

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 | 6:30 pm

North Bay Boardroom

NNDSB Head Office
963 Airport Rd., North Bay, ON.

AGENDA

1.0 Call to Order

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.

2.0 Request for Leaves of Absence

Motion:

In accordance with BL-102, be it resolved that Trustee(s) Shane Hall be granted a leave of absence from the October 14, 2025 Board meeting, as confirmation of regrets was provided in advance of the meeting.

3.0 Attendance

- 3.1 Confirmation of Quorum
- 3.2 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

4.0 Approval of the Agenda ✓

Motion: That the agenda for the Board meeting of October 14, 2025 be approved.

5.0 Approval of Previous Minutes ✓ ✓

Motion: That the minutes of the regular Board meeting of September 9, 2025 be approved.

6.0 Communication to the Board

6.1 Information Items

- 6.1.1 Monthly Tender Report – nil report
- 6.1.2 Monthly Meeting Calendar ✓
- 6.1.3 Life Promotion, Suicide Prevention, Intervention AG ✓
- 6.1.4 Elementary Class Size Compliant report ✓
- 6.1.5 Enrolment report ✓
- 6.1.6 Director's Update ✓

6.2 Chair's Remarks

6.3 OPSBA Report – Trustee Steer

6.4 Student Trustees' Update
Indigenous Youth Circle Update
Student Trustee Report

6.5 Community Involvement
Scheduled Delegations – n/a

7.0 Items for Decision

7.1 Report from the Committee of the Whole Public Session

7.2 Levying Education Taxes Bylaw 2026 ✓
Motion: Whereas subsection 257.7(1) of the *Education Act* requires the Board to levy the tax rates prescribed under section 257.12 of the Act;

And whereas Ontario Regulation 400/98 prescribes the tax rates under subsection 257.12 of the Act;

Be it resolved that the NNDSB Board of Trustees enacts that the rates set out in Ontario Regulation 400/98 for 2026 are levied in localities within the area of jurisdiction of the Board on the property indicated in section 257.7 of the Act.

7.3 Trustee Honorarium ✓ ✓✓
That the Near North District School Board approves the trustee honoraria for 2025-2026 as presented, effective November 15, 2025.

8.0 Committee Reports and Minutes

- 8.1 Audit Committee 25-06-23 (official) ✓
- 8.2 Finance Committee 25-06-17 (official) ✓
- 8.3 Finance Committee Quarterly Report
- 8.4 SEAC 25-06-19 (official) ✓
- 8.5 Governance Update

9.0 Next meeting Date: November 11, 2025 (Organizational and Regular)

10.0 Adjournment

Motion:

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



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

The September 9, 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, Chair
Howard Wesley, Vice Chair
Jay Aspin
John Arkwright
Caren Gagne
Shane Hall
Krista Messenger
Louise Sargent
Dev Bassi, Student Trustee
Riley Trudeau, 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
Gerri Ciccarelli, Exec. Assistant to the Director
Maureen Egan, Office of the Director
Glenn Morrison, Manager of IT
Deb Bartlett, Communications
Liana Blaskievich, Officer Corporate Affairs

Regrets: B. Steer

Other:

Staff, media, community members

1.0 Call to Order

Chair St. Pierre called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

Vice-Chair Wesley read the Land Acknowledgement.

2.0 Request for Leave of Absence

Motion: 25-09-01, J. Aspin/S. Hall

In accordance with BL-102, be it resolved that Trustee Bill Steer be granted a leave of absence from the September 9, 2025 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 - none declared.

4.0 Approval of the Agenda

Motion: 25-09-02, L.Sargent/H. Wesley

That the agenda for the Board meeting of September 9, 2025, be approved as amended. The amendment being the addition of the appointment of Krista Messenger as Trustee. – CARRIED

Motion: 25-09-03, S. Hall/C.Gagne

That Dev Bassi, of Chippewa Secondary School, be appointed as the Student Trustee for the 2025/26 school year, as recommended by the Near North Student Sentate. – CARRIED

Motion: 25-09-04, S.Hall/C.Gagne

That the Board accept the resignation of Trustee Julie Bertram with regrets effective August 28, 2025. - CARRIED

Motion: 25-09-05, J. Aspin/L.Sargent

That Krista Messenger be appointed trustee until the next municipal election. - CARRIED

Following the oath of allegiance delivered by Director Myles, Trustee Messenger spoke to the Board saying she is honoured to join the board and that being selected by trustees is particularly meaningful. She also noted her deep connection to the education sector personally and professionally and looks forward to robust discussions and collective decision making.

Chair St. Pierre noted that the decision to appoint Trustee Messenger was unanimous.

5.0 Approval of Previous Minutes

Motion: 25-09-06, S.Hall/L.Sargent

That the minutes of the regular Board meeting of June 10, 2025 be approved. – CARRIED.

Motion: 25-09-07, S.Hall/L.Sargent

That the minutes of the special Board meeting of July 21, 2025 be approved. – CARRIED

Trustee Sargent requested the minutes of the special Board meeting of August 19, 2025 be included for future reference.

6.0 Communication to the Board

Information Items – Chair St. Pierre noted the following information items provided in advance to trustees and requested any questions be emailed to the Director's office. Vice-Chair Wesley apologized to Parry Sound parents regarding the delay and

acknowledged the work of the group Parents for Parry Sound coalition and congratulated Leila Kennedy on her recent media interview.

6.1.1 Monthly Tender Report – nil report

6.1.2 Monthly Meeting Calendar

6.1.3 Director's Update

6.1.4 Correspondence

- Correspondence to Chair from Minister Calandra July 25, 2025
- Correspondence to Chair from Stephanie Donaldson August 20, 2025
- Correspondence to Chair from Minister Calandra August 29, 2025
- Correspondence to NNDSB from Parents for Parry Sound August 11, 2025
- Correspondence to NNDSB from Parents for Parry Sound August 12, 2025
- Correspondence to NNDSB from Parents for Parry Sound August 14, 2025
- Correspondence to NNDSB from Town of Parry Sound August 13, 2025
- Correspondence to Minister from Township of McKellar September 4, 2025

6.2 Chair's Remarks

"Good evening everyone and welcome back. I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer. The start of a new school year always comes with excitement and possibility. As trustees, we are entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring that every decision we make continues to support student achievement and well-being, and reflects the trust our communities place in us. Thank you."

6.3 OPSBA Report n/a

6.4 Student Trustees' Updates

Student Trustee Bassi and Indigenous Trustee Trudeau read their reports to the Board noting many school start up activities and other events happening in NN schools. Trustee Bassi was pleased to inform the board he is OSTA-AECO's Vice-President this year.

6.5 Community Involvement n/a

7.0 Items for Decision

7.1 Report from the Closed Committee of the Whole Session – n/a

7.2 Report from the Committee of the Whole Public Session – n/a

7.4 Motion: 25-09-08, C.Gagne/J.Aspin

That the Board approve the 2025/26 OPSBA membership fees. - CARRIED

7.5 Motion: 25-09-09, L.Sargent/J.Aspin

That the Board approve the 2025/26 Ontario Student Trustees' Association membership fees. - CARRIED

7.6 Motion: 25-09-10, S.Hall/J.Arkwright

That the Board approve the following trustees to attend the OPSBA Northern Regional Conference in Sault Ste. Marie October 17-18, 2025: Bill Steer, Caren Gagne and Jay Aspin. – CARRIED (*trustees to arrange their own travel/accommodations*)

7.7 Motion: 25-09-11, H.Welsley/K.Messenger

That the Board approve the following student trustees to attend the OSTA Fall General meeting in Toronto November 13-16, 2025 if they choose to attend: Riley Trudeau and Dev Bassi. - CARRIED

7.8 Motion: 25-09-12, C.Gagne/H.Wesley

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

7.9 Motion: 25-09-13, S.Hall/C.Gagne

That the Board approve the appointment of Ashley St. Pierre to the Audit Committee. – CARRIED

Motion: 25-09-14, S.Hall/H.Wesley

That the Board approve the appointment of Caren Gagne to the Finance Committee. – CARRIED

Motion: 25-09-15, S.Hall/J.Arkwright

That Louise Sargent and Krista Messenger be appointed to the Governance Committee. - CARRIED

8.0 Committee Minutes

8.1 Finance Committee Quarterly Report ✓

8.2 PIC Year-end Report ✓

8.3 MYSP Yearly Strategic Progress Plan Review ✓

8.4 Governance Committee - verbal update

9.0 Next meeting Date: October 14, 2025

10.0 Adjournment

Motion: 25-09-16, S.Hall/K.Messenger

That on September 9, 2025 we do now adjourn at 6:54 pm.

