

UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**BOARD MEETING – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2011**

The regular monthly meeting of Upper Grand District School Board was held on Tuesday, November 22, 2011, in the Boardroom at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 7:00 p.m.

Trustee Borden, Chair, presided and all Trustees were present with the exception of Trustee Topping, along with Student Trustee MacDougall.

OPENING PRAYER OR READING

Trustee Bailey presented several quotes on the subject of inclusivity and education from around the world as the opening reading

CONDOLENCES

Trustee Borden, Chair, reported that condolences were sent on behalf of the Board to the following: Dan Fries, on the loss of his wife, Christine, an EA at John Black Public School; Carolyn Meek-VanderVaart, an occasional teacher, and Wally VanderVaart, the Principal at East Garafraxa PS, on the passing of Carolyn's father; Hanna Morris, an Elementary Curriculum Leader in the Program Services Department, on the loss of her father; Linda Lenny, a teacher at Credit Meadows and Bill Lenny, Vice-Principal at ODSS, on the loss of Linda's mother.

GOOD NEWS

Dr. Rogers highlighted the "Good News" as follows:

Gateway Drive Oh Canada Video

A video of the Gateway senior strings orchestra was presented to Trustees. The orchestra is in its second year. This year they also have a junior orchestra containing students from grades three to five. In total there are 32 students participating in both orchestras. The program instruction is delivered by a parent Trevor Dick. The program is supported by School Council, the Children's Foundation and the Legion who will be receiving a copy of the Oh Canada DVD. Gateway Drive P.S. with School Council support has recently just purchased 30 ukuleles to support music instruction in the primary grades as well as allow for the running of a primary and junior/intermediate Ukulele Club. The Intermediate band will begin to practice in January. Music is alive, well and flourishing at Gateway Drive PS.

Rockwood Centennial P.S. - Mural Video

In January 2011, Gillian Siegart, a grade 8 teacher and Kate Creery, Principal, of Rockwood Centennial P.S. wanted to find a meaningful way to honour the beautiful environment that surrounds their school and to celebrate the

partnership the school has established with the Rockwood Conservation Area. In reflecting on this goal, they decided to honour the aboriginal peoples who were first living in this area.

With the wonderful help of Donna Gerber, the Aboriginal Liaison Officer, they were able to access funds to create a mural in their front hallway. All of the children in the school worked with the very talented artist, Don Russell, to bring an amazing mural into being. Don is a Native Canadian living in Cambridge and a graduate of the University of Guelph Fine Arts programme. The hope is that the mural will serve as a reminder of the responsibility that we all have to care for our environment, to honour those who came before us and to celebrate those who will follow us. It is one way of bringing the outside into the school.

A video illustrating the completion of the project was presented to Trustees.

Wellington Heights Secondary School

At the recent Me to We Day on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at the Kitchener Auditorium, Wellington Heights Secondary School was highlighted in the program distributed to the participants. The honour is due to the amount of money the school raised for their organization. In addition, last summer, a community group that consisted of Wellington Heights students and staff members travelled to Africa to work on building a school.

On Remembrance Day the entire student body of Wellington Heights S.S. lined the streets of Mount Forest to greet the veterans as they paraded to the cenotaph. They then marched with them to the cenotaph. During the ceremony as one veteran read the names of those who gave their lives in the two World Wars, a student placed a wooden cross with that soldier's name on it at the foot of the cenotaph. In total, the tech department made over 170 crosses. There was also a busload of students who participated in the Remembrance Day service in Arthur.

Westside Secondary School

Westside's motto is "*Sperata Nos Excitant ad Effecta* - From Dreams to Reality," and the dream of an advanced technological education learning centre is now a reality as the new auto shop and welding facility are up and running full tilt. A special thank you was extended to Martha Rogers and Paul Scinocca whose vision supported the construction of a new 4,000 sq ft state-of-the-art building at Westside.

Principal Scot Bishop watched students leap towards the automotive teacher at 8:20 am as he got out of his car in the school parking lot. The students wanted Mr. Brasil to open the shop early so they could get at the cars they were working on. Later, he learned that the same students also pleaded successfully with the teacher to be able to stay and work on cars through the lunch hour.

Other students are designing, welding and constructing go-karts from scratch in the Metal Fabrication area of the new building. In partnership with the Welding Bureau of Ontario, they are establishing Orangeville's first accredited Welding Test facility in this building. In a win-win situation with the community, this will enable students to achieve their welding credentials, and at the same

time provide a test facility for those welders in the community who are looking to be tested and receive their credentials as well.

In recognition of the excellent quality of the Westside automotive students, the teaching staff, the Specialist High Skills Major Automotive Program, and the brand new facility, Hallmark Toyota of Orangeville presented Westside with a new demonstration vehicle on November 16th for use by the automotive program.

Research tells us that allowing students to get messy with their learning brings their inquiry and understanding to deeper levels than moving lock-step through a spoon-fed curriculum.

