

Erika Lougheed, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

Parry Sound Build Committee Meeting

Monday, February 6, 2023

Virtual meeting conducted over Zoom
Videoconference

Committee Members Present

Howard Wesley, Committee Chair
Gay Smylie, Superintendent of Education
Erika Lougheed, Board Chair (Ex-Officio)
Jeanie Fuscaldo, Trustee
Shane Hall, Trustee
Seija Van Haesendonck, Superintendent of Business

Meeting Guests:

Bill Steer, Trustee
Paul Sapounzi, Principal Partner, +VG
Members of the community

Staff Resources Present:

Craig Myles, Director of Education
Krista Messenger, Executive Assistant
Marianne Speirs, Capital Projects Manager
Melanie Gray, Superintendent of Teaching and Learning
Tim Graves, Superintendent of Education
Saxon Yanta, Executive Assistant

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM. Following the roll call, it is noted that the meeting has quorum. Introductory comments to welcome the trustees and members of the community attending as observers to the meeting of the Parry Sound Build Committee.

2.0 Review of Agenda

Committee Chair Wesley referred members to the agenda. The floor was opened for corrections or amendments with none rose.

*Moved by Trustee Fuscaldo and seconded by Superintendent Smylie that the agenda for the meeting of February 6, 2023, be approved. – **CARRIED***

3.0 Review of Minutes

3.1 Review of Minutes- December 14, 2022

Committee Chair Wesley referred members to the meeting minutes contained in the agenda package. The floor was opened for corrections or comments, with none rose.

Moved by Trustee Fuscaldo and seconded by SBO Van Haesendonck that the minutes of the December 14, 2022, meeting of the Parry Sound Build Committee be approved as presented. – CARRIED

3.2 Review of Minutes- January 12, 2023

Committee Chair Wesley referred members to the meeting minutes contained in the agenda package. The floor was opened for corrections or comments, with none rose.

Moved by Trustee Fuscaldo and seconded by SBO Van Haesendonck that the minutes of the January 12, 2023, meeting of the Parry Sound Build Committee be approved as presented. – CARRIED

4.0 Arise and Report

4.1 Review of site plans- Capital Projects Manager Speirs

SBO Van Haesendonck was invited to welcome Capital Projects Manager Speirs. It is noted that M. Speirs has been with NNDSB for 10 years, with a primary responsibility to administratively manage all construction projects, which includes budget management, adherence to schedule, change order management, migration strategies, move management coordination and final delivery of the project. Participants were referred to the attachments included in the agenda package in support of this item. Highlights of the information shared are noted as:

- Review of the site plan to orient viewers between Joseph Street and Isabella Street area.
- Review of the plans for the delivery of students onto the school property. Note that bus routes and the number of busses will be confirmed in the future with the consortium. At this time, traffic management studies are being used to design the routing system considering the possibility of more than 20 busses arriving and departing.
 - Busses and parent drop off vehicles travelling down Joseph Street can turn right onto the school grounds. A designated parking area includes accessible spaces and five “kiss and drop” spaces along the sidewalk at the front face of the child care facility. This smaller parking area has been purposely designated for the Child Care and elementary wing.
 - Once busses and parent drop off is complete, vehicles will continue to move towards Isabella Street, to exit.

- Review of the green landscaped areas at the front of the school. Note that the First Nations Long House will be adjacent to the front doors of the school to give it a wonderful sense of prominence. Across from the long house will be cultivated gardens of local plants. First Nations students and partners will direct the selection of the appropriate flora.
- An additional untouched greenspace area of approximately two acres has been noted. Within this wooded area is a small watercourse and the opportunity to create amazing walking trails, developing this outdoor learning space as an area that could help learners identify and tag our beautiful and unique Parry Sound landscape.
- Two clusters of hexpods (edupods) are located within the exterior landscape and very close to entrances to the school and washroom facilities. The hexpods are a dynamic new classroom style with ample windows for natural light. In the cluster of four for secondary, a large deck has been designed to tie the units together creating yet another pocket of space for outdoor collaboration.
- Review of the level one main floor- highlights noted as:
 - Note that the Child Care and the Ontario EarlyOn spaces are accessible through a secure entrance. The Child Care consists of one infant space, one toddler space and one preschool space. There will be a full functioning kitchen, laundry room, barrier free washroom and washrooms dedicated to each of the childcare spaces. The Ontario EarlyOn space will have a staff office/meeting space, barrier free washroom, and a kitchenette.
 - Two Kindergarten classrooms are planned with their own washrooms and cloakroom, and a shared vestibule that leads to the fenced in play yard.
 - Directly across from the washrooms is access to the elementary gymnasium, with its own gym storage, and a solid wall, separating it from the large double gymnasium to the left.
 - Review of the administration area that will include the main office and lobby area which includes change rooms, teacher staff room, student success office, guidance, and co-op spaces.
 - A raised stage area for the music program will have retractable soundproof walls on either side which allows performances/assembly type activities to be viewed from either the student commons cafetorium side OR the large double gym side.
 - The Hospitality program will run from a large food lab/kitchen server space with a large viewing window into the food/baking preparation area from the corridor.
- Review of the secondary wing area on level one:
 - Review of the cosmetology and health science lab to the left, across the hall the secondary washrooms, a technology classroom that has direct access to both the building construction shop and the automotive and small engine repair shop.
 - Review of the large business computers lab and four regular secondary classrooms located at the end of the corridor. This area is where the special needs hub is located and the exit to the special needs drop off and pickup area is located.
 - The Special Needs Hub will include a barrier free kitchen area for life skills training and food prep. There are learning spaces, equipment storage spaces, a large barrier free washroom and ample natural light from the west facing windows.