Ashley St. Pierre
Chair

Craig Myles
Director

RESOLUTION SUMMARY

25-09-01 J.Aspin S.Hall	In accordance with BL-102, be it resolved that Trustee Bill Steer be granted a leave of absence from the September 9, 2025 Board meeting, as confirmation of regrets was provided in advance of the meeting. - CARRIED
25-09-02 L.Sargent H.Wesley	That the agenda for the Board meeting of September 9, 2025, be approved as amended. The amendment being the addition of the appointment of Krista Messenger as Trustee. –

Minutes of the Public Session Board Meeting of the Near North District School Board held September 9, 2025

	CARRIED
25-09-03 S.Hall C.Gagne	That Dev Bassi, of Chippewa Secondary School, be appointed as the Student Trustee for the 2025/26 school year, as recommended by the Near North Student Senate. – CARRIED
25-09-04 S.Hall C.Gagne	That the Board accept the resignation of Trustee Julie Bertram with regrets effective August 28, 2025. - CARRIED
25-06-05 J.Aspin L.Sargent	That Krista Messenger be appointed trustee until the next municipal election. - CARRIED
25-09-06 S.Hall L.Sargent	That the minutes of the regular Board meeting of June 10, 2025 be approved. – CARRIED.
25-09-07 C.Gagne B.Steer	That the minutes of the special Board meeting of July 21, 2025 be approved. – CARRIED
25-09-08 C.Gagne J.Aspin	That the Board approve the 2025/26 OPSBA membership fees. - CARRIED
25-09-09 L.Sargent J.Aspin	That the Board approve the 2025/26 Ontario Student Trustees' Association membership fees. - CARRIED
25-09-10 S.Hall J.Arkwright	That the Board approve the following trustees to attend the OPSBA Northern Regional Conference in Sault Ste. Marie October 17-18, 2025: Bill Steer, Caren Gagne and Jay Aspin. – CARRIED
25-09-11 H.Wesley K.Messenger	That the Board approve the following student trustees to attend the OSTA Fall General meeting in Toronto November 13-16, 2025 if they choose to attend: Riley Trudeau and Dev Bassi. - CARRIED
25-09-12 C.Gagne H.Wesley	That the Board approve the Statement by Treasurer regarding Borrowing for Current Expenditures. – CARRIED
25-09-13 S.Hall C.Gagne	That the Board approve the appointment of Ashley St. Pierre to the Audit Committee. - CARRIED
25-09-14 S.Hall H.Wesley	That the Board approve the appointment of Caren Gagne to the Finance Committee. – CARRIED
25-09-15 S.Hall J.Arkwright	That Louise Sargent and Krista Messenger be appointed to the Governance Committee. - CARRIED
25-09-16 S.Hall K.Messenger	That on September 9, 2025, we do now adjourn at 6:54 pm. – CARRIED

BOARD REPORT

Title:	Board of Trustees Committee Meeting Calendar October/November 2025
Board Committees	It is noted that the Board of Trustees has structured committees for the purposes of conducting its work more effectively. Committees of the Board of Trustees are comprised of: • Statutory Committees- which are established under Provincial Regulations and have mandates, composition, and terms of reference as required by the Regulations; • Ad Hoc Committees- which are formed to assist the Board by doing “pre-Board work” to address a specific topic or project. The NNDSB Board of Trustees welcomes members of the public to attend as observers to public Board of Trustee committee meetings. In support of this commitment, upcoming committee dates are listed below.
Current Scheduled Meetings	<u>Finance</u> (contact Stephanie Courchesne) December 16, 2025 <u>Governance</u> (contact Gerri Cicciarelli) October and November (tbc) <u>MYSP Committee</u> (contact Gerri Cicciarelli) October tbc <u>PIC</u> (contact Stephanie Norrie) September 24 at 6:00 pm <u>SEAC</u> (contact Stephanie Norrie) October 22 at 1:00 pm November 26 at 1:00 pm

BOARD REPORT

Title:	Revised Suicide Risk Management Administrative Guideline: Life Promotion, Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention (DRAFT for Consultation)
Contact:	Superintendent Graves
Date Submitted:	October 14, 2025
Background:	The Suicide Risk Management Administrative Guideline was last updated May 22, 2018. It was determined that the Guideline should be updated following new training and materials provided by School Mental Health Ontario, specifically from the guide entitled Suicide Prevention and Life Promotion in Schools: A National Guide for System Leaders
Summary of Changes:	The previous Administrative Guideline contained outdated information and referenced appendices that were not in effect. The revised guideline has been streamlined to ensure that all staff or members of the public will be able to locate the most up-to-date information from our board website. This change will allow us to be responsive to changes as they arise. It also provides immediate actions for staff to take in cases of imminent emergency.
Recommendation (s):	That the Board of Trustees receive the draft version of the Life Promotion, Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention Administrative Guideline as an information item, following which it will begin its 30 days of consultation.

Title: Life Promotion, Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention

Effective Date: October 14, 2025

Responsibility: Superintendent of Mental Health

1.0 Rationale:

The Near North District School Board is committed to providing safe, welcoming and supportive learning environments for staff and students. All school boards promote student well-being and at times are faced with supporting students who are having thoughts of suicide and may need to respond to a student death by suicide.

Effective suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention is a shared responsibility within a full system of care activated by the Board and community partners. “Whole school programs and strategies that promote mental health and well-being are considered the most effective way of preventing suicide.” ([Suicide Prevention and Life Promotion in Schools](#), page 30)

2.0 Purpose:

NNDSB addresses emergency and urgent needs where the elevated risk of a student needs immediate attention due to expressed thoughts of suicide or evidence of acts of suicide. The process of assessment may be supported by a member of the NNDSB’s mental health team or may be referred to community agencies. For more information about school response and assessment, please see our website (nearnorthschools.ca) under *Mental Health Resources*.

3.0 Guiding Principles:

- The safety and well-being of ALL students is our primary consideration and response to suicide risk is of the utmost priority.
- All expressed thoughts of suicide will be taken seriously.
- Students who disclose suicidal thoughts and/or behaviours will be treated with discretion, respect and dignity.
- Risk identification is responsive and timely.
- At no time is a student to be left alone until supports are in place.

IMMINENT EMERGENCY RISK – defined as any life-threatening action that requires immediate medical intervention (i.e. taken an overdose of pills)

1. CONTACT EMERGENCY SERVICES 911

2. Notify Principal/Vice-Principal as soon as possible

3. Principal or delegate will notify Parent/Guardian as soon as possible

BOARD REPORT

Title:	Elementary Class Size Reporting for 2025-2026
Contact:	Superintendent of Business Seija Van Haesendonck
Date Submitted:	October 14, 2025
Mandate:	Excellence in Communication – We are committed to promoting public confidence and community support in public education through timely, accurate, effective, and transparent communication of Board initiatives, vision and goals.
Background:	As per Memo 2025: SB04, dated September 2, 2025, the Board is required to submit the 2025-2026 Elementary Class Size Reporting Form by October 31, 2025, attesting to compliance with Ontario Regulation 132/12 - <i>Class Size</i>. As per the regulation, the Board is required to maintain 100% of its primary classes at or below 23, and 90% at or below 20. The Board's average class size for Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) classes must not exceed 26, with a maximum of 29 pupils per class for the 2025-26 school year. The Board must also maintain a maximum board-wide average class size for grades 4 to 8 of 23.30. As per the attached 2025-26 Elementary Class Size statistics report, the Board meets the class size requirements as follows: % primary classes 20 and under – 92% % primary classes 23 and under – 100.0% - Average junior/intermediate class size – 23.2 - Average kindergarten class size – 21.0 - Number of kindergarten classes at or below 29 – 100.0%

2025-2026 Board Statistics

(This section is for information purposes only and does not require user input.
Statistics will populate automatically when data is entered in "3. Class Size Data".
Please ensure your Excel calculation mode is set to automatic - see instructions Guide
for details)

Board Name	Near North DSB
Board Number	B28037

Number of Reporting Errors in DATA	0
------------------------------------	---

Key Statistics

Percentage Primary Classes 20 and Under	92%
Number of Primary Classes Over 23	-
Average Junior/Intermediate (grades 4-8) Class Size	23.2
Number of Primary/Junior Combined Classes Over 23	-
Average Kindergarten Class Size	21
Number of Kindergarten Classes (Pure) At or Below 29	51
Number of Kindergarten Classes (Pure) Between 30 and 32	-
Number of Kindergarten Classes (Pure) Above 32	-
Percentage Kindergarten Classes (Pure) Between 30 and 32	0%

General Statistics

TOTAL Number of Classes Reported	312
TOTAL Number of Schools Reported	29
TOTAL Enrolment of All Classes Reported	6572

Information on Kindergarten Classes

Number of Kindergarten Classes (Pro-rated)	51
Kindergarten Enrolment	1,068

Information on Primary Classes

Percentage of Primary Classes

20 and under	92%
21	1%
22	4%
23	2%
24	0%
25 and more	0%

Number of Primary Classes

20 and under	84
21	1
22	4
23	2
24	-
25 and more	-
Total Number of Primary Classes	91

Information on Junior/Intermediate (grades 4-8) Classes

Number of Junior/Intermediate (grades 4-8) Classes	158
Enrolment in Junior/Intermediate (grades 4-8) Classes	3,672

Information on Self-Contained Special Education Classes

Number of Self-Contained Special Education Classes	12
Self-Contained Special Education Enrolment	76

