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Ashley St. Pierre, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

The June 10, 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 ®
Deb Bartlett, Communications
Maureen Egan, Director's Office
Glenn Morrison, Manager IT
Liana Blaskievich, Officer Corporate Affairs

Other:

Staff, media

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 and two student trustees were present.

1.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Chair St. Pierre asked for declaration of conflicts. None arose.

2.0 Closed Session

Motion: CW 25-06-01, C. Gagne/L.Sargent

That the Committee move into closed session in order to discuss items pertaining to *The Education Act* RSO 1990, c.E.2 section 207 (2)(d). – CARRIED

3.0 Approval of the Agenda

Motion: CW 25-06-02, B.Steer/J.Bertram

That the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting of June 10, 2025, be approved as amended. The amendment being the addition of item 5.2 by Trustee Steer, McDougall PS update. - CARRIED.

4.0 Review of Previous Minutes

Motion: CW 25-06-03, L.Sargent/J.Fuscaldo

That the minutes for the Committee of the Whole meeting of May 13, 2025 be approved as amended. The amendment being the replacement of the word “future” with “June” in item 4.1– CARRIED.

5.0 Business Arising

5.1 Draft Report from the North Bay Consolidation Committee

Director Myles introduced the draft report from the Committee noting the report was requested last June to come forward this month. The report reflects significant research with regard to regulations, options and future implications should the property at 320 Ski Club Road be sold. The North Bay Consolidation Committee met on June 4 where significant questions came forward that requires further research. As a result this evening’s report is part one of two. Part two will be brought forward in the fall. The Director requested that trustees submit any questions they have to the Chair of the Committee Superintendent Gay Smylie.

Vice-Chair Wesley thanked the Committee for the report and briefly described the questions that he will submit. He asked that the report include the operating costs of 320 Ski Club Road. He is concerned with investment in a building with no students and no indication from the Committee of using the building for students. Holding onto a building without students is expensive. He suggested that capital dollars can be better spent at Chippewa ie track field.

Trustee Sargent asked for clarification re the report with the overall budget and implications given we are in a deficit budget position. She also asked if there still is a moratorium on ARCs and that it be included in the report.

Trustee Fuscaldo commented on the Ministry allowing school boards to hold properties for future use and speculated why there appears to be different rules for West Parry Sound.

Chair St. Pierre asked trustees to forward their questions in writing to the Committee for inclusion in the fall report.

5.2 McDougall PS Update

Trustee Steer introduced his item by explaining that the Board is accountable to its families, public and community. The Minister has sent us four letters and has toured the new build. We still have a contradictory motion on the table. We have to rescind that motion and write a letter to the Minister saying that Board understands his intention re McDougall PS. Trustee Steer cautioned that the Minister can take over the board otherwise.

Trustee Bertram asked whether the tour constituted a meeting and felt business was moved forward. Chair St. Pierre confirmed it was not a meeting even though quorum were in attendance. Vice-Chair Wesley agreed noting the Minister gave the Board a directive and expressed disappointment with the Minister's tone. VC Wesley referred to a letter from Matt Richter suggesting McDougall be used for francophone students and felt pressured by the Ministry. He closed his comments by saying that he will not vote in favour of declaring Nobel PS surplus in the Board meeting.

Trustee Sargent stated that we do not need to rescind the motion but instead clarify the wording leaving McDougall PS open until safe for students to be in the new building.

The March motion was read:

Motion: CW 25-03-04, 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

Trustee Gagne expressed her opinion that the tour with the Minister was not a meeting and clarified that she was not a member of the Board in previous years when discussions with the co-terminus board may have occurred. She is in favour of rescinding the March motion and presenting a new motion. Trustee Fuscaldo asked that the minutes reflect that this Board nor former boards have passed a motion releasing the property to the French Board.

Trustee Steer moved and Trustee Gagne seconded the following motion:

Therefore be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the ongoing operation of McDougall PS Until such time K-6 students from both MacDougall and Nobel PSs can be moved safely to the new build.

A recorded vote was requested and the motion failed.

	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		

Trustee Steer asked for an update from staff re the new build. SBO Van Haesendonck provided an update saying the project is currently on schedule and noted that at the request of the Minister, senior administration is providing regular updates to the Ministry through bi-weekly reports, and follow-up virtual meetings. Trustee Sargent asked to see the reports to the Minister which the SBO confirmed were generally about timelines and tracking significant items but may contain information that cannot be shared publicly. Director Myles concurred noting that each report would need to be reviewed to ensure information can be released. Trustee Sargent asked that instead an update on the new build be a standing

item at CW beginning at the September board meeting. The SBO noted that normally updates on new builds come to the Board via the relevant build committee, and she mentioned that a meeting of the Parry Sound Build Committee can be called at any time by the Committee Chair to receive an update on progress of the build.

6.0 Adjournment

Motion: CW 25-06-05, S.Hall/J.Bertram

That on June 10, 2025 we do now adjourn at 6:16 pm. – CARRIED