- Review of the second level:
 - Review of the elementary wing corridor is flanked on either side by elementary classrooms, the elementary washroom block, and an elementary teacher prep space and resource room.
 - A collaborative learning nook space is included in the plans. A library/learning commons is to the left with an attached meeting room and a seminar room. Directly across from the library learning commons, is the elevator access, academic storage room and a resource space.
 - Two more collaborative spaces in the corridor areas lead to the Indigenous classroom with an attached seminar room. This space has been designed with ventilation for smudging ceremonies and is a large open space with the ability to be configured for various specific Indigenous learning activities. The windows in the Indigenous spaces look directly out to the front courtyard.
 - The balance of the secondary wing consists of several regular classroom spaces and three science laboratories.

Concluding remarks to thank the committee for the opportunity to provide a virtual walk-through of the new JK-12 facility. Committee Chair Wesley thanked M. Speirs for the presentation.

5.0 In-Camera

Committee Chair Wesley noted that the committee would be moving into an in-camera session. Information was shared with members of the public to note the committee would be excusing themselves to discuss a financial item and would be returning to public session following this discussion.

*Moved by Trustee Fuscaldo and seconded by Trustee Hall that the Parry Sound Build Committee moves into private session. – **CARRIED***

6.0 Arise and Report

It is noted that the Parry Sound Build Committee arose and reported into public session. A brief pause was noted in order to welcome guests and community members into the zoom meeting once again.

7.0 Report from Sub-Committees

7.1 Building Sub-Committee Report

7.2 Program Sub-Committee Report

It is noted that there is no report included for review.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Communication

8.1.1 Review of items from the Board

Participants were referred to the attachments included in the agenda package regarding the feedback solicited from the community. It is recognized that the Board will receive the correspondence through the committee, in alignment with the direction provided by the Board Chair at the January Board of Trustees meeting. The committee will be responsible for determining how the correspondence will be addressed. The floor was opened for comments on this item. Highlights noted as:

- SBO Van Haesendonck noted that the previous Parry Sound Build Committee elected to respond to feedback through the creation of a community feedback report. The resource is posted to the website and updated as new inquiries are received.
- It is recognized that the newly received correspondence includes multiple duplicate messages and raises similar concerns that have been previously addressed by the committee and the Board on several occasions. Despite these efforts, questions and misinformation are circulating regarding this project.
- During the agenda setting meeting, the idea to respond through the community feedback report was proposed to Committee Chair Wesley, with an option to also create a response letter that could be shared with the community members thanking them for their feedback and pointing them toward the updated community feedback report. It was also suggested that another media release informing the public that the community feedback report has been updated to reflect the most recent information available could be issued.
- The committee could also consider having the drawings reviewed today be posted to the website as well.

Committee Chair Wesley opened the floor for comments on the suggestions proposed.

Highlights noted as:

- Trustee Fuscaldo noted correspondence continues to be received and suggested an open public forum be considered. Despite the information available, it is important to have voices heard.
- Trustee Hall was invited to comment and noted he feels much more confident and excited about the project now that the drawings have been reviewed. Being able to conceptualize the building and understand the depth and sophistication of the work involved goes a long way. It may be that sharing this information with the community would ease the uncertainty. Public forums typically attract people with strong feelings about an item- so it can be a challenge to temper these expressions with people who have milder feelings or don't have an opinion one way or the other. Support expressed for the letter, posting the drawings and issuing a media release as a first step.
- Committee Chair Wesley recognized it is critical to have the updated information posted on the website. It is very meaningful to receive feedback from the community so the committee can remain in touch with how its efforts are being understood/ perceived.

Closing comments from Committee Chair Wesley noted he is also continually asked about the project. It is essential to ensure people continue to receive updated information. It is

recognized that more questions may surface as new information is shared, so the committee can begin with updating the website with the drawings, creating a letter to ensure community members are recognized, update the feedback report in response to the concerns, and issue a media release regarding these actions so all community members are aware. A further information session can be considered based on how these actions are received.

Trustee Fuscaldo raised a final comment to recognize the parents and community members involved in the ARC and the beginning stages of the project do not have elementary-aged children. Principal architect, P. Sapounzi, was invited to provide comments from the perspective of a firm that has designed several JK-12 schools across the province in multiple communities. It is noted that +VG has completed many JK-12 school projects- most recently with Limestone DSB and Bluewater DSB. Both communities had similar concerns about the projects at the beginning. As with the other projects, +VG moves through an intentional process that creates a feeling of two very distinct schools. Elementary and secondary students will have separate wings with little overlap. +VG follows its projects for many years after completion, and it is noted that both buildings have vibrant student bodies and much community support. For this project in Parry Sound, NNDSB is very fortunate to have received the support from the Ministry of Education that it has, which is expected to result in a very profound building for the community.

With the committee's consensus expressed for the next steps, SBO Van Haesendonck confirmed the action items will include working with the Committee Chair to prepare a form letter to share with the individuals who provided feedback, work with SO Smylie, Manager Speirs and the Director's Office to update the community feedback report, and work with the Communications Officer on behalf of the committee to prepare a media release and have the information posted to the website.

8.1.2 Review of items to the Board

It is noted that this item is tabled to determine how the committee will report to the Board at its February meeting. Consensus to note the committee's minutes will be brought forward, along with a verbal report to be provided by Committee Chair Wesley. Highlights will include sharing the steps that the committee has taken to respond to the community feedback as identified and agreed to in 7.1.1

9.0 Adjournment

Moved by SO Smylie, and seconded by Trustee Hall, that there being no further business to discuss, on February 6, 2023, the Parry Sound Build Committee stands adjourned at 4:05 PM.

Minutes: HW/SVH/km.