



963 Airport Road North Bay, ON P1B 8H1  
Phone: 705.472.8170  
Website: www.nearnorthschools.ca

Ashley St. Pierre, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

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The March 18, 2025 **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  
Julie Bertram ®  
Caren Gagne  
Chantal Phillips  
Howard Wesley  
Jeanie Fuscaldo  
Louise Sargent  
Shane Hall  
Riley Trudeau, Student Trustee ®  
Nanak Sidhu, Student Trustee

**Administrative Staff Present:**

Craig Myles, Director of Education  
Gay Smylie, Superintendent  
Mel Gray, Superintendent  
Timothy Graves, Superintendent  
Seija Van Haesendonck, Superintendent of Business  
Maureen Egan, Office of the Director  
Glenn Morrison, Manager of IT  
Deb Bartlett, Communications ®  
Liana Blaskievich, Exec. Officer Corporate Affairs

**Regrets:** n/a

**Other:**

Staff, media, community members

**1.0 Call to Order**

Vice-Chair Wesley called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. Members of the public were welcomed virtually.

**1.1 Land Acknowledgement**

Vice-Chair Wesley read the Land Acknowledgement.

**2.0 Requests for Leaves of Absence**

It was noted that Student Riley Trudeau would be joining during the meeting.

**3.0 Attendance**

**3.1 Confirmation of Quorum**

Attendance indicated that 11 trustees were present for the meeting, including two student trustees.

**3.2 Declaration of Conflict of Interest None declared.**

#### **4.0 Approval of the Agenda**

Motion: 25-03-01, S.Hall/C.Gagne

That the agenda for the Board meeting of March 18, 2025 be approved. – CARRIED

#### **5.0 Approval of Previous Minutes**

Motion: 25-03-02, J.Fuscaldo/S.Hall

That the minutes of the February 11, 2025 regular board meeting be approved. – CARRIED.

#### **6.0 Communication to the Board**

##### **6.1 Information Items**

- 6.1.1 Monthly Tender Report (nil report)
- 6.1.2 Monthly Committee Meeting Calendar
- 6.1.3 Correspondence from Community
- 6.1.4 AG Student Registration (consultation)
- 6.1.5 AG Student Conduct Management (final)
- 6.1.6 AG School Openings, Closures and Consolidations (final)

Trustee Sargent asked that the AG School Openings, Closures and Consolidations be brought to the April CW as requested last year.

##### **6.2 Director's Update**

Director Myles invited trustees to review his report included in the agenda package.

##### **6.3 Chair's Remarks nil report**

##### **6.4 OPSBA Report**

Trustee Steer advised noted his report was included in the agenda.

##### **6.5 Student Trustees' Updates**

Student Trustees Trudeau and Sidhu read their monthly reports to the Board. They provided updates on initiatives, events and achievements.

##### **6.6 Community Involvement**

Scheduled Delegations – n/a

#### **7.0 Items for Decision**

##### **7.1 Report from Committee of the Whole Private Session - nil report**

##### **7.2 Report from the Committee of the Whole Public Session**

Motion: 25-03-03, J.Fuscaldo/S.Hall

Therefore be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the ongoing operation of McDougall PS for the 2025-26 school year. – CARRIED

Motion: 25-03-04, J. Fuscaldo/L.Sargent  
 That a recorded vote be conducted. - CARRIED

	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			

**8.0 Committee Reports and Minutes**

8.1 MYSP  
 Mid-Year Report

8.2 Committee Meeting Minutes  
 Governance – March 4, 2025 (unofficial)  
 SEAC – January 23, 2025 (official)

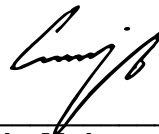
**9.0 Next meeting Date:** April 8, 2025

**10.0 Adjournment**

Motion: 25-03-05, C.Gagne/S.Hall  
 That on March 18, 2025 we do now adjourn at 6:23 pm. – CARRIED



Howard Wesley  
 Vice-Chair



Craig Myles  
 Director

**RESOLUTION SUMMARY**

<b>25-03-01</b> S.Hall C.Gagne	That the agenda for the Board meeting of March 18, 2025 be approved. – CARRIED
<b>25-03-02</b> J.Fuscaldo S.Hall	That the minutes of the regular board meeting of February 11, 2025 be approved. – CARRIED.

**Minutes of the Public Session Board Meeting of the Near North District School Board held March 18, 2025**

<b>25-03-03</b> J.Fuscaldo S.Hall	Therefore be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the ongoing operation of McDougall PS for the 2025-26 school year. - CARRIED
<b>25-03-04</b> J.Fuscaldo L.Sargent	That a recorded vote be conducted. – CARRIED
<b>25-03-05</b> C.Gagne S.Hall	That on March 18, 2025 we do now adjourn at 6:23 pm. – CARRIED

## IYC REPORT: 7

Good evening,

During the month of March IYC will meet in person at Northern Secondary School. We plan to collaborate with the Student Senate at this meeting to do team building and “get to know you” activities. Topics that IYC will discuss include planning for school powwows, end of the year school initiatives and the IYC’s end of the year retreat, that will be held at Nipissing university.