Title:	Preliminary 2025-2026 Enrolment information																																								
Contact:	Superintendent Van Haesendonck																																								
Date Submitted:	October 14, 2025																																								
Mandate	Multi-Year Strategic Plan Objectives: Become a data-driven, strategically managed organization. Ensure that the NNDSB is managed efficiently and is financially sustainable year over year and for the long term. Make decisions that are sustainable.																																								
Current	A preliminary elementary enrolment count was taken as of September 5, 2025 to complete the elementary class size reporting, and related reorganization. A secondary enrolment count was also taken as of September 5, but as with the elementary enrolment, the secondary numbers are very preliminary and are expected to change as at the first 2025-2026 official count date of October 31. Enrolment adjusts as student registrations are reviewed, students enter or leave the board, and secondary students change their schedules, potentially changing their FTE. The enrolment count is also an “all pupils” count, meaning that students are not separated between “pupils of the board” and “other pupils of the board” in this count. As noted in the tables below, the September 5 preliminary count showed a decrease from projected enrolment of 185 students (36 elementary students and 149 secondary students). It was noted that in the Parry Sound region, although there has been a shift of enrolment between schools, elementary enrolment in the region is very close to the overall projected enrolment. More recent counts have shown a reversal of the initial enrolment decrease, with overall enrolment currently reflecting slightly above board-wide projections. It is important to note that Core Ed funding is based on the enrolment as of October 31 and March 31 each school year.																																								
	<table><tr><th colspan="4">Secondary Panel with projected 2025-26 ADE enrolment compared to Sep 5 count date</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>Proj</th><th>Sep 5</th><th>Change</th></tr><tr><td>Almaguin</td><td>584</td><td>568</td><td>-16</td></tr><tr><td>Chippewa</td><td>778</td><td>721</td><td>-57</td></tr><tr><td>F.J. McElligott Secondary</td><td>121</td><td>121</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Laurentian</td><td>78</td><td>66</td><td>-12</td></tr><tr><td>Northern</td><td>171</td><td>169</td><td>-2</td></tr><tr><td>Parry Sound HS</td><td>596</td><td>545</td><td>-51</td></tr><tr><td>West Ferris Secondary</td><td>770</td><td>759</td><td>-11</td></tr><tr><td>Board Total</td><td>3,098</td><td>2,949</td><td>-149</td></tr></table>	Secondary Panel with projected 2025-26 ADE enrolment compared to Sep 5 count date					Proj	Sep 5	Change	Almaguin	584	568	-16	Chippewa	778	721	-57	F.J. McElligott Secondary	121	121	0	Laurentian	78	66	-12	Northern	171	169	-2	Parry Sound HS	596	545	-51	West Ferris Secondary	770	759	-11	Board Total	3,098	2,949	-149
Secondary Panel with projected 2025-26 ADE enrolment compared to Sep 5 count date																																									
	Proj	Sep 5	Change																																						
Almaguin	584	568	-16																																						
Chippewa	778	721	-57																																						
F.J. McElligott Secondary	121	121	0																																						
Laurentian	78	66	-12																																						
Northern	171	169	-2																																						
Parry Sound HS	596	545	-51																																						
West Ferris Secondary	770	759	-11																																						
Board Total	3,098	2,949	-149																																						

Elementary Panel with projected 2025-26 ADE enrolment compared to Sep 5 count date			
	Proj	Sep 5	Change
Alliance	427	454	27
Argyle	61	59	-2
Britt	29	48	19
Chippewa Intermediate	402	387	-15
Evergreen Heights	252	265	13
F.J. McElligott Intermediate	36	36	0
Ferris Glen	215	204	-11
Humphrey	208	218	10
Land of Lakes	326	306	-20
M.T. Davidson	174	170	-4
MacTier	90	82	-8
Magnetawan	81	80	-1
Maple View	399	396	-3
Mapleridge	260	265	5
Mattawa	118	119	1
McDougall	273	243	-30
Nobel	194	187	-7
Parry Sound Public	430	449	19
Phelps	110	107	-3
Silver Birches	189	195	6
South River	154	159	5
South Shore	130	124	-6
Sundridge	227	238	11
Sunset Park	365	349	-16
Vincent Massey	386	373	-13
West Ferris Intermediate	261	250	-11
White Woods	295	320	25
Whitestone	56	60	4
Woodland	460	429	-31
Board Total	6,608	6,572	-36

All Panels – Sep 5, 2025 count date						
Elementary		Secondary		Total		
Proj	Sep 5	Proj	Sep 5	Proj	Sep 5	Change
6,608	6,572	3,098	2,949	9,706	9,521	-185

Title:	Director's Update
Contact:	Craig Myles, Director of Education
Date Submitted:	Board Meeting October 14, 2025
Welcome	Welcome everyone. The first month of the school year is already complete. It has been tremendously busy with schools engaged in early assessment and responsive teaching practice. It's great to see NNDSB extra-curricular activities in full swing. Clubs and teams have resumed, and schools are alive with activity. Congratulations to the West Ferris junior girls' basketball team for making it to the finals of the annual Trojan Tip-off tournament. The team lost to a team from Sudbury but continues to improve its game daily. Thanks to the coaches and volunteers whose efforts in extra-curricular activities add so much to the lives of NNDSB students.
Excellence in relationships	The Indigenous Education Team provided a Virtual Truth and Reconciliation Learning Session for all Near North students and staff on Monday September 29th and as usual, schools were awash with orange on September 30th to mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. We honour the lost children and survivors of residential schools and recognize the atrocities and multi-generational effects of the Canadian Residential School System. The Safe Schools Team is partnering with Ontario Northland Transportation Corporation (ONTC) to bring rail safety education to all students across the district. This is important information as we look to the future with the operation of the Northlander train, which will travel the Timmins -Toronto corridor daily. As exciting as this is, there are some concerns given that this is a new, state of the art train which makes it extremely quiet. The team has created materials with support from ONTC and Operation Lifesaver, which are available via a Rail Safety SharePoint for educators from Kindergarten to Grade 12 with access to lesson plans, PowerPoints, activity books, videos and websites. Thank you to all the school teams who have been hosting BBQs and other events to welcome new students and families to their schools. These informal events are a great way for families to learn more about the school and meet staff in a friendly atmosphere. Parents may want to consider becoming part of their school's parent council. This is a great way for families to learn more about their children's school.

	Many of our schools have been sharing news about events and activities, some of which would not be possible without the support of local businesses. Thanks so much to the businesses that contribute in so many ways to the experiences that enrich the lives of NNDSB students.
Excellence in Teaching and Learning	<u>Mathematics</u> To begin the 25-26 school year, educators are initiating routines and establishing math mindsets using resources such as "Launching Math Routines" and "First X Days". Students are being reintroduced to digital math tools such as Dreambox and Knowledgehook, allowing educators to initiate the first diagnostic assessments and complete check-in activities. In mid-October, educators will engage their students in the Cycle 1 MAAP assessments on Knowledgehook to measure any changes in student progress and determine precise next steps. This data will determine which concepts may need review or reteaching, and which students might benefit from small group instructional support. At the September 26th PA Day, all elementary math educators took part in regional presentations to support planning and assessment. Time was spent engaging in meaningful and personalized mathematics learning with a focus on deliberate practice and math fluency. Educators also used their classroom math data to explore "Short Cycles of Learning" and plan next steps to close gaps for their learners. <u>Two Near North Math Educators Honoured</u> Two educators from the Near North District School Board have been recognized for their outstanding contributions to math education. Gail Dégagné and Laurie Clayton won the Ontario Mathematics Coordinators Association (OMCA) Award for Excellence and Innovation in Mathematics Education. Collectively, alongside their team, these educators have contributed to the development of central key resources, which play an instrumental role in unifying how teachers approach mathematics planning and teaching across the board and break down barriers to access to learning. We are immensely proud of Gail and Laurie and this entire team. <u>Literacy</u> Educators have begun the year collecting Acadience Reading Screening Assessment Data. In 2024-25 16,411 Early Reading Screening Assessments were completed. End of year data shows that, on average, students in grades 1-6 increased their reading fluency by 13.8 words per minute. Accuracy also increased, on average, by 4%. The number of students reaching grade level benchmarks increased by an average of 5% per grade over the course of the 2024-25 school year.

	In 2025-26, as educators gain comfort with the assessments, there is increased focus on appropriate instruction for each student based on their Beginning-Of-Year (B-O-Y) assessments. To-date, K-8 educators have successfully reviewed 85.3% of screening assessments on all students in their classes. Throughout the course of the year, the itinerant system literacy team will continue to work on deepening school team knowledge and confidence in using this student data to inform and drive programming and instructional decisions. As a screening assessment, the data also identifies students who are at risk and need varying levels of literacy intervention. Schools are being supported as they collaborate with both internal and external partners/resources to provide wrap-around support for these students to ensure all students can access their learning and grow as readers and writers. As a snapshot, when we look at this year's grade two and grade six cohorts, we see an increase of 23% and 27%, respectively, in the number of students reaching Benchmark on their B-O-Y assessments, compared to the previous year.
Capital Updates	In Parry Sound, staff continue to complete work as communicated in the Public Update: Next Steps Toward Occupancy of the New JK-12 School found on the page dedicated to updates regarding this school. This site is updated continually. You are encouraged to visit the site regularly for accurate and timely data. Proceeds of disposition EW Norman Public School and ET Carmichael Public School have been allocated to the Parry Sound build funding commitment according to the agreement with the Ministry of Education. Widdifield Secondary School, located on Ski Club Road in North Bay, was not identified for disposal as part of the 3:2 consolidation in North Bay. Therefore it was not included in the funding commitment for the JK-12 Parry Sound build. It remains closed as a school but has not been identified as surplus to the Board. In an initial Ministry of Education (MOE) property inventory of 2023, the property was identified as under review for possible student accommodation needs in the next ten years. No NNDSB board properties, not already part of an ARC agreement, were identified by the MOE for mandatory disposition in two subsequent "Standard Disposition Intake" forms received by NNDSB from the MOE in 2024 and 2025. As previously reported on several occasions, and most recently in the Report to Board of June 10, 2025, the property must be maintained in good functional condition because it is occupied by several departments for which the Board does not have the capacity to accommodate elsewhere. This was part of the North Bay Consolidation plan. These departments include: Maintenance, Grounds, Electrical and Plumbing

