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Jay Aspin, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

The November 18, 2025 **Annual Organizational 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 platform.

Trustees Present:

Ashley St. Pierre
Jay Aspin
Bill Steer
Caren Gagne
Howard Wesley
Louise Sargent
Shane Hall
John Arkwright
Krista Messenger
Dev Bassi, Student Trustee
Riley Trudeau, Indigenous Student Trustee

Administrative Staff Present:

Seija Van Haesendonck, Director Designate
Gay Smylie, Superintendent
Mel Gray, Superintendent
Timothy Graves, Superintendent
Kim Pauli, Superintendent
Glenn Morrison, Manager IT
Gerri-Lyn Ciccirelli, Executive Assistant
Maureen Egan, Executive Assistant®
Deb Bartlett, Communications

Absent:

Director Craig Myles

Others Present :

Staff, media, union partners, members of the public

® indicates remote/virtual attendance

1.0 Call to Order

Seija Van Haesendonck, Director Designate called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Members of the public were welcomed in person and virtually.

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

Director Designate Van Haesendonck read the Land Acknowledgement aloud.

1.2 Attendance

Attendance indicated that 11 trustees were present for the meeting, including two student trustees. Quorum was confirmed.

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Motion: 25-11-08, S.Hall/H.Wesley

That the agenda for the Annual Organizational Board meeting of November 18, 2025, be

approved. – CARRIED

1.4 Naming of the Scrutineers

Motion: 25-11-09, L.Sargent/K.Messenger

That the following two individuals be appointed as scrutineers:

1. Gay Smylie, Superintendent of Education
2. Gerri-Lyn Cicciarelli, Executive Assistant to the Director of Education - CARRIED

2.0 Election of Chair

The Board proceeded to the election of Chair of the Board in accordance with NNDSB By-law BL-101.

2.1 Call for Nominations

Director Designate Van Haesendonck called for nominations for the position of Chair of NNDSB. The call was repeated aloud three times.

Trustee Wesley nominated Trustee St. Pierre

Trustee Steer nominated Trustee Aspin

Motion: 25-11-10, L.Sargent/C.Gagne

That nominations for the position of Board Chair be closed. – CARRIED

Trustee St. Pierre advised she would let her name stand.

Trustee Aspin advised he would let his name stand.

Director Designate Van Haesendonck invited each nominee and their nominator to provide comments.

Director Designate Van Haesendonck provided instructions regarding the election procedures. Following an election, the scrutineers provided confirmation of the final election result to Director Designate Van Haesendonck.

2.2 Announcement of the Chair

Motion: 25-11-11, B.Steer/C.Gagne

That Trustee Aspin be elected Chair of the NNDSB for a one-year term, effective immediately and lasting until the next annual organizational meeting. – CARRIED

2.3 In-Coming Chair's Remarks

Chair Aspin noted that he was honoured to serve as Chair once again and will work diligently to restore public trust and to provide the best education possible. He thanked the Board for their continued support and dedication.

Chair Aspin assumed the chairship and presided for the remainder of the meeting.

2.4 Outgoing Chair's Remarks

Trustee St. Pierre thanked the Board of Trustees for the opportunity to guide the Board

through challenging times. She noted that she is proud of the accomplishments the Board has achieved during her tenure as Vice Chair and Chair.

3.0 Election of Vice Chair

The Board proceeded to the election of Vice-Chair of the Board in accordance with NNDSB By-law BL-101.

3.1 Call for Nominations

Chair Aspin called for nominations for the position of Chair of NNDSB. The call was repeated aloud three times.

Trustee Sargent nominated Trustee St. Pierre
Trustee Messenger nominated Trustee Steer

Motion: 25-11-12, J.Arkwright/H.Wesley

That nominations for the position of Vice-Chair be closed. – CARRIED

Trustee St. Pierre advised she would let her name stand.
Trustee Steer advised he would let his name stand.

Chair Aspin invited each nominee and their nominator to provide comments.

Chair Aspin provided instructions regarding the election procedures. Following an election, the scrutineers provided confirmation of the final election result to Chair Aspin.

3.2 Announcement of the Vice-Chair

Motion: 25-11-13, K.Messenger/J.Arkwright

That Trustee Steer be appointed Vice-Chair of the NNDSB for a one-year term, effective immediately and lasting until the next annual organizational meeting. – CARRIED

3.3 In-Coming Vice-Chair's Remarks

Vice Chair Steer gratefully acknowledged the support he has received from his fellow Trustees noting that he was looking forward to working together.

3.4 Outgoing Vice-Chair's Remarks

Trustee Wesley thanked the Board of Trustees for the opportunity to sit as Vice Chair of the NNDSB.

4.0 OPSBA Delegate and Alternate

4.1 Call for Nominations

Trustee Gagne nominated Vice Chair Steer as OPSBA delegate

Motion: 25-11-14, K. Messenger/C.Gagne

That Vice Chair Bill Steer be acclaimed as OPSBA delegate for a one-year term, effective immediately - CARRIED

4.2 Call for Nominations

Trustee Steer nominated Trustee Gagne as OPSBA alternate

Motion: 25-11-15 H.Wesley/A.St.Pierre

That Trustee Gagne be acclaimed as OPSBA alternate for a one-year term effective immediately - CARRIED

5.0 Membership on Standing Board Committees

The Chair deferred this item for a month to provide an opportunity to review current committee membership

6.0 Destruction of Ballots

Chair Aspin ordered the destruction and deletion of all ballots used for the selection of the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Motion: 25-11-16 C.Gagne/H.Wesley

That the ballots used for the selection of Chair and Vice-Chair be destroyed immediately - CARRIED

7.0 Adjournment

Motion: 25-11-17 J.Arkwright/L.Sargent

That on November 18, 2025, we do now adjourn at 5:45 pm. – CARRIED

Jay Aspin
Chair

Seija Van Haesendonck
Director Designate

RESOLUTION SUMMARY

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|---|---|
| 25-11-08 S.Hall H.Wesley | That the agenda for the Annual Organizational meeting of November 18, 2025 be approved. – CARRIED |
| 25-11-09 L.Sargent K.Messenger | That the following two individuals be appointed as scrutineers: Gay Smylie, Superintendent of Education, and Gerri-Lyn Cicciarelli, Executive Assistant to the Director of Education. - CARRIED |
| 25-11-10 L.Sargent C.Gagne | That nominations for the position of Board Chair be closed. – CARRIED. |
| 25-11-11 B.Steer C.Gagne | That Trustee Aspin be appointed as Chair of the NNDSB for a one-year term, effective immediately and lasting until the next annual organizational meeting. – CARRIED |
| 25-11-12 J.Arkwright H.Wesley | That nominations for the position of Vice Chair be closed. - CARRIED |
| 25-11-13 J.Fuscaldo L.Sargent | That Trustee Steer be appointed Vice-Chair of the NNDSB for a one-year term, effective immediately and lasting until the next annual organizational meeting. – CARRIED |
| 25-11-14 K.Messenger C.Gagne | That Vice Chair Bill Steer be acclaimed as OPSBA Delegate for a one-year term, effective immediately - CARRIED |
| 25-11-15 H.Wesley A.St.Pierre | That Trustee Gagne be acclaimed as OPSBA Alternate for a one-year term effective immediately - CARRIED |
| 25-11-16 L.Sargent J. Bertram | That the ballots used for the selection of Chair and Vice-Chair be destroyed immediately - CARRIED |
| 25-11-17 J.Arkwright L.Sargent | That on November 18, 2025 we do now adjourn at 5:45 pm. – CARRIED |