

The Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Open Meeting held on Monday, May 13, 2024 at 6:45 p.m. in the Large Boardroom and by Google meet. (*)

PRESENT

Trustees: Chair Connolly (Committee Chairperson), Trustee MacKenzie (Board Chairperson), Trustee Martin, Trustee Tanguay, Trustee Leahy, Trustee Durst, Trustee Gaskell (Senior Student Trustee) Trustee Heitzner (Junior Student Trustee)(*).

Absent/Regrets:

Administration: Director O'Sullivan, Superintendent Armstrong, Superintendent Di Ianni, Superintendent Heuchert, Superintendent Selby, Superintendent Piggott, Superintendent Kahler.

Guests:

Recorder: Mrs. Sarah Barker.

A. Call to Order

Trustee Connolly called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm.

1. Opening Prayer

Superintendent Kahler led the Committee of the Whole in Opening Prayer.

2. Land Acknowledgment

Superintendent Heuchert respectfully acknowledged that the Committee of the Whole meeting is taking place on the treaty and traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishinaabeg.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Trustee Martin, seconded by Trustee Tanguay, that the Committee of the Whole Open Agenda for Monday, May 13, 2024 be accepted.

Carried.

4. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest.

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Open Meeting on Monday, April 8, 2024.

Motion: Moved by Trustee Martin, seconded by Trustee Leahy, that the Committee of the Whole Open Meeting Minutes from Monday, April 8, 2024 be accepted.

Carried.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. R.A. Grants for Student Needs (GSN)/Core Education Funding (CEF) Update Report

Superintendent Sean Heuchert presented the Grants for Student Needs (GSN)/Core Education Funding (CEF) Update Report. The Board was invited to a call with the Ministry on April 11, 2024 to discuss the rebranding of the GSN, and how it is more streamlined. Some of the budget divisions have been collapsed in order to make reporting clearer to parents. The Board received the majority of the memorandum for funding on April 26, 2024, over a week later than the previous year. The Finance Department is working hard updating the financial categories changed or renamed as they do not align with the EFIS (Electronic Financial System). They are also focusing on the Bill 124 retro payments, while trying to prepare the draft budget for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Ministry is basing funding this year on the 2021 household census, previously using the 2011 household census. This will make the GSN more accurate, and more relevant funding. There were discussions regarding cost adjustments, staffing, Indigenous funding and the transportation budget.

Motion: Moved by Trustee Tanguay, seconded by Trustee Leahy, that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Board receive the Grants for Student Needs (GSN)/Core Education Funding (CEF) Update Report.

Carried.

2. Cobourg Catholic Elementary School Accommodation Review Discussion

Superintendent Sean Heuchert discussed the motion in the Agenda regarding the Cobourg Catholic Elementary School Accommodation Review, that was passed in 2018. There was a lot of work, and public consultation that went into this review. The Board has been turned down for 6 Capital Priority submissions for a new school in Cobourg since this motion was passed.

The Capital Analyst suggested the Northumberland schools should go from 3 schools to 1 school. This would mean closing St. Michael CES and St. Joseph CES in Cobourg, in order to gain approval to build one new school at the Notre Dame CES location. Total enrollment at all three schools is currently 515 students.

A second option presented by the Capital Analyst was to add a renovation to Notre Dame CES, adding square footage. Due to not having accommodation pressures in this area, this will be a challenge for approval. This would also require waiting for the Capital Priorities submissions to open up again.

The third option presented is to renovate the existing square footage floor plan at Notre Dame CES, in Cobourg. This would include changing the 6 pie shaped classrooms and Library, to 5 new classrooms and a Learning Commons. They could close St. Michael CES with moving most students to Notre Dame CES, and move forward with the recommendation. The Ministry seemed more amenable to this plan. More details were not available, but could be explored if the committee wanted to move forward with exploring this option.

Motion: Moved by Trustee Tanguay, seconded by Trustee Martin, that the Board be presented with detailed plans for renovating the existing square footage floor plan at Notre Dame CES, in Cobourg, by changing the the 6 pie shaped classrooms and Library, to 5 new classrooms and a Learning Commons, along with taking the Committee on a Tour of the current Notre Dame CES to make a decision how to proceed.

Carried.

C. Information Items:

There were no information items.

D. Old Business:

There were no old business items.

E. New Business

There were no new business items.

F. Next Meeting:

1. Monday, June 10, 2024, Large Boardroom, 6:45 p.m.

G. Conclusion

1. Closing Prayer

Superintendent Kahler led the committee in closing prayer.

2. Adjournment

Motion: Moved by Board Chairperson MacKenzie, seconded by Trustee Martin, that the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Carried.

John Connolly
Committee Chairperson
/sb

Sean Heuchert
Superintendent of Business
and Finance