	Classroom Resource Centre Health and Safety Department Director's Satellite Office Communications Department Storage (for example): • special education equipment • seasonal grounds equipment • maintenance and custodial equipment • furnishings • educational resources Shipping and Receiving: • inventory and redistribution • general equipment and resource • transfer, inventory and distribution of furnishings • general shipping and receiving In keeping with the original plan, there is intent to transfer additional board departments, and/or staff and students to the former Widdifield S.S. These plans will resume when other Board priorities have been finalized. In order to offset operational costs, NNDSB continues to secure leases, support community endeavours and not-for-profit charitable organizations. NNDSB will continue to lend a helping hand to community organizations pending any final decision on the future of the former Widdifield site. The North Bay Consolidation Committee continues to meet and will keep the Board apprised.
Special Events	<u>Welcome to North Bay Event</u> On Saturday Sept 13, the following dedicated group of staff volunteered their time to attend the third annual Welcome to North Bay Event. The event is an opportunity to meet new families, recruit staff and provide school and program information. This year the event drew over 500 participants, including booths from 67 community organizations. We are proud and grateful to have staff who would volunteer their time to represent NNDSB. - Secondary Program and Pathways Coordinator, Jocelyn Bell; - Dual Credit Teacher, Alysha Young; - Elementary Principal Margaret McDiarmid; - Human Resources Coordinator Mathew Arsenault

	<u>Special Recognition Days</u> Throughout the year, various professional groups involved in the education sector are acknowledged. At Near North District School Board, we use the week in which World Teachers' Day (Oct.5) occurs to recognize the work done by ALL the professional groups that contribute to student success. I want to thank all staff for their contributions to education at NNDSB. October is Cyber Awareness Month. The Educational Collaborative Network of Ontario, which supports Ontario's 72 school boards in maximizing the impact of IT on 21st-century education, will be providing NNDSB with tips to be more cyber aware. Watch for links and resources on the board's social media channels. Other Special Recognition for October includes but is not limited to: Learning Disabilities Month Dyslexia Awareness Month Women's History Month Canadian Autism Awareness Month National Custodian Day (Oct. 2) International Walk to School Day (Oct. 1) World Teacher's Day (Oct. 5) World Mental Health Day (Oct.10) Local Government Week (Oct. 19-25) Take Me Outside Day (Oct. 22) Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day (Oct. 21) School Bus Safety Week (Oct. 27-31) School Bus Driver Appreciation Day (Oct. 23) Dress Purple Day (children's rights) (Oct. 25)
Administrative Guidelines for Consultation	Draft Administrative Guidelines (AG) are placed on the website for the public consultation phase. Feedback will be collected for 30 days. Currently there are three AGs for feedback: Safe Arrivals, Crisis Response and Volunteers in Schools. As a reminder, invitations for feedback are located here along with the full inventory of NNDSB administrative guidelines: https://www.nearnorthschools.ca/board/administrative-guidelines/

BOARD REPORT

Title:	By-law Levying Education Taxes for 2026 Subsection 257.7(1) of the <i>Education Act</i>
Contact:	Seija Van Haesendonck, Superintendent of Business
Date Submitted:	October 14, 2025
Mandate:	School boards are responsible for levying tax at the rates set out in Ontario Regulation 400/98 made under the Act and are required to pass by-laws annually for that purpose.
Background:	In accordance with subsection 257.11 of the Act, the Ministry of Finance will pay out to the school boards the amounts levied annually in respect of Education Taxes. These payments will be made on or before the regular installment dates of: These payments will be made in 2026 on or before the regular installment dates of: ▪ March 28th ▪ June 30th ▪ September 30th ▪ December 15th To be eligible to receive installment payments as described above, the by-law levying the tax must be passed, and evidence of same must be received by the Ministry no later than December 31, 2025.
Recommendation:	That the Board approve the following: Whereas subsection 257.7(1) of the <i>Education Act</i> (Act) requires the Board to levy the tax rates prescribed under section 257.12 of the Act; And whereas Ontario Regulation 400/98 prescribes the tax rates under subsection 257.12(1) of the Act; Now therefore the Board enacts as follows: The rates set out in Ontario Regulation 400/98 for 2026 are hereby levied in localities within the area of jurisdiction of the Board on the property indicated in section 257.7 of the Act.

Ministry of Finance

Compliance Branch
Provincial Land Tax
PO Box 625
33 King Street West
Oshawa ON L1H 8H9
Tel: 1 905 431-8564
Fax: 905 433-5770

Ministère des Finances

Direction de l'observation fiscal
L'impôt foncier provincial
C.P. 625
33, rue King Ouest
Oshawa ON L1H 8H9
Tél: 1 905 431-8564
Télé: 905 433-5770



September 8, 2025

Sent via email only: Seija.VanHaesendonck@nearnorthschools.ca

Near North District School Board

Attention: Seija Van Haesendonck
963 Airport Road
PO Box 3110
North Bay ON P1B 8H1

Re: By-law Levying Education Taxes for 2026
Subsection 257.7(1) of the *Education Act* (Act)

School boards are responsible for levying tax at the rates set out in Ontario Regulation 400/98 made under the Act and are required to pass by-laws annually for that purpose. Attached is sample wording that can be used for the purposes of passing the said by-law.

In accordance with subsection 257.11 of the Act, the Ministry of Finance will pay out to the school boards the amounts levied annually in respect of Education Taxes.

These payments will be made on or before the regular installment dates of:

- March 28th
- June 30th
- September 30th
- December 15th

To be eligible to receive installment payments as detailed above, your by-law levying the tax must be passed, and evidence of the same must be received by the ministry, no later than December 31, 2025.

Please forward an originally signed by-law to my attention at the above noted address.

If you wish, you may also e-mail an electronic version of your signed by-law to michelle.spellen@ontario.ca, however, the original must be submitted prior to December 31, 2025.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact the writer directly.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "M L Spellen".

Michelle Spellen
Provincial Land Tax Program Analyst
Ministry of Finance

enclosure

Sample wording:

Whereas subsection 257.7(1) of the *Education Act* (Act) requires the Board to levy the tax rates prescribed under section 257.12 of the Act;

And whereas Ontario Regulation 400/98 prescribes the tax rates under subsection 257.12(1) of the Act;

Now therefore the Board enacts as follows:

The rates set out in Ontario Regulation 400/98 for 2026 are hereby levied in localities within the area of jurisdiction of the Board on the property indicated in section 257.7 of the Act.

Dated this ____ day of _____, 2025.

BOARD REPORT

Title:	Trustee Honoraria 2025																							
Contact:	Superintendent of Business Seija Van Haesendonck																							
Date Submitted:	October 14, 2025																							
Mandate:	Excellence in Communication – We are committed to promoting public confidence and community support in public education through timely, accurate, effective, and transparent communication of Board initiatives, vision and goals.																							
Background:	Ontario Regulation 357/06 Honoraria for Board Members outlines the process through which school boards shall calculate the limits on honoraria paid to trustees under section 191 of the <i>Education Act</i>, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2. Attached is a copy of Ontario Regulation 357/06 for your reference. The trustee honorarium is calculated taking into consideration the following components as defined by O. Reg. 357/06: base amount, enrolment amount, attendance amount, and distance amount. The components and amounts of the honorarium are established by policy by the board of trustees in office (predecessor board), on or before October 15 of the calendar year in which the term of office begins for the newly elected trustees. The board may change the policy at any time during the year in such a manner that a component may not be paid, the amount of the component is lowered or the percentage applied in calculating the enrolment is reduced for a year. If the policy is changed for a year, the original policy may be reinstated at any time during the term to which the policy applies. In 2025, the fourth year of a member's term of office begins November 15 and ends on November 14, 2026. The enrolment portion of the honorarium is calculated annually for the beginning of each new term of office. This is calculated using the estimate of the board's day school average daily enrolment of the fiscal year that ends in the calendar year in which the year of a term of office begins. This year the average daily enrolment for day school was obtained from the 2024-2025 estimates (fiscal year ending August 31, 2025). For 2025, Trustee honoraria is calculated as follows, effective November 15, 2025 (the first pay deposit will fall on November 21, 2025): <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Member:</th><th>Base Amount:</th><th>Enrolment Amount:</th><th>Attendance Amount:</th><th>Total Amount:</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Chair</td><td>\$ 10,900.00</td><td>\$ 2,459.51</td><td>NIL</td><td>\$13,359.51</td></tr> <tr> <td>Vice-Chair</td><td>\$ 8,400.00</td><td>\$2,209.51</td><td>NIL</td><td>\$10,609.51</td></tr> <tr> <td>Trustee</td><td>\$ 5,900.00</td><td>\$1,959.51</td><td>NIL</td><td>\$7,859.51</td></tr> </tbody> </table>				Member:	Base Amount:	Enrolment Amount:	Attendance Amount:	Total Amount:	Chair	\$ 10,900.00	\$ 2,459.51	NIL	\$13,359.51	Vice-Chair	\$ 8,400.00	\$2,209.51	NIL	\$10,609.51	Trustee	\$ 5,900.00	\$1,959.51	NIL	\$7,859.51
Member:	Base Amount:	Enrolment Amount:	Attendance Amount:	Total Amount:																				
Chair	\$ 10,900.00	\$ 2,459.51	NIL	\$13,359.51																				
Vice-Chair	\$ 8,400.00	\$2,209.51	NIL	\$10,609.51																				
Trustee	\$ 5,900.00	\$1,959.51	NIL	\$7,859.51																				

	As outlined by O. Reg. 357/06, the distance amount cannot exceed \$50.00, and may be paid to a member for attending in person at any meeting of the board or of a committee of the board that is required to be established by an Act or a regulation made under an Act. On the day of the meeting, the distance between the member's residence and the place where the meeting is held must be more than 200 kilometres, for the member to be eligible to receive the amount, and the member may only receive the distance amount once in respect of any day. The distance amount per meeting for each eligible member is paid separately. Given that the distance amount may be paid to the member for attending any meeting of the board or a committee of the board that is required to be established by an Act or a Regulation under an Act, a list of actual meetings that this distance amount is calculated on should be confirmed.
Recommendation:	That the Near North District School Board approves the trustee honoraria for 2025-2026 as presented, effective November 15, 2025.

