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Ashley St. Pierre, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

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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 Senate. – 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<br>J.Aspin<br>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<br>L.Sargent<br>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<br>S.Hall<br>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<br>S.Hall<br>C.Gagne       | That the Board accept the resignation of Trustee Julie Bertram with regrets effective August 28, 2025. - CARRIED                                                                               |
| 25-06-05<br>J.Aspin<br>L.Sargent    | That Krista Messenger be appointed trustee until the next municipal election. - CARRIED                                                                                                        |
| 25-09-06<br>S.Hall<br>L.Sargent     | That the minutes of the regular Board meeting of June 10, 2025 be approved. – CARRIED.                                                                                                         |
| 25-09-07<br>C.Gagne<br>B.Steer      | That the minutes of the special Board meeting of July 21, 2025 be approved. – CARRIED                                                                                                          |
| 25-09-08<br>C.Gagne<br>J.Aspin      | That the Board approve the 2025/26 OPSBA membership fees. - CARRIED                                                                                                                            |
| 25-09-09<br>L.Sargent<br>J.Aspin    | That the Board approve the 2025/26 Ontario Student Trustees' Association membership fees. - CARRIED                                                                                            |
| 25-09-10<br>S.Hall<br>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<br>H.Wesley<br>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<br>C.Gagne<br>H.Wesley     | That the Board approve the Statement by Treasurer regarding Borrowing for Current Expenditures. – CARRIED                                                                                      |
| 25-09-13<br>S.Hall<br>C.Gagne       | That the Board approve the appointment of Ashley St. Pierre to the Audit Committee. - CARRIED                                                                                                  |
| 25-09-14<br>S.Hall<br>H.Wesley      | That the Board approve the appointment of Caren Gagne to the Finance Committee. – CARRIED                                                                                                      |
| 25-09-15<br>S.Hall<br>J.Arkwright   | That Louise Sargent and Krista Messenger be appointed to the Governance Committee. - CARRIED                                                                                                   |
| 25-09-16<br>S.Hall<br>K.Messenger   | That on September 9, 2025, we do now adjourn at 6:54 pm. – CARRIED                                                                                                                             |

