • Provide time for informal engagement among trustees and staff with a light snack from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM; • Reduce the burden on staff, eliminating the need to work late into the evening and improving work-life balance; • Encourage student participation by enabling opportunities for at students to interact with the board during the school day; • Reduce student schedule conflicts with after-school activities; • Enhance safety by limiting night-time travel for trustees and staff; • Leverage research showing improved decision-making and cognitive performance during daytime hours; • Support staff retention and morale by demonstrating consideration for their time and well-being; • Facilitate scheduling by aligning meetings with working hours, freeing evenings for personal time; • Improve alignment with business hours, making it easier to engage with external consultants or resources as needed;

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase efficiency for schools by allowing school staff and leaders to participate briefly during work hours without requiring late-night commitments;• Reduce overtime costs and energy usage associated with evening operations;• Reduce overnight accommodations for traveling staff and Trustees• Accommodate caregivers and individuals with health considerations who may find evening hours challenging. |
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Resolutions:

THAT The regular Board meeting time shall be changed from 6:30 PM to 2:30 PM, effective March 11, 2025, to improve accessibility, inclusivity, and effectiveness for students, staff, trustees, and the public.

AND THAT The Committee of the Whole meetings shall be scheduled for 1:00 PM to align with the Trustees' prior decision to hold Committee of the Whole meetings on the same day as the regular Board meeting.

Title:	Notice of Motion
Contact:	Trustee Fuscaldo and Trustee Wesley
Date Submitted:	March 18 2025
Mandate:	In alignment with NNDSB Bylaw 102, Trustee Fuscaldo provided notice to the Secretary of the Board, Director Myles, requesting an item be placed on the agenda for discussion during the March Committee of the Whole meeting.
Background:	<p>WHEREAS the elementary student population growth at both McDougall PS and Nobel PS, as well as that of the entire West Parry Sound District continues to increase as demonstrated in the staff report regarding 2025/2026 enrollment projections. Pg 21 2023-10-08-NNDSB-Board-of-Trustees-Regular-meeting-agenda.pdf</p> <p>AND WHEREAS at the October 8 2024, Board meeting, following that enrollment projection report, Our Board deemed it appropriate to keep McDougall Public School operational as a K-6 school support for our board to allow McDougall PS to continue to operate to serve the k-6 students from both McDougall and Nobel PS, along with the intention of bringing tis item back prior to the end of the 2024/25 school year. 2024-10-08-Committee-of-the-Whole-Public-Minutes.pdf</p> <p>AND WHEREAS. The Board of Trustee’s supported a letter being sent to the Ministry of Education requesting support for us to make this decision, with a response requested by February to allow staff ample time for planning.</p> <p>AND WHEREAS at the February 11, 2025, Board Meeting, the board of trustee’s was informed by our Director of Education that there had been no communication from the ministry of the matter.</p> <p>AND WHEREAS in a similar situation for context as recently as Sept 2022, in which a board made the decision to keep a scheduled to close school-operational and received positive affirmations from the government for doing so.</p> <p>See resolutions from UCDSB as an example, Item # 10.07 Response to Motion: Report on Oxford-on-Rideau Public School ~ January 26, 2022, https://go.boarddocs.com/can/ucdsb/Board.nsf/vpublic?open# 2.07 Request to Amend a Previous Action (re: Motion regarding Oxford-on-Rideau Public School) ~ September 28, 2022 https://go.boarddocs.com/can/ucdsb/Board.nsf/vpublic?open#</p>

	<p>And WHEREAS our change of intention and Letter to the Ministry regarding McDougall Public School has been supported by all Municipalities of WPS and our Local MPP Graydon Smith, who have written supporting letters and/or resolutions to the ministry.</p> <p>AND WHEREAS the intention to keep McDougall Public school operational is based on the board's need for facility space to ensure student safety and wellbeing.</p>
Resolution:	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of trustee's approve the ongoing operation of McDougall Public elementary school.