Education Act

**ONTARIO REGULATION 357/06
HONORARIA FOR BOARD MEMBERS**

Consolidation Period: From July 29, 2024 to the [e-Laws currency date](#).

Last amendment: 311/24.

Legislative History: 163/07, 190/10, 164/11, 57/12, 81/14, 190/14, 292/18 (as am. by 436/18), 436/18, 311/24.

This is the English version of a bilingual regulation.

Purpose

1. This Regulation sets out the method for calculating the limits on honoraria paid under section 191 of the Act. O. Reg. 357/06, s. 1; O. Reg. 57/12, s. 1.

Components of honorarium

2. (1) For a term of office beginning in 2006 or later, the honorarium for a member of a district school board, in respect of any year of his or her term of office, shall consist of such of the following components as the board determines, subject to section 4;

1. The base amount for the year.
2. The enrolment amount for the year.
3. The attendance amounts payable to the member for the year.
4. The distance amounts payable to the member for the year. O. Reg. 357/06, s. 2 (1).

(2) In 2018, 2019 and 2020, the year of a member's term of office begins on December 1 and ends on the following November 30. O. Reg. 292/18, s. 2.

(3) In 2021, the year of a member's term of office begins on December 1 and ends on the following November 14. O. Reg. 292/18, s. 2.

(4) Beginning in 2022, a year of a member's term of office begins on November 15 and ends on the following November 14. O. Reg. 292/18, s. 2.

3. REVOKED: O. Reg. 190/10, s. 1.

Policy re honorarium components

4. (1) For a term of office beginning in 2006 or later, the board shall establish a policy, on or before October 15 of the calendar year in which the term of office begins, with respect to,

- (a) which components listed in paragraphs 1 to 4 of subsection 2 (1) it will pay during the term of office;
- (b) for the base amount, the attendance amount and the distance amount, if the component will be paid, the amount of the component to be paid to a member for each year of the term of office, determined in accordance with sections 5, 7 and 8; and
- (c) for the enrolment amount, if it will be paid, the percentage to be applied in calculating the enrolment amount limit for a member for each year of the term of office. O. Reg. 357/06, s. 4 (1); O. Reg. 163/07, s. 2 (1); O. Reg. 190/10, s. 2 (1).

(2) The board may, at any time, change its policy under subsection (1) such that a component is not paid for a year, the amount of a component to be paid is lowered for a year, or the percentage to be applied in calculating the enrolment amount limit is lowered for a year. O. Reg. 163/07, s. 2 (2).

(3) If the board changes its policy for a year under subsection (2), it may restore the original policy made under subsection (1) at any time before the end of the period to which the policy applies. O. Reg. 163/07, s. 2 (2).

(4) REVOKED: O. Reg. 190/10, s. 2 (2).

Base amount

5. (1) The base amount for a member for a year of a term of office is an amount that does not exceed the base amount limit determined under subsection (2), (3) or (4), as the case may be. O. Reg. 357/06, s. 5 (1).

(2) For a member other than the chair or vice-chair, the base amount limit for the year is \$5,900. O. Reg. 436/18, s. 1.

(3) For the chair, the base amount limit for the year is determined by adding \$5,000 to the amount determined under subsection (2). O. Reg. 357/06, s. 5 (3).

(4) For the vice-chair, the base amount limit for the year is determined by adding \$2,500 to the amount determined under subsection (2). O. Reg. 357/06, s. 5 (4).

Enrolment amount

6. (1) The enrolment amount for a member for each year of a term of office is an amount determined for that year that does not exceed the enrolment amount limit. O. Reg. 163/07, s. 4 (1).

(1.1) The enrolment amount shall be calculated anew in each year of a member's term of office. O. Reg. 163/07, s. 4 (1).

(1.2) The enrolment amount limit is determined by multiplying the percentage determined by the board for the year under clause 4 (1) (c) or subsection 4 (2) or (3), as the case may be, by the amount determined for the member under subsection (2), (3) or (4), as the case may be. O. Reg. 163/07, s. 4 (1).

(2) For a member other than the chair or vice-chair, determine an amount as follows:

1. Multiply the enrolment of the board for the year as determined under section 9, by \$1.75.
2. Divide the number determined under paragraph 1 by the number of members determined for the board under subclause 58.1 (2) (k) (i) or subsection 58.1 (10.1) of the Act, as the case may be. O. Reg. 357/06, s. 6 (2); O. Reg. 163/07, s. 4 (2).

(3) For the chair, add the amount determined under subsection (2) to the amount determined as follows:

1. Multiply the enrolment of the board for the year as determined under section 9 by 5 cents.
2. Determine the greater of,
 - i. the amount determined under paragraph 1, and
 - ii. \$500.
3. Determine the lesser of,
 - i. the amount determined under paragraph 2, and
 - ii. \$5,000. O. Reg. 357/06, s. 6 (3); O. Reg. 163/07, s. 4 (3).

(4) For the vice-chair, add the amount determined under subsection (2) to the amount determined as follows:

1. Multiply the enrolment of the board for the year as determined under section 9 by 2.5 cents.
2. Determine the greater of,
 - i. the amount determined under paragraph 1, and
 - ii. \$250.
3. Determine the lesser of,
 - i. the amount determined under paragraph 2, and
 - ii. \$2,500. O. Reg. 357/06, s. 6 (4); O. Reg. 163/07, s. 4 (4).

Attendance amount

7. (1) The attendance amount is an amount that does not exceed the attendance amount limit of \$50. O. Reg. 357/06, s. 7 (1).

(2) The attendance amount may be paid to a member for attending any meeting of a committee of the board that is required to be established by an Act or a regulation made under an Act. O. Reg. 357/06, s. 7 (2).

Distance amount

8. (1) The distance amount is an amount that does not exceed the distance amount limit of \$50. O. Reg. 357/06, s. 8 (1).

(2) For a board member described as follows, the distance amount may be paid to the member for attending in person at any meeting of the board or of a committee of the board that is required to be established by an Act or a regulation made under an Act:

1. The board member is a member of a board that has,
 - i. a board area greater than 9,000 square kilometres, as set out in Table 1 of Ontario Regulation 412/00 (Elections to and Representation on District School Boards) made under the Act, as that regulation reads on the day that the board makes its determination under section 4, or
 - ii. a dispersal factor of greater than 25, as set out in Table 5 of Ontario Regulation 412/00 (Elections to and Representation on District School Boards) made under the Act, as that regulation reads on the day that the board makes its determination under section 4.
2. On the day of the meeting, the distance between the member's residence and the place where the meeting is held is more than 200 kilometres. O. Reg. 357/06, s. 8 (2); O. Reg. 163/07, s. 5; O. Reg. 292/18, s. 4.
- (3) A board member may receive the distance amount only once in respect of any day. O. Reg. 357/06, s. 8 (3).

Enrolment

9. For the purposes of section 6, the enrolment of the board for a year of a term of office is the estimate of the board's day school average daily enrolment that was,

- (a) determined for the purposes of the regulation made under section 234 of the Act in respect of calculating average daily enrolment for the school board fiscal year that ends in the calendar year in which the year of the term of office begins; and
- (b) submitted to the Ministry together with the estimates required by clause 232 (6) (c) of the Act. O. Reg. 163/07, s. 6; O. Reg. 164/11, s. 1.

Service for a partial year

10. (1) The honorarium for a board member who serves for a partial year is determined in accordance with this section. O. Reg. 357/06, s. 10 (1); O. Reg. 190/10, s. 3.

(2) The base amount is an amount that does not exceed the base amount limit for the partial year, which is determined by prorating, according to the time served, the base amount for a board member who serves for a full year. O. Reg. 163/07, s. 7.

(2.1) The enrolment amount is an amount that does not exceed the enrolment amount limit for the partial year, which is determined by prorating, according to the time served, the enrolment amount for a board member who serves for a full year. O. Reg. 163/07, s. 7.

(3) The attendance amount and the distance amount are determined in accordance with sections 7 and 8, with necessary modifications. O. Reg. 357/06, s. 10 (3).

11. REVOKED: O. Reg. 190/10, s. 4.

Honorarium for members of school authorities

12. (1) A school authority may pay to its members an honorarium at the same rate and on the same conditions as the allowance being paid to its members on December 1, 1996. O. Reg. 357/06, s. 12 (1).

(2) If a school authority was paying an amount as an additional allowance to its chair or vice-chair on December 1, 1996, the school authority may pay that amount as an additional honorarium to its chair or vice-chair, at the same rate and on the same conditions as applied on December 1, 1996. O. Reg. 357/06, s. 12 (2).

PART II (s. 13) REVOKED: O. Reg. 292/18, s. 6.

Note: On the day section 24 of Schedule 2 to the *Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023* comes into force, the Regulation is amended by adding the following section: (See: O. Reg. 311/24, s. 1)

Reduction for breach of code of conduct

13. For the purposes of paragraph 2 of subsection 218.3.1 (1) of the Act, the maximum amount of a reduction from a member's honorarium for a breach of the board's code of conduct is 25 per cent of the member's combined base and enrolment amount for the year of the term of office in which the breach occurred. O. Reg. 311/24, s. 1.

