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Ashley St. Pierre, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

The November 3, 2025 **Special Board Meeting** of the Near North District School Board was held in person and virtually at the Head Office and via a Zoom video and/or teleconference.

Trustees Present:

Ashley St. Pierre, Chair
Howard Wesley, Vice Chair ®
John Arkwright
Jay Aspin
Caren Gagne
Louise Sargent
Bill Steer
Shane Hall
Krista Messenger

Regrets:

Gay Smylie, Superintendent
Student Trustee Bassi
Student Trustee Trudeau

Administrative Staff Present:

Craig Myles, Director of Education
Seija Van Haesendonck, Superintendent of Business
Timothy Graves, Superintendent
Melanie Gray, Superintendent ®
Kim Pauli, Superintendent ®
Gerri-Lyn Cicciarelli, Executive Assistant
Maureen Egan, Director's Office ®
Glenn Morrison, Manager IT

Other:

Staff, media

1.0 Call to Order

Chair St. Pierre called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

Land Acknowledgement

Vice-Chair Wesley read the declaration aloud

2.0 Request for Leaves of Absence – none noted

3.0 Attendance

3.1 Confirmation of Quorum

Chair St. Pierre confirmed that 9 trustees were present

3.2 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

4.0 Approval of Agenda ✓

Motion: 2025-11-01 B.Steer/H.Wesley

That the agenda for the Special Board meeting of November 3, 2025 be approved as amended. The amendment being the addition by Trustee Steer to draft a letter to the Minister of Education acknowledging the report. - CARRIED

5.0 Items for Discussion

5.1 Ministry of Education Letter to NNDSB dated October 30, 2025

5.2 Ministry of Education Final Report dated September 26, 2025

5.3 Ministry of Education Binding Directions

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Minister's letter dated October 30, 2025 and agreed to send a response affirming agreement with the binding directions outlined in the letter. It was noted that there are 15 binding directions to address and not 17 as previously mentioned. The letter to the Ministry will include a motion identifying three items to demonstrate consensus and action planning.

The Board decided that updates on the 15 recommendations would be a standing item on future Board agendas with discussion about scheduling additional meetings to meet Ministry deadlines, if necessary.

Suggestions for an ad-hoc committee from Director Myles to manage the process were discussed but met with concerns about time constraints and urgency leading to a preference for immediate action at board meetings going forward. In the absence of an ad-hoc committee, the Director suggested a daily Board meeting would be needed in order to discuss and move forward with the Ministry recommendations. He indicated he would free his schedule to do so.

A Committee of the Whole meeting was scheduled for November 11 to prepare motions and move forward with compliance efforts.

It was acknowledged that the Minister would be informed of the Board's progress through posted minutes on the NNDSB website.

Trustee Sargent raised a few concerns regarding the issue involving the Director's corporate credit card. Specifically, Trustee Sargent inquired whether the credit card would be handed in immediately. Additionally, Trustee Sargent questioned if the Director would be moving his office to the Board office on Airport Road, in line with the directions provided by the Ministry.

Motion: 2025-11-02 B.Steer/S.Hall

Whereas on this day, November 3, 2025, the Board acknowledges receipt of the letter dated October 30, 2025, from the Minister of Education, including the report entitled "Review of the Near north District School Board" and the Minister's binding directions

Be it resolved that the Board comply completely with the Minister's letter and the 15 binding directions within the timelines specified.

Be it further resolved that the Board submits three expedited progress reports to demonstrate implementation of these directions. Reports must be submitted within 5, 10 and 15 business days. Each report must include details on actions and steps

completed to date, the work that remains, and a forward-looking implementation plan for each direction. Each report must include any relevant supporting documentation that demonstrates progress to date - CARRIED

6.0 Adjournment

Motion: CW 25-11-03, C.Gagne/J/Arkwright

That on November 3, 2025 we do now adjourn at 5:46 pm. – CARRIED