

Erika Lougheed, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

Multi-Year Strategic Plan Committee

Friday, December 8, 2023

Virtual meeting conducted over Zoom
Videoconference

Committee Members Present

Bill Steer, Committee Chair
Chantal Phillips, Trustee
Craig Myles, Director of Education
Liana Blaskievich, Officer of Corporate Affairs

Staff Present

Krista Messenger, Executive Assistant

Committee Regrets

Julie Bertram, Trustee
Ashley St. Pierre, Trustee

1.0 Call to Order

Committee Chair Steer called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Attendance was called to note the meeting has quorum.

1.1 Adoption of the Agenda

Review of the agenda contained in the meeting package. No amendments to note.

Moved by L. Blaskievich and seconded by Trustee Phillips that the agenda for the Multi-Year Strategic Plan Committee is approved as presented.- **CARRIED**

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 MYSP Committee minutes- October 16, 2023

Review of the minutes contained in the agenda package. The floor was opened for comments or amendments, with none rose.

Moved by Trustee Phillips and seconded by L. Blaskievich that the Committee approves the Multi-Year Strategic Plan Committee minutes as presented for the meeting held on October 16, 2023. - **CARRIED**

3.0 Election of the Committee Chair

3.1 Call for Nominations

Committee Chair Steer noted the value of establishing a Committee Chair to observe good governance practices and follow the direction issued to all committees during the Inaugural meeting. Committee Chair Steer noted he would be pleased to continue in this capacity, having served on the MYSP committee since the inception of the 2021-2026 MYSP. Trustee Phillips expressed support and noted B. Steer brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role.

Moved by Trustee Phillips, seconded by Director Myles that Trustee Steer be acclaimed as the chair of NNDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Planning Committee for a one-year term beginning immediately and ending at the close of the Board of Trustee's annual organizational meeting. – CARRIED.

Director Myles echoed the positive comments and expressed support for B. Steer continuing in the position. Committee Chair Steer accepted the role and thanked the committee for their comments.

4.0 Business Arising

4.1 Communications & Engagement- project/ committee idea (pending)

4.2 Recording meetings data (pending)

4.3 Trustee survey feedback themes (pending)

Committee Chair Steer noted there are three items of business arising that are all pending, indicating these items are projects and discussion items sitting with the committee for action, but there is no movement to report on at this time.

The MYSP committee will wait to hear from Trustee Bertram on the first two items. Item 4.3 relates to an information report from the DPA Committee following the results of the trustee survey. Note that during the trustee survey process, there was some data received by the DPA committee that was determined to be out of scope for the DPA committee's purpose, so it was decided that it would be shared with the MYSP committee for consideration. Director Myles noted that he has begun to include these pieces while waiting for the report to come forward.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Review of Terms of Reference

Committee Chair Steer referred trustees to the Terms of Reference document included in the agenda package for review. The floor was opened for comments. A suggestion was raised to outline more specific processes under the responsibilities/duties section aligned to a calendar to ensure the required tasks are being accomplished in time and in alignment with other Board priorities (for example- the budget priorities will need to be reviewed in sync with the Finance Committee's budget procedures manual timeline).

It is noted that Trustee Phillips would be pleased to take this on and develop a draft calendar of actions/milestones for the committee to review. The committee acknowledged it is in no rush and so it would be pleased to receive a report back when suitable from Trustee Phillips.

With no further suggestions raised, it is noted that the Terms of Reference will be added to the list of pending Business Arising items for discussion.

5.2 Review of MYSP Highlights Report

Committee Chair Steer referred trustees to the draft document included in the agenda package for review. Introductory comments to note it may be that committee members did not have time to review, given how close to the meeting time the agenda package was distributed. The report highlights major accomplishments and areas of progress which bring attention to many of the amazing things underway within the NNDSB. The floor was opened for comments and discussion:

- Opening comments from Director Myles to note this report was structured as an executive summary of the Board's mid-year report to highlight the good news and hard work underway across NNDSB.
- Trustee Phillips noted the value of including specific evidence-based initiatives. This would allow the board to communicate directly and honestly about progress and areas of challenge (with reasoning offered on any underlying issues). Director Myles recognized this suggestion and noted he would be pleased to draw attention to this information. Appreciation is expressed for the attention drawn to recruitment and retention challenges, as this is a province-wide issue that many school boards are struggling to solve.
- Question raised regarding the intent to share highlights from the community meeting hosted in October to determine if this report has been posted on the website. L. Blaskievich noted this remains in development with an intent to have this resource added to a recently refreshed area of the website to maximize visibility.
- Question raised about further data points and communication requirements regarding student suspension/ expulsion trends. It is acknowledged that the Board receives a report on the aggregate trends, striking a balance between privacy and transparency. Through discussion, it was suggested that the Board may benefit from inviting the Safe Schools team to present on contextualizing the trends, or perhaps enveloped into a future report as a data set to consider. Director Myles noted that the MYSP selected two data points per MYSP pillar which structures the quarterly reports, though the system collects a large volume of data for other purposes as well.

5.3 Review of MYSP Quarterly Report

Committee members were referred to the report included in the agenda package. Discussion continued in alignment with the previous agenda item. Highlights are noted as:

- The system is off to a busy and active start in all areas of the board. The data provided in December presents an early look at the data set. Recall that the previous two years presented this data to the MYSP committee as an early indication of what will be presented at mid-year to the Board of Trustees.

- Highlights provided regarding what the report to the Board will look like. Note that the format will remain the same, with additional introductory front matter. Staff will continue to monitor and update the information which will then reflect September up to the time of the presentation.
- Review of the data points as discussed earlier. Consistent data points allow staff to see trends over time and provide consistent data for the committee to evaluate progress.
- Comment regarding a key factor of “partnership growth” is problematic, and it is recognized that the strength and quality of partners would serve student achievement and well-being much better than a focus on volume.
- Note that the other component of data analysis is quality input, which is aligned with Trustee Bertram’s interest in improving communications. Receiving quality input from parents and other stakeholders through school climate surveys, and other ways of soliciting input will increase the data being received as well.

5.4 Review of Board Communication

Committee Chair Steer noted there were no items received from the Board for discussion by the MYSP Committee.

The committee reviewed the information it would be bringing forward to trustees. Highlights noted as:

- December Board meeting- Committee Chair Steer would be pleased to bring a verbal report forward about the meeting today and mention the committee has established its committee chair and reviewed its Terms of Reference.
- It is noted that the committee expressed consensus to view the semi-annual report again before it’s finalized and brought forward to trustees. The report will be finalized and brought forward to the committee’s March meeting and then flow forward to the Board’s March meeting for information.

6.0 Next Meeting Date

As discussed, the next meeting date of the Multi-Year Strategic Planning Committee will be scheduled at the call of the Committee Chair in March.

7.0 Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, on December 8, 2023, the Multi-Year Strategic Plan Committee stands adjourned at 11:02 AM, moved by L. Blaskievich, and seconded by Trustee Phillips.

Minutes: WS/km.