These new tech facilities at Westside -- in addition to the already flourishing Foods and Hospitality, and Cosmetology Programs -- make Westside second to none in the Province as a place where the dream of hands-on student success is becoming a reality.

Norwell District S.S.

The Boys Senior Volleyball Team is at OFSAA this week along with one student for Track and Field.

A Drug Awareness Event was held today. Students listened to a speaker on "What are Your Anti Drug Activities" and afterwards students participated in a variety of sessions on activities in which they can get involved, instead of using drugs. Some of the sessions were scrap booking, financial fitness and cards. Altogether there are 24 different sessions running with presenters from the school and community.

CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA

Trustee Bailey moved that the agenda be confirmed as printed.

The motion carried.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD OCTOBER 25, 2011

Trustee Waterston moved, seconded by Trustee Busuttil, that the Minutes of the Board meeting held October 25, 2011 and the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held immediately prior to the Board meeting be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS TRANSACTED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN CAMERA

Trustee Moziar moved, seconded by Trustee Gohn that the business transacted by the Committee of the Whole in camera be now ratified by the Board.

The motion carried.

MOTION TO RISE AND SIT IN COMMITTEE

Trustee Busutil moved that the Board rise and sit in Committee of the Whole, with the Chairperson presiding.

The motion carried.

DELEGATIONS**Recognition of Traditions in the School Curriculum**

Ms. Amanda Randall, a parent of children attending Paisley Road PS, addressed the Board and distributed information relating to her presentation to Trustees. Ms. Randall expressed her concerns regarding the recognition of traditions such as, but limited to, Halloween, Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter, etc. in schools. She explained her concern started when she received a letter from her child's teacher stating the class would not be participating in the annual Halloween parade for the primary students (JK-3) after having received a school newsletter that outlined the planned Halloween activities. She was informed by the principal that holiday celebrations are at the teacher's discretion and not part of the provincially mandated school curriculum. Ms. Randall felt there should have been some consistency within the school, especially as she had another child at the school who would be participating in the parade.

Ms. Randall expressed her belief that if the government recognizes a holiday, it should also be recognized at the school. She suggested that instead of removing traditions from the classroom, that alternative activities should be provided as to those whose cultures did not allow the students to participate. Ms. Randall indicated she has obtained the signatures of over 500 people who are in support of the suggestion of providing options in recognition of multicultural diversity.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSE TO DELEGATION

Trustee Bailey thanked Ms. Randall for the delegation and acknowledged the difficulty she faced in having one child engaged in a school activity while the other child was not able to participate. Trustee Bailey then provided his observations on cultural history noting that many Canadians without a Christian background have embraced the concept of Halloween and do not object to the notions of sharing and giving, which are central to Christmas. He acknowledged the struggle to strike a balance to encourage diversity while preserving traditional

Canadian traditional practices and expressed the need for more welcoming and inclusive celebrations that would help children learn about each others' backgrounds. He does not feel it is appropriate to mandate how school communities engage in celebrations and suggested that policies around celebration of traditions should be decided at the school level with input from staff, the principal, parents and the school council, and that the decision should be uniform throughout the school.

Dr. Martha Roger, Director of Education was invited to present the staff perspective on the issue. Dr. Rogers indicated that staff also values the provision of choice for families noting that it is public system that welcomes students of different faiths as well as those who are not members of a faith community. We do not promote or denigrate any particular denomination or custom; therefore, at the school level, it is important for staff to become familiar with the nature and needs of religious groups in their particular school community since school communities differ. Dr. Rogers noted that students at our school in a Mennonite community continue to recite the Lord's Prayer and sing hymns during school. These students do not change for Physical Education and do not value competitive sports. Students who are Jehovah Witness do not sing Oh Canada or participate in many celebrations. Jewish students celebrate Hanukkah in December and Passover in April. Christian students celebrate Christmas and Easter. Muslim children recognize two main celebrations of EID (Eid-ul-Fitr and Ed-ul-Adha). Hindu students celebrate Durga and Diwali. First Nations students pay more attention to seasonal changes, the moon and the provision of food and other living essentials. Halloween is a religious day of significance for Wiccans and should be treated respectfully, while for many children it is just a time for make believe, dressing up and collecting candy. Staff agrees with school-based decision making and that the decision should be consistent throughout the school. It is also hoped that principals, staff and school councils will do their best to reflect their school community so that everyone feels included with their traditions respected.

Dr. Rogers reassured the delegation that there will be various events centred on Christmas taking place at Paisley Road PS.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Trustee Moziar moved that the minutes of the Program Committee held November 1, 2011 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Moziar moved the adoption of recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4 as contained in the Minutes of the Program Committee, dated November 1, 2011.

The motion carried.

The motions are as follows:

THAT:

1. the presentation entitled, “Growing Success – Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting in Ontario Schools, First Edition, Covering Grades 1 to 12, 2010” be received.
2. the presentation entitled, “Overview of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: How It Supports the Learning and Teaching of French,” be received.
3. the verbal OPSBA report be received.
4. the Student Trustee presentation be received.