Trustee Honorarium Calculation for November 2025 - Year 4 of 4 Year Term

Basic Information:	
2024/2025 ADE (Average Daily Enrolment) *(as per 2024/2025 Estimates)	10,077.50
Elected Trustees	9
Distance: 10 Board Meetings	10

		Effective: November 15, 2025	Effective: November 15, 2024
Trustees:			
Base Amount	Max. \$5,900	5,900.00	5,900.00
Funding per ADE/9 elected Board Members	Max. \$1.75/ADE	1,959.51	1,951.83
Attendance at any meeting of a committee established by an Act or Regulation	Max. \$50 per meeting	0.00	0.00
Distance greater than 200Km - based on circumstance ***	Max \$50/board mtg.		
Total Per Trustee Remuneration		7,859.51	7,851.83
Chair:			
Base Amount (max. increase \$5,000)	Max. \$5,900+\$5,000	10,900.00	10,900.00
Greater of \$500 or Funding per A.D.E (by \$0.05) to a maximum of \$5,000		2,459.51	2,453.73
Attendance at any meeting of a committee established by an Act or Regulation	Max. \$50 per meeting	0.00	0.00
Distance greater than 200Km - based on circumstance ***	Max \$50/board mtg.		
Total Chair Remuneration		13,359.51	13,353.73
Vice-Chair:			
Base Amount (max. increase \$2,500)	Max. \$5,900+\$2,500	8,400.00	8,400.00
Greater of \$250 or Funding per A.D.E (by \$0.025) to a maximum of \$2,500		2,209.51	2,202.78
Attendance at any meeting of a committee established by an Act or Regulation	Max. \$50 per meeting	0.00	0.00
Distance greater than 200Km - based on circumstance ***	Max \$50/board mtg.		
Total Vice-Chair Remuneration		10,609.51	10,602.78
Grand Total for Board Remuneration=7 trustees, 1 chair, 1 vice-chair		78,985.59	78,919.32

Assumptions:			
Trustees:			
Base Amount		5,900.00	5,900.00
Base funding Per ADE divided by 9		1.75	1.75
Attendance at Meetings (other than Board)		0	0
Distance Travelled		50	50
Chair:			
Base Amount		10,900.00	10,900.00
Greater of \$500 or Funding per ADE (by \$0.05) to a maximum of \$5,000		0.05	0.05
Attendance at Meetings (other than Board)		0	0
Distance Travelled		50	50
Vice-Chair:			
Base Amount		8,400.00	8,400.00
Greater of \$250 or Funding per A.D.E (by \$0.025) to a maximum of \$2,500		0.025	0.025
Attendance at Meetings (other than Board)		0	0
Distance Travelled		50	50

Distance:

The distance amount only applies to a Board member that on the day of a meeting, if the distance between the member's residence and the place where the meeting is held is more than 200 kilometres. A Board member may only receive the distance amount once in respect of any day.

Attendance:

Based on attendance at statutory meetings other than regular board and/or committee meetings (for meetings such as SEAC, Audit, etc). To be paid bi-yearly (June & December) based on attendance from (December-May,June-November).
At the January 22, 2008 board meeting a motion was passed to discontinue the \$50/meeting compensation for trustees attending any such meetings but approved the \$50 distance amount for each member eligible.

Ashley St. Pierre, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

Audit Committee

Monday, June 23, 2025, 3:00pm
Zoom Meeting

Committee Members Present

Chantal Phillips, Committee Chair and Trustee
Shane Hall, Trustee
Theresa Graham, External Member
Judy Kleinhuis, External Member

Staff Present

Craig Myles, Director of Education
Seija Van Haesendonck, Superintendent of Business
Wende Proulx, Manager of Finance
Stephanie Courchesne, Executive Assistant

External Participants

Melissa Dodge, Regional Internal Audit Team Manager

Regrets

Caren Gagne, Trustee

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm. Regrets from Trustee Gagne were given.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

The floor was opened for declarations of conflict of interest, with none declared.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Judy Kleinhuis, and seconded by Trustee Hall, that the agenda for the Audit Committee meeting of June 23, 2025, be approved as presented. – CARRIED.

4. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Moved by Trustee Hall, and seconded by Judy Kleinhuis, that the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on December 2, 2024, be approved as presented. - CARRIED

5. Business Arising

5.1 Resignation of Committee Member

Chair Phillips formally announced her resignation from the Board of Trustees, and noted that this meeting would be her final Audit Committee meeting. Members expressed their appreciation for her leadership and service over the past year. SBO Van Haesendonck explained that when a trustee resigns from the committee, the Board must appoint a new trustee at the following Board meeting, which will occur in September. In accordance with legislation, the Audit Committee will meet before October 1 to elect a new Chair. All members of the Audit Committee are eligible to become Chair of the committee.

5.2 External Audit Committee Member Term

SBO Van Haesendonck noted that Judy Kleinhuis, a long-standing external member, has just completed her third term. As per O. Reg 361/10, external members can serve two consecutive three-year terms, after which a 30-day advertisement for a new candidate is required. If no suitable candidates emerge, the current member may be asked to serve again. Judy's membership was extended in 2022, and her term officially ended in February 2025. The Board will advertise the position, but Judy has graciously agreed to serve another term if needed. Until a new appointment is made, she is permitted to continue serving. The committee thanked Judy for her dedication, expertise, and ongoing willingness to support the Board.

6. In-Camera

With no objections, the committee transitioned into a closed session at 3:09pm.

Motion: That the Committee move into Closed Session to discuss an item pertaining to the Education Act R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2 section 207(2)(a) – Security of the property of the Board. Moved by Trustee Hall and seconded by Theresa Graham. CARRIED.

7. Arise and Report

The regular session of the Audit Committee meeting resumed at 3:36pm.

8. New Business

8.1. Annual Internal Audit Team Update – Melissa Dodge, Regional Internal Audit Team Manager

M. Dodge provided a brief update on the internal audit team's activities. Two engagements were planned for the year: the "Safe and Inclusive Schools" internal audit and the "Managed Communications" internal audit. Lisa has begun work on the communications audit, which is expected to be completed by September. The "Safe and Inclusive Schools" audit was delayed due to internal audit team staffing shortages but will likely be initiated over the summer. M. Dodge shared that additional consultants would be brought in to support workloads as there will be a leave on the team again at the end of August. The committee appreciated the update and acknowledged the ongoing staffing challenges for the RIAT.

8.2 Results of Assessment of External Auditor Performance

The committee reviewed the results of the external auditor performance evaluation. No concerns were raised, and there was general satisfaction with the performance noted in the meeting package.

8.3 Audit Committee Member Self-Assessment & 8.4 Regional Internal Auditor Assessment

The committee was informed that two assessments—the Audit Committee Self-Assessment and the Regional Internal Audit Team Assessment—would be distributed via email as Microsoft Forms links. Members were encouraged to complete both assessments, and the results will be shared and discussed at the September meeting. There were no comments or concerns raised at this time.

9. Next Meeting Date

Discussion turned to scheduling the next committee meeting. As per legislation, it must occur before October 1, and the intention is to hold it after the September Board meeting so that a new trustee member can participate.

The committee agreed to tentatively schedule the meeting to Wednesday, September 24 at 3:00 p.m. unless further conflicts are identified closer to the date.

10. Adjournment

Motion: That there being no further business to discuss, on June 23, 2025, the Audit Committee stands adjourned at 3:46pm. Moved by Trustee Hall, seconded by Judy Kleinhuis. CARRIED.

Ashley St. Pierre, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

Finance Committee
Tuesday June 17th, 2025 at 11:00AM
Zoom Meeting

Committee Members Present

Shane Hall, Committee Chair
Chantal Phillips, Trustee
Howard Wesley, Trustee
Seija Van Haesendonck, Superintendent of Business

Staff Present

Wende Proulx, Manager of Finance
Maureen Egan, Executive Assistant to the Director
Stephanie Courchesne, Executive Assistant to the SBO
Deb Bartlett, Communications Officer

Guests Present

Louise Sargent, Trustee

Absent

Julie Bertram, Trustee
Craig Myles, Director of Education

1. Call to Order

Chair Hall called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM. Following the roll call, it was noted that the meeting had quorum.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

The Chair called for declarations of conflict of interest with none noted.

3. Approval of Agenda

3.1. *Motion: Moved by Trustee Wesley and seconded by SBO Van Haesendonck that the agenda for the meeting of June 17th, 2025 be approved. CARRIED*

4. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

4.1. Motion: Moved by Trustee Wesley and seconded by Trustee Phillips, that the minutes of the meeting held on March 24, 2025 be approved. CARRIED

5. Business Arising

5.1. 2025-2026 Budget Update

The committee was informed that the Ministry's funding memo for the 2025–2026 fiscal year had been received later than anticipated, which delayed the start of budget preparation. Despite the delay, several key updates were highlighted. The Ministry applied a 2% increase to the non-staff portion of the school operations allocation. This increase is intended to support rising costs in areas such as utilities, insurance, and general maintenance. Trustees were advised that while this adjustment provides some relief, the increase does not fully align with inflationary pressures and actual operating cost increases across the system.

Additional updates included salary increases for education worker, teacher and principal/vice-principal salary benchmarks, in accordance with centrally negotiated compensation increases, as well as increases to non-union salary benchmarks.

A detailed update was provided on funding changes related to Special Education and Student Transportation. The Education Community Partnership Program (ECP) has been revised and restructured into two distinct components: the Education and Community Partnership (ECP) programs and Care and Treatment Education Programs (CTEP). This restructuring is designed to streamline funding allocations and better support students receiving education in specialized care or treatment settings.

In the area of student transportation, there was a modest benchmark increase by the Ministry to reflect higher operational costs, and bus procurement costs, and the funding formula was revised to reflect the non-rebatable portion of HST charged by operators. However, it was noted that the benchmark increase remains significantly below actual expenses incurred by the board through the transportation consortium. The transportation deficit, while slightly reduced from the previous year, remains substantial - declining from \$2.4 million to approximately \$2 million deficit. Trustees raised questions regarding the cost-sharing arrangement within the transportation consortium and how decisions are made about route planning and allocation. There was agreement that continued advocacy for more realistic funding in this area is necessary.

