

Upper Grand District School Board
Board Meeting, Tuesday, December 16, 2014
Minutes

Mitchell Woods PS choir performed three beautiful songs accompanied by piano and guitar, under the direction of Teacher Anneke McCabe.

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Grand District School Board was held on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 8:00 p.m. All Trustees were present with the exception of Trustee Lustgarten Evoy. Trustee White attended via teleconference. Student Trustees Challinor and Woodford were also in attendance.

Opening Prayer

Trustee Fairbairn provided the opening reading.

Condolences

Trustee Bailey, Chair, reported that condolences were sent on behalf of the Board to the following: Carolyn Alexander, teacher at Salem PS, on the loss of her mother; the family of Helen Purdy, retired teacher; Lynda Brant, Library Technician at the Terry James Resource Centre, on the loss of her mother; and Heather Broddy, Principal at Westminster Woods PS, on the loss of her father.

Good News

Dr. Rogers highlighted the Good News as follows:

Orangeville DSS

Wayne Feeney, Head of Physical Education and Athletic Director at Orangeville DSS, was honoured in November with the OFSAA's Leadership in School Sport Award - AAAA Girls Basketball. Centre Dufferin DHS Principal Pat Hamilton recounted some of the many highlights and accomplishments of Wayne's career in an award presentation speech at the Provincial AAAA Girls Basketball Championship Banquet, November 19 at the Hanlon Convention Centre in Guelph.

Centre Wellington DHS

Students at the Centre Wellington DHS are helping children with cancer get a boost, by making superhero capes for the children to wear. The initiative is called "Kick it Capes" and it began after a Fergus teacher Kate Heasman brought the idea to Tracy Brubacher, who teaches clothing and fashion at the high school. The students at CWDHS have taken to the cape project with gusto. They have 28 capes in three sizes

and three different colour combinations and logos. Students hope the capes will help the children stay strong as they battle through cancer.

Teacher, Glenn Wagner is one of the top 50 finalists for the global teacher prize! His student-centered work and efforts to develop a social media innovation called Knowledge Building, has been a big part of his nomination. Knowledge Building is an online learning environment where collaboration and structured debate occur around questions and ideas generated by the students. Glenn enjoys sharing this knowledge with other teachers and to date has developed a series of over 30 workshops and presentations for educators. He also publishes articles on innovative practices in science teaching and has received awards, such as the AMGEN Canada Award for Science Teaching Excellence and the Canadian Association of Physicists Excellence in Teaching Award. Congratulations Glenn!

Centre Dufferin DHS

Neil Orford, Department Head at Centre Dufferin DHS has published an article in the November-December 2014 Canadian Museum Association Issue of “Remembering Our Military”. The article entitled “Doing History: Engaging Students in a 21st Century Project” can be found in the Engaging Students section of the magazine. The article highlights the amazing research and accomplishments that his Centre Dufferin students have achieved. For example, Neil’s article features the impact of student Ewan Matthew’s research. The findings of Matthews’ research brought Ewan to visit the grave of Canadian LCpl. Estel Cook at Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery in Normandy. In addition Ewan’s research was so thorough that he discovered critical details that “had eluded more experienced historians.” The article speaks about the work that Neil and his students have done with the Dufferin County Museum and Archives (DCMA) Battlefields Partnership Project; their help in creating a digital database at the DCMA, known as the Dufferin Virtual War Memorial, containing over 5,000 veteran profiles from conflicts dating as far back as the War of 1812. Neil continues on in the article to speak of the popularity of the program and its value. The alignment of the program with the curriculum, the differentiated learning environment, (“out of the classroom and into the museum archive [...], they interview veterans [...] they ‘mine’ for information in complex databases and conduct deep online research”). The article reports how the program is student-driven learning “the student drives his or her learning through their research activities within the museum.” Students also learn the value of historical judgments; “learn something from the past that helps us to face the ethical issues of today.” The article is well written, and a source of pride for Neil Orford, his students, Centre Dufferin DHS, and the Upper Grand DSB.