At Northern we planned our IYC meetings for the next few weeks. Our upcoming events include a Rattle Making Workshop, a visit with guest speaker Perry Mcleod, an Employment & Training Program presentation by the North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre (NBIFC), planning another beading workshop, discussions about Red Dress Day and The Moose Hide Campaign within the school, and Pow Wow planning.

At Chippewa Secondary School they recently had a quill making workshop with Nipissing First Nation (NFN) member Lily Armstrong. They are hosting 2 medicine pouch making workshops, one with secondary students and one with intermediate students, with NFN member Sam Stevens, who will also provide teachings on the 4 sacred medicines.

At West Ferris Secondary School IYC members continue to hold school-based Wednesday IYC meetings. They continue to host women's hand drumming and grandfather drumming weekly. Their upcoming events include a medicine bag, moccasin making and mitten making workshops with NBIFC; beaded earring workshop with Mrs. Karla Byers. Students will begin accessing tutoring, within their Indigenous Centre, through the Office of Indigenous Initiatives at Nipissing University.

At Almaguin Highlands they obtained additional Ted Nolan books, “Life In Two Worlds” and organized a beading workshop. Almaguin continues to do their best in recruiting more members. They are also interested in the NBIFC language conference happening in March and are planning to meet weekly to discuss plans for the rest of the school year.

At Parry Sound they had a grade 8 info night with a silent auction for 7 grandfather teachings swag and proceeds go towards Indigenous youth led and community initiatives. They also have weekly lunches with First Nation communities.

We hope to create a place for the community to go to learn about our youth group, so we would like to get our page on the NNDSB website completed that is under Indigenous Education and through Indigenous Youth Groups on the NNDSB Website. We are also working the

Indigenous education team, as they are supporting us in our efforts to get our Edsby page up and running again.

NNDSB schools have 4 pow wow dates that have been chosen for four of the secondary schools, IYC members will be supporting the planning for each event.

Miigwech!!

Good afternoon, Trustees,

I am pleased to provide an update on the exciting initiatives and events taking place across our board. Over the past month, students have been actively engaged in academics, extracurricular activities, and leadership initiatives.

As for student councils As for student councils F.J. McElligott Secondary School wrapped up their Winter Carnival, featuring themed days such as Jersey Day and "Dress as Your Clan" Day. students across the board recognized Pink Shirt Day, demonstrating a strong commitment to anti-bullying efforts.

Parry Sound High School's music department organized a pancake breakfast and launched their Eco-Team. March Break trips took place at several schools, including West Ferris Secondary School's trip to Paris and Rome and Chippewa Secondary School's trip to London and Paris. The Grade 8 Future Ambassadors from Chippewa visited Vincent Massey Public School, leading activities for their Winter Carnival. Chippewa Secondary School's World Issues class launched the Peaceful Progress Party (PPP), showcasing student discussions on significant social issues. The Grade 8 Future Ambassadors Leadership Group from chippewa visited Vincent Massey Public School, leading activities for their Winter Carnival.

on the sports front on the sports front With track and field, soccer, and baseball seasons approaching, students are preparing for try outs as well as wrapping up winter sports. Northern Secondary School's junior and senior boys' teams successfully qualified for NOSSA. West Ferris Secondary School hosted OFSAA basketball, and earned a silver medal for girls' OFFSSA curling. Their boys' soccer team also won the Canadores Invitational Indoor Tournament. Chippewa's boys' curling team brought home the NOSSA Banner. And also And also Chippewa Secondary School wawas abblOFSAA Girls Volleyball Championship.

As foAs for Student Senate we met on February 17th, finalizing several key projects. We confirmed board-wide spirit event and finished developing our transitional materials for future Senate members. Due to snow days, our board-wide spirit day has been rescheduled to March 20th. We have completed both a Senator Guidebook and a Trustee Guidebook to help incoming members understand their roles and responsibilities with greater ease. Looking ahead, we are preparing to welcome new Senators and exploring innovative ways to introduce them to the space and their new positions.

Beyond Senate work, I had the privilege of attending and hosting OSTA-AECO's Education Action Conference (EAC). I'm definitely biased but I absolutely loved it. We were able to hear from guest speakers such as, cpco, opc, ottwa carlton, ottawa catholic and emma morrison. Learning about topics ranging from how to make connections and ensure you leave a lasting impact, to issues affecting principals to AI

As we move forward, students continue to demonstrate outstanding dedication to academics, extracurriculars, and leadership. I am excited to see what the next few months will bring as student-led initiatives, community engagement, and new opportunities continue to shape our school communities.

Thank you.