Projections for the upcoming school year show a decline in elementary enrollment, with a decrease of approximately 391 students since the preparation of the 2024-25 Estimates. As a result, the board anticipates the reduction of 16 elementary classrooms, including a reduction of seven kindergarten classes, resulting in a decrease of elementary classroom teacher Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions and Early Childhood Educators FTE.

Despite enrolment decline, due to attrition from retirements, resignations and full-year leaves, it was confirmed that there were no teaching staff layoffs/-redundancies for 2025-

26. Trustees reviewed a draft staffing chart, which detailed tentative changes across various staff categories and outlined FTE allocations, although staffing was still in draft. Trustees requested clarification about the board's process for managing surplus staffing and ensuring that all staff are accommodated appropriately within the collective agreement language.

The committee discussed the financial and operational impacts of international student enrollment. Trustees inquired about the tuition fees charged to international students and whether these fees are adjusted regularly to reflect inflation and program costs. It was confirmed that the tuition fees are set through the budget process as part of a formula in the EFIS forms.

6. Review of Quarterly Report

A summary of the third-quarter financial report was provided to the committee. As of the reporting period, approximately 78.5% of the board's Revised Estimates expenditures had been incurred. The report highlighted that spending is generally in line with expectations, with no major concerns flagged in any departmental budget. It was noted that the Trustee Initiative Fund has been distributed according to the motion approved at the May 2025 board meeting.

Motion: Moved by Trustee Wesley and seconded by Trustee Phillips that the Finance Committee recommends the Quarterly Report as at May 31, 2025 be presented to the Board of Trustees for review. CARRIED

7. New Business

7.1. Review Budget Recommendations from SEAC

The committee received and reviewed formal budget recommendations submitted by the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) to the Board and shared with the Finance Committee.

Motion: Moved by Trustee Wesley and seconded by Trustee Phillips that, in reviewing and recommending the 2025-26 estimates to the Board of Trustees for approval, the Finance Committee of the Near North District School Board receives and considers the SEAC budget recommendations as forwarded by the Board of Trustees. CARRIED.

8. Next Meeting Date: To be determined.

9. Adjournment

With no further business to note, Committee Chair tabled the following motion:

Motion: Moved by SBO Van Haesendonck and seconded by Trustee Phillips that there being no further business to discuss, on June 17th, 2025, the Finance Committee stands adjourned at 12:00pm. CARRIED.

Title:	Quarterly Financial Review – Preliminary report as at August 31, 2025																				
Contact:	Trustee Hall, Finance Committee Chair																				
Date Submitted:	October 14, 2025																				
Mandate	Multi-Year Strategic Plan Objectives: Become a data-driven, strategically managed organization. Ensure that the NNDSB is managed efficiently and is financially sustainable year over year and for the long term. Make decisions that are sustainable.																				
Trustee Initiative Fund	2024-2025 TRUSTEE INITIATIVE FUND APPROVED ALLOCATIONS Expenditures as at August 31, 2025 <table><tr><td></td><td>Approved</td><td>Expended</td></tr><tr><td>Budget</td><td>\$ 50,000</td><td></td></tr><tr><td><u>Board Approved Initiatives</u></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Redirect funds to schools on an equal basis - approved at May 13, 2025 board meeting</td><td>\$ 50,000</td><td>\$ 50,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total approved</td><td>\$ 50,000</td><td>\$ 50,000</td></tr><tr><td>Unspent balance at year-end</td><td>\$ -</td><td>\$ -</td></tr></table>				Approved	Expended	Budget	\$ 50,000		<u>Board Approved Initiatives</u>			Redirect funds to schools on an equal basis - approved at May 13, 2025 board meeting	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	Total approved	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	Unspent balance at year-end	\$ -	\$ -
	Approved	Expended																			
Budget	\$ 50,000																				
<u>Board Approved Initiatives</u>																					
Redirect funds to schools on an equal basis - approved at May 13, 2025 board meeting	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000																			
Total approved	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000																			
Unspent balance at year-end	\$ -	\$ -																			

Accumulated Surplus and Deferred Revenue Update as at August 31, 2025

Notes:			
Accumulated Surplus and Deferred Revenues are projected using the audited August 31, 2024 Financial Statements and 2024-2025 Revised Estimates. These amounts will be updated for actuals at August 31, 2025 following the completion of the audited financial statements, to be reported in the December 2025 quarterly report.			
Accumulated Surplus			
The total balance of the Board's projected accumulated surplus following completion of the 2024-2025 Revised Estimates is \$22,081,163 (August 31, 2024 - \$24,164,411) comprised of various appropriated and unappropriated (restricted and unrestricted) funds. The projected Operating Accumulated Surplus, which is an unappropriated fund, is \$19,350,006 (August 31, 2024 - \$21,794,379). All other funds are appropriated for a specific purpose as a result of consolidation or to support a historic approved financial decision to its conclusion (ie. grandfathering of retirement gratuities and capital projects at various schools).			
Deferred Revenue - Operating	Aug 31, 2025	Aug 31, 2024	
Legislative Grants	\$ 2,144,899	\$ 3,475,609	These are all specific purpose funding/grants that have to be spent on their intended purpose. They are operational in nature (ie. instructional specific) and during budget deliberations are usually intended to be spent in entirety. However, due to timing and perhaps start up delays there may be unused funding at year end to be used the following year. These funds must be spent on the Ministry specified purpose.
Other Ministry of Education Grants	301,070	301,070	
Other Provincial Grants	326,312	326,312	
Third Party Grants	16,417	91,837	
Total Deferred Operating Grants	\$ 2,788,698	\$ 4,194,828	
Deferred Revenue - Capital	Aug 31, 2025	Aug 31, 2024	
School Renewal	\$ 4,779,571	\$ 5,944,287	This funding is allocated annually within the Core Ed funding calculations. Each year the Board approves a list of capital projects intended to use the current year's funding allotment. Projects that were not complete or did not commence have the associated funding placed in deferred revenue.
Temporary Accomodation	183,853	22,422	Specific funding for portables.
Rural and Northern Education Fund	-	704,777	This funding is discretionary within some specific parameters.
Experiential Learning	-	468,293	The Ministry moved the funds for Experiential Learning into the Core Ed fund, and unspent funds are set aside as deferred revenue each year.
Retrofitting School Space for Child Care	164,200	164,200	This was a joint venture with DSSAB that did not occur however the funds cannot be spent on any other initiative.
Proceeds of Disposition (Minister Exemptions)	155,906	300,386	In August 2021, the board received a Ministerial exemption to allocate all proceeds of disposition to support the new Maple View Build, and this will be drawn down as construction proceeds
Proceeds of Disposition - Regular	244,878	2,019,704	These proceeds of disposition are related to the disposition of the former Trout Mills Public School property, and EW Norman and ET Carmichael Public Schools.
Assets Held for Sale	-	-	Any properties that have been declared surplus to board needs and that meet specific parameters are moved into the Assets Held for Sale category.
Total Deferred Revenue - Capital	\$ 5,528,408	\$ 9,624,069	

Quarterly Operations Review as at August 31, 2025

This report is intended to report to the Finance Committee the broad overview of the Board's in-year status and update as to the financial condition of the Board with regard to actual revenues and expenditures compared to budgeted revenues and expenditures. The report acts as a commentary for a general overview of the financial position at August 31, 2025, and includes a comparison to the revised estimates revenues and expenditures, as there was a significant change in budgeted figures upon submission of the 2024-25 Revised Estimates.

These figures are preliminary year-end figures, with significant adjustments yet to be recorded (such as recording accrued liabilities and accounts payable/receivable, adjusting deferred revenues, capitalizing expenditures, and recording amortization and deferred capital contributions).

This summary excludes the school-generated funds/expenditures as well as amortization and related deferred capital contributions, as those are not recorded until year-end. During the year expenses and revenues are recorded strictly on a cash basis, so there are no expenses or payables set up for wages, utilities, etc. owing on a month-by-month basis as this is only completed at year end.

Comparative Expense Summary									
	2024-2025 Budget	Expenses as at August 31, 2025	Remaining to be spent	% Spent	2024-2025 Revised Estimates	Expenses as at August 31, 2025	Remaining to be spent	% Spent	Note #
Total Instruction	113,020,423	117,951,162	-4,930,739	104.4%	116,855,987	117,951,162	-1,095,175	100.9%	1
Total School Management	15,824,303	17,547,095	-1,722,792	110.9%	16,689,504	17,547,095	-857,591	105.1%	2
Total Administration	4,586,011	4,694,271	-108,260	102.4%	5,011,744	4,694,271	317,473	93.7%	3
Student Transportation	16,301,170	16,815,981	-514,811	103.2%	16,991,650	16,815,981	175,669	99.0%	4
Total Pupil Accommodation	22,133,412	18,732,631	3,400,781	84.6%	22,404,552	18,732,631	3,671,921	83.6%	5
Total Other Expenses	1,407,749	1,120,918	286,831	79.6%	567,202	1,120,918	-553,716	197.6%	6
Total Expenses	173,273,068	176,862,058	-3,588,990	102.1%	178,520,639	176,862,058	1,658,581	99.1%	7
Comparative Revenue Summary									
	2024-2025 Budget	Revenues as at August 31, 2025	Remaining to be received	% Received	2024-2025 Revised Estimates	Revenues as at August 31, 2025	Remaining to be received	% Received	Note #
Total Revenue	170,420,376	181,581,785	-11,161,409	106.5%	173,532,717	181,581,785	-8,049,068	104.6%	8