Spencer Avenue ES

In the spirit of giving, Spencer Ave. ES donated approximately 1,500 items to the Orangeville Food Bank today. The new school tripled their goal to collect 500 items!

They filled a pick-up truck and a station wagon with food. A second pick-up is planned for tomorrow.

Confirmation of the Agenda

Trustee White moved, seconded by Trustee Fairbairn, that the agenda be confirmed as printed.

The motion carried.

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings Held December 2, 2014

Trustee Topping moved, seconded by Trustee Cooper, that the minutes of the meetings held December 2, 2014 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Ratification of Business Transacted by the Committee of the Whole In Camera

The ratification of the Business transacted by the Committee of the Whole In Camera was postponed to the end of the meeting, due to the incompleteness of the In Camera session.

The motion carried.

Motion to Rise and Sit in Committee of the Whole

Trustee Moziar moved, seconded by Trustee Schieck, that the Board rise and sit in Committee of the Whole with the Chairperson presiding.

The motion carried.

Business Operations Committee

Trustee Cooper moved that the minutes of the Business Operations Committee held December 9, 2104 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Cooper moved that:

1. The Wellington North Elementary Accommodation Review Final Report dated November 28, 2014 be received.

2. The verbal report on Special Needs Strategy be received as information.
3. The Annual Accessibility Report 2013 2014 dated December 9, 2014 be received as information.
4. The Resignations and Retirements report dated December 9, 2014 be received, with thanks.
5. The verbal report on Health and Safety be received, with thanks.

The motion carried.

Secondary Vice-Principal Transfers and Appointments

Dr. M. C. Rogers advised that earlier in the evening, in the In Camera session, the following secondary Vice-Principal transfers and appointments were received and will be effective February 2, 2015: Francis Noventa to Youth Options/Section 23; Ian Main to Westside SS; Joan Arbuckle to Norwell DSS; Brent Bloch to Wellington Heights SS; Hayley Warren to College Heights SS, and Adam Rowden (temporary Vice-Principal) to Centre Wellington DHS. Dr. M. C. Rogers also advised that Steve Wynen and Kevin Taylor were no longer temporary Vice-Principals.

Special Education Advisory Committee

Trustee Busuttil advised that Carrie Proudfoot, is the Chair, and Linda Busuttil is the Vice-Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee.

Trustee Busuttil moved that the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee held December 10, 2014 be received.

The motion carried.

Resignations and Retirements

Executive Officer of Human Resources Rose presented the Resignations and Retirements report dated December 16, 2014.

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the report Resignations and Retirements, Appendix A and Appendix B dated December 16, 2014 be received, with sincere thanks.

The motion carried.

2014 2015 Interim Financial Reporting as at October 31, 2014

Superintendent of Finance Wright presented the 2014 2015 Interim Financial Report as at October 31, 2014, and advised that it is the first Interim Financial Report for the 2014 2015 fiscal year. Enrolment information and year to date spending comparisons for the

2014 2015 fiscal year were shared. She elaborated and clarified all aspects of the report, provided rationale for lower than anticipated elementary enrolment, and how “high credits” impact secondary funding. A concern was raised with respect to capturing, maintaining, and retaining the market share of students to ensure that secondary enrolment numbers do not drop. Trustee Schieck suggested that he meet with the fathers of the Mennonite community in Centre Peel to encourage students to attend Upper Grand DSB secondary schools for their grades 11 and 12 years. This would enable the students to receive their OSSGD, and therefore, qualify to further their education in apprenticeship programs.

Trustee Schieck moved that the report “2014 2015 Interim Financial Reporting as October 31, 2014”, be received.

The motion carried.

Trustee Orientation Information

As part of the new Trustee Orientation program, Director of Education Dr. M. C. Rogers shared the Operational Plan Report 2013 2014, from last year. She advised that this year’s plan is in the Trustee Handbook, and pointed out that there are now four strategic directions; high level of student achievement, energizing staff, increasing public confidence, and the new strategic direction entitled equity of access and opportunity. Dr. M. C. Rogers also advised that there is an organizational chart included in this section of the Trustee Handbook. Trustees were invited to read the section, and use it as a reference tool as required.

