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Jay Aspin, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

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**W.J. Fricker Build Committee**

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

Head Office of the Near North District School Board  
963 Airport Road, North Bay, ON

Committee Members Present

Bill Steer, Committee Chair  
Louise Sargent, Trustee  
Jay Aspin, Board Chair

Staff Members Present

Gay Smylie, Acting Superintendent  
Marianne Speirs, Capital Projects Manager

Minutes:

Krista Messenger, Executive Assistant

Invited Guests:

Nathan Jensen, Mitchell Jensen Architects

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**1.0 Call to Order**

**1.1 Adoption of the Agenda**

Committee Chair Steer called the meeting to order at 2:31 PM. Attendance was called to confirm all invitees are present. The invited guest from Mitchell Jensen Architects was welcomed to the meeting

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**2.0 Project Update**

Committee Chair Steer invited Capital Projects Manager, M. Speirs, to give the Committee members an update regarding the project. Highlights noted as:

Mitchell Jensen Architects were awarded the contract for this project in March 2020.

From March- August 2020, work focused on template design and revisions to bring the project in line with the allotted funding.

It is noted that this build is a similar look and feel to the Woodland Public School build in North Bay.

From August 2020 to present day, work on the project has focused on developing the documents for the Ministry of Education capital planning division to move the project forward to the tendering phase. SBO Easton has been instrumental to preparing the documents for submission. It is expected to be provided to the Ministry later today following the committee meeting.

Following the meeting today, a request will be sent to the ministry to request the project move to tender. The Ministry is aware and expecting this update.

Committee Chair Steer thanked M. Speirs for the update. It is noted that reports have been brought forward to the Board of Trustees from the Fricker Build Committee, and here forward the meetings will be minuted as well.

Committee Chair Steer welcomed Nathen Jensen to the meeting as the Fricker Project Lead. N.

Question from Trustee Sargent regarding special education accessible restrooms and restrooms that are gender neutral.

- N. Jensen noted there are two shared blocks of restrooms that include barrier-free stalls. Additionally, there are two individual gender-neutral restrooms accessible off the main corridor. Confirmation that the gender-neutral restrooms have enough space to accommodate an adult change table.
- Confirmation from Superintendent Smylie to advise this school does not serve self-contained classrooms, and the spaces within the build are appropriate to meet student needs.

Question from Trustee Sargent on indigenous elements important to students (ie: an area for smudging)

- N. Jensen noted there were no specific requirements raised during the planning phases of this design. Care can be taken to ensure the ventilation systems are in place to support smudging in targeted spaces (for example in the library). As a secondary option, fire suppression systems can be calibrated to detect heat in lieu of smoke to ensure they are not triggered through this activity. N. Jensen to take this back for further consideration and planning.

Questions from Trustee Sargent on the consideration to classify these spaces in line with space designations within the school.

- Confirmation from Chair - to reflect the same level of quality expectations of the space to address negative feedback expressed by the public with regard to the notion of "portables".
- N. Jensen noted that the ministry was firm on designating these spaces as they will be designed to be very complementary to the school. N. Jensen advised he is pleased to re-name these spaces to reflect the integrity of these spaces.

Overview provided on the elevation and site rendering. Material pallets for the school primarily consist of brick, wood composite panels and stone accents. These were selected for their low maintenance, cost-effectiveness, and durability. Edu-pods to be constructed with the same finish and materials to complement the building. Care has

premium costs. As a school board, consideration will need to be given to what is more important: opening date, or cost effectiveness. Above this, there is no guarantee the aggressive schedule could be attained.

- Further comment from Trustee Sargent to recognize the administrative coordination involved in an aggressive schedule as well.
- Comment from the Committee Chair to bring this forward to trustees for more consideration.

Committee Chair Steer thanked Nathen Jensen for the presentation to the committee. Request for M. Speirs to include some highlights presented into a brief for the Fricker Build Committee to present to the Board of Trustees. Highlights to include the similarity to the Woodland build, the barrier free restrooms, the sustainability elements, and the intention to follow-up on fire suppression system requirements to ensure a safe place for smudging.

#### **4.1 Establishment of Committee Chair**

Committee Chair Steer noted the value in establishing a Committee Chair to observe good governance practices and following of the direction issued to all committees by Board Chair Aspin. As the current Committee Chair, Committee Chair Steer e, or cost