NOTES:

1. The preliminary instruction expenses are showing a deficit from revised estimates of approximately \$1.1 million, or 1%. Expenditures will include technology purchases that have not yet been capitalized.
2. Preliminary school management expenses in comparison to Revised Estimates are over budget by approximately \$860,000. Expenditures include remedy and retroactive payments to the Principal/Vice-Principal employee group, which will be offset by corresponding revenue.
3. Administration expenditures are showing approximately 94% spent when compared to Revised Estimates. Positions that had periods of vacancy have resulted in a slight level of underspending.
4. Transportation costs are currently reflecting expenditures at 99% of Revised Estimates, but that may adjust as the transportation consortium completes its year-end reconciliations.
5. Pupil accommodation expenses will appear underspent until final adjustments are made, including accruing for work completed in the summer, ensuring all interest payments are recorded and reviewing for expenditures that must be capitalized.
6. The Other expenses budget customarily contains the 55 School Board Trust payment of \$393,202 plus estimated fees for international student agencies with which the board has a partnership agreement. Throughout the fiscal year, expenditures in this category include the 55 School Board Trust Payment, reverse tuition fees (offset by Ministry revenue) and the fees to the agencies, as well as other expenses that do not belong in other categories. The majority of the expenses in this category are offset by corresponding revenues.
7. Currently the overall expenditures are showing at 99% of Revised Estimates, but as stated above, further adjustments will occur as the year-end financial statements are prepared. The Revised Estimates submission included an operating deficit of nearly \$2.1 million, and although improvement is anticipated in the final fiscal position for August 31, 2025, it is not known currently if the board will remain in a deficit position.
8. The Ministry provides regular monthly payments based on the estimates, so by August 31, approximately 100% of the budgeted Core Ed funding has been received. Recorded revenues are higher than originally budgeted due to additional Responsive Education Program grants received during the year, and other revenues that are not budgeted for. The revenues will be adjusted through the year-end process to defer unspent funds or to recognize final Core Ed funding entitlements.

SEAC meeting

Thursday, June 19, 2025

Via Zoom and North Bay Board Room

Present:

Tim Graves, Superintendent of Education
Alison Clarke, Acting Principal of Special Education
Chantal Phillips, Trustee and SEAC Chair
Louise Sargent, Trustee
Lisa Paradis, Spec Ed Coordinator – East & West Regions
Kimberly Gignac, Special Ed Coordinator – North Region
Candy St. Onge, Almaguin Highlands Community Living

Guests

Christopher Walkling – Principal of K-12 Student Achievement and Well-Being
Alison Herst-Jackson- Principal, Silver Birches
Lucia Marut – Teacher, Silver Birches
Géraldeana Goulais, Nipissing First Nation

Regrets:

Leigh Armstrong, Community Living Parry Sound
Carol Couillard, Nipissing Secondary
Chris Guillemette (Vice Chair), Community Living North Bay
Ashley St. Pierre, Board Chair
Tammy Adjoudj, Nipissing Down Syndrome Society
Laura Hansman, Ontario Parents of Visually Impaired Children (OPVIC)

Land Acknowledgement presented by Lisa Paradis

Called to Order at 1:00 pm

Agenda Approval

Quorum not present. Notes to be taken. Agenda consensus acquired.

Approval of the Minutes of the March 20, 2025 meeting. Deferred. No issues were identified.

Approval of the Notes of the April 17, 2025 meeting. Deferred. No issues were identified.

Approval of the Notes of the May 22, 2025 meeting. Deferred. No issues were identified.

Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair

Discussion regarding elections- Louise Sargeant put name forward to serve as chair at future meetings if needed.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Presentation of Special Education Classrooms within NNDSB by central Special Education Team (presentation included the September SEAC Package)

See the attached document with the presentation that the central special education coordinators provided.

- Trustee Sargeant inquired about transitions for students affected by the new Parry Sound build. Lisa Paradis explained transitions vary by student profile. SO Graves further added that from a system perspective, the current pathways of transition remain unaffected.
- Candy St Onge inquired as to whether there were plans to open additional Skills for Early Learning (SEL) classrooms, noting the Almaguin region in particular. SO Graves said there are no plans to open additional system classrooms in September. In order to do so, SO Graves noted that discussions could begin with SEAC. Chair Phillips noted that this could be included on the agenda for September. Candy St Onge also noted that she appreciated seeing how students learn with each other.
- Silver Birches invited meeting participants to attend the classroom in person if they wanted to see more of what was shared with the committee. Trustee Sargeant enjoyed the classroom visits but also appreciated the value in presentations as they can provide a better representation of a longer time period than a short in person visit. SO Graves recognized the dedication of Alison Herst-Jackson and Silver Birches staff.
- Chair Phillips noted that she would like to see the video shared more broadly.
- Trustee Sargeant suggested that the video could be shared with prospective families.

Student Achievement Plan Presentation by Principal Christopher Walkling

(presentation included in the September SEAC package)

- Chair Phillips noted that youth anxiety is an element of school attendance.

SEAC Quorum (Strategies to Improving SEAC Committee Attendance)

Principal Clarke highlighted attendance challenges which are resulting in difficulty attaining quorum for SEAC meetings. She suggested the committee implement a survey, as one strategy, to gain feedback from committee members to identify attendance barriers.

- Trustee Sargeant suggested that a different day of the week could be considered.
- Principal Clarke pointed out that the meetings have changed from time-to-time throughout the year and perhaps that is a barrier to attendance.
- Chair Phillips said she loved the presentations and put forward that there may be a benefit in uploading videos ahead of time to reduce meeting time and that the overall length of meeting time may be prohibiting attendance.
- SO Graves confirmed that the regulations applicable to SEAC detail that the board shall not appoint more than 12 representatives and noted that quorum has not been attained for several

months and this is of concern. A named alternate, approved in advance, may be a way to enhance attendance.

- Chair Phillips indicated that input from members and guests is valued.
- Trustee Sargeant noted that the option of allowing simultaneous hybrid (online and in-person attendance) should be promoted.
- Principal Clarke offered to draft an attendance survey and will bring the draft survey to September's meeting for review and consideration.
- Trustee Sargent inquired about the number of trustees able to sit on SEAC. SO Graves noted that there are specific considerations relating to membership.
 - Candy St. Onge asked how committee members are recruited. SO Graves would encourage interest in committee membership and noted that Principal Clarke or himself could be contacted as a first step.
 - In summary; Chair Phillips asked Principal Clarke to design a survey and asked for clarification from SO Graves as per the applicable regulations. SO Graves indicated that in the September meeting Trustee Sargeant will chair and bring a motion to move this forward.

Special Education Parent/Guardian One-page Guide

- Principal Clarke confirmed that the One-page Parent/Guardian Pamphlet will be finalized and provided online soon. She also noted that the Special Education website videos are currently being updated and will be released upon completion. They will be accessible for viewing online.

Standing Items

SEAC Agenda and Goals for 2025/26

- Principal Clarke presented the 2024/25 SEAC Annual Agenda for consideration by the committee and the committee engaged in a brief discussion about prospective agenda items for the 2025/26 school year. This discussion will continue in September in order to draft the 2025/26 annual agenda.

Community Partner Updates

- Candy St Onge said that they have a new transitions program starting at Almaguin Highlands Community Living. Children are now able to participate in the program in a more streamlined process.
- The annual golf tournament was a successful fundraiser for project lifesaver.

Correspondence Received

"Promises Unfilled – Addressing the Special Education Crisis in Ontario Executive Summary" by the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario.

- SEAC committee accepted the report

Letter dated January 21, 2025 from Chair of Algoma District School Board SEAC re: concerns related to teacher training in special education facilities at faculties of education across Ontario.

- Chair Phillips shared the response from Nipissing University. Chair Phillips asked if any member wanted to take action. Trustee Sargeant suggested that this could be tabled to the next meeting.

Reports

Board Report (oral) – (Board Trustees)

Trustee Sargeant said that with regret the board accepted the resignation of two trustees. She commented that there are many ongoing graduation celebrations and as a trustee she finds them rewarding to attend and encouraged the attendance of others. She noted that there is a board budget meeting in July. She thanked everyone and wished an enjoyable summer.

Special Education Report- Principal Clarke

- Principal Clarke let the committee know that summer learning funding for students with special education needs was released since our last SEAC meeting. NNDSB will be moving forward to provide DLRT and EA support to both elementary and secondary students enrolled in summer learning programs. As well, LEARNstyle will offer summer camps in virtual format during July and August transition supports will also be available to schools wherein teachers, EAs and PSSP staff offer time and support to students requiring in-school transition activities in preparation for school start.
- Principal Clarke was able to confirm that the current temporary special education coordinator has successfully attained the Math Lead Teacher role for next year and will be working alongside Assistant SO Kim Pauli and her team. Also, for the fall of 2025, the team will be welcoming back one of our permanent Speech Language Pathologists.
- Principal Clarke indicated that funding for professional assessments exists now within the core education fund and that the Special Education Department will be in a hiring position for the funding for transition supports for students with special education needs.
- Principal Clarke recognized Chair Phillips for her guidance and support throughout her time with the NNDSB and presented Phillips with a parting gift of a 7 Grandfather Teachings hoodie and maple syrup purchased from Wasauksing First Nation.

SEAC Chair Report

In reference to her resignation and relocation, Chair Phillips warmly reflected on the enjoyable experience she had while her children were within the NNDSB school system. She remarked that the NNDSB has been transformative for both of her children. Her son, in particular, has had excellent experiences throughout his time as a student with NNDSB.

New Business

Next meeting: September 18, 2025.

Adjournment at 2:58 pm

UNOFFICIAL