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the Trustee Orientation Information be received.

The motion carried.

Board Correspondence

Trustee Bailey advised that a letter was drafted to the County of Wellington regarding the request to install a yellow flashing light in front of Brisbane PS, in accordance with a motion recently passed by the Board, and that the letter will be forwarded this week.

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the Board Correspondence dated December 16, 2014, be received, with thanks.

The motion carried.

Trustee Questions and Reports

McDonald Stewart Art Center

Superintendent Wright advised that Trustees Bailey, Busuttil, and MacNeil, were appointed to the Board of Directors at the Inaugural Board meeting. A private members Bill was recently passed to officially change the name of the McDonald Stewart Art Center to the Art Gallery of Guelph. An official launch of the new name is planned, and Trustees will be notified of the particulars by the Art Gallery of Guelph.

Out-of-Area Form

Trustee Busuttil suggested that senior administration consider changing the Out-of-Area form, and have it ready for January or February, that the change include a clear “no transportation” clause, and include a space for the Principal to sign to confirm that “no transportation” has been discussed with the parent.

Trustee Retreat

Trustee Bailey advised that he had consensus to go ahead with a Trustee retreat. It was suggested that the retreat be one day only, and not overnight, however he noted that overnight may be optional. Mr. Bailey invited Trustees to be part of the organizing for the retreat and to contact him if they wished to volunteer.

Trustee Cooper moved that the Trustee Questions and reports be received.

The motion carried.

Dates of Future Meetings

Trustee Moziar moved that the January 2015 schedule for Board and Standing Committee Meetings be approved as follows:

Program Committee	January 6, 2015
Business Operations	January 13, 2015
Board Meeting	January 27, 2015

The motion carried.

Director M.C. Rogers added the following to the Dates of Future Meetings:

Wednesday, January 7, 2015 Visits to Wellington North, (Kenilworth PS, Victoria Cross PS, and Arthur PS) shuttle is leaving the Board Office at 10:00 a.m. and the program starts at 10:45 a.m. at Kenilworth PS

Wednesday, January 7, 2015 Co-op breakfast, Italian Canadian Club, 7:30 a.m.

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Thursday, January 8, 2015	Public meeting, regarding overcrowding at Edward Johnson PS, 7:00 p.m., at Edward Johnson PS
Monday, January 12, 2015	Dufferin Parent Council, 7:00 p.m. at Credit Meadows ES
Tuesday, January 13, 2015	Gifted Classes Information for Parents, Spencer Ave. ES, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 15, 2015	Gifted Classes Information for Parents, Waverley Dr. PS, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 15, 2015	Joint Health and Safety Committee Meeting, Board Room, 9:00 a.m.
Monday, January 26, 2015	PIC, Board Room, 7:00 p.m. (refreshments at 6:45 p.m.)
Thursday, February 5, 2015	New staff orientation, Centre Wellington DHS, 4:30 p.m.

Trustee Topping moved that the Dates of Future Meetings dated December 16, 2014 be received, with the above noted additions.

The motion carried.

In Camera Resuming

As directed at the Committee of the Whole meeting earlier in the evening, the In Camera session was resumed at approximately 9:05 p.m. in order to complete the confidential items on the agenda.

Trustee Topping moved that this committee move In Camera to complete the remainder of the In Camera Agenda.

The motion carried.

Motion to Rise and Report to the Board

Trustee Schieck moved that the Committee of the Whole rise and report to the Board.

The motion carried.

Ratification of Business

Trustee Topping moved, seconded by Trustee Fairbairn that the business transacted by the Committee of the Whole be now ratified by the Board.

The motion carried.

Adjournment

Trustee White moved, seconded by Trustee Topping that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 9:10 p.m.

The motion carried.