BUSINESS OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the minutes of the Business Operations Committee held November 8, 2011 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Fairbairn moved the adoption of recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 as contained in the Minutes of the Business Operations Committee, dated November 8, 2011.

The motion carried.

The motions are as follows:

THAT:

1.
 - a) Memo PLN:11-25, entitled “Edward Johnson FI Boundary Review – Report #1 be received.
 - b) the Board approve a boundary review for Edward Johnson PS.
 - c) Trustees adopt the schedule shown in Appendix A of report PLN:11-25, as the proposed timeline for the boundary review process necessary to establish the JK-6 French Immersion boundary for Edward Johnson PS.
2.
 - a) the report entitled “FDK Capital Projects, Ponsonby PS, Primrose ES, CP:11-15, dated November 8, 2011, be received.
 - b) the “Project Description” for Ponsonby PS and Primrose ES, as outlined in report CP:11-15, dated November 8, 2011, be approved.
 - c) staff be directed to proceed to construct the projects attached as Appendices 1 and 2 in report CP:11-15, dated November 8, 2011.
3. the report, Trustee Honoraria Annual Calculation, dated November 8, 2011 (Finance #2011-39) be received.
4. the report Access Upper Grand – Annual Accessibility Plan of the UGDSB 2011-2012 be received.
5. the report, Human Resources Department – Multi-Year Plan, dated 2011 11 08, be received.

6. the verbal report on Health and Safety as presented by Mr. Jim Bowie, Health and Safety Officer, be received.

FDK Capital Projects, Central PS and Taylor Evans PS Report

Mr. Paul Scinocca, Capital Projects Manager, introduced and reviewed the report entitled, “FDK Capital Projects, Central PS and Taylor Evans PS,” dated November 22, 2011. The projects are included in the Capital Plan previously approved in principle by the Board. The project descriptions and proposed floor plans for Central PS and Taylor Evans PS were reviewed in detail. Mr. Scinocca noted that the Taylor Evans PS project differs from what was included in the Capital Plan. The initial proposal contemplated the termination of the lease for the external day care provider and that the day care space be used for kindergarten classrooms. The recommendation in the report is that the day care remain in place and that three existing classrooms be renovated into two kindergarten classrooms. Mr. Scinocca highlighted the fact that the future capacity under this proposal will be reduced from 499 to 430.

Trustee Waterston moved

THAT:

1. The report entitled “FDK Capital Projects, Central P/S, Taylor Evans PS CP:11-17, dated November 22, 2011 be received.
2. The “Project Description” for Central PS and Taylor Evans PS, as outlined in report cP:1-7, dated November 2011, be approved.
3. Staff be directed to proceed to construct the projects attached as Appendices 1 and 2 in report CP: 1-7, dated November 22, 2011.

The motion carried.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Trustee Waterston moved that the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee held November 9, 2011 be received.

The motion carried.

POLICY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Trustee Busuttill moved that the Minutes of the Policy Management Committee held November 1, 2011 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Busuttill moved the approval of recommendation 1 as contained in the Minutes of the Policy Management Committee, dated November 1, 2011.

The motion carried.

The motion is as follows:

THAT:

1. Policy 320 School Boundary Review be approved.

2010-2011 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Ms. Janice Wright, Superintendent of Finance, introduced the report entitled, “2010-2011 Audited Financial Statements,” dated November 22, 2011. She noted transition of the financial statements to full implementation of the Public Sector Accounting Guidelines has been completed. The Audit Committee reviewed the 2010-2011 Financial Statements for the Upper Grand District School Board and the Upper Grand District School Board Trust and recommends their approval. The Audit Committee also directed staff to submit the financial information contained in the Education Finance Information System (EFIS) to the Ministry of Education by November 15th, in order to comply with the deadline and avoid the cash flow restrictions associated with late filing. This data forms the basis for the Financial Statements that are to be filed with the Ministry by December 6, 2011.

Superintendent Wright introduced and welcomed Mr. Tom Mennill and Ms. Rachelle Starret representing the firm KPMG LLP, Chartered Accountants, who introduced and reviewed the Audit Findings Report. The reports on the Audited Financial Statements of Upper Grand District School Board and for the Board’s Trust Funds were also included in the agenda package.

Mr. Mennill referred to the Audit Findings Report and indicated that they are prepared to render an unqualified audit report for UGDSB, subject to approval of the Trustees. Ms. Starret then reviewed the change in accounting policies and Ministry adjustment to approved capital funding and resulting actions and outcomes. Mr. Mennill reported that the Auditors’ Report has changed from the prior year due to the implementation of new Canadian Auditing Standards (which conform to International Auditing and Reporting Standards). In addition, a special purpose Auditors’ Report is to be used as a result of the Ministry requirement for Boards to record deferred capital contributions for revenue received from property tax revenue (prior to 1998) which was used to acquire or construct depreciable tangible capital assets. This requirement is not in accordance with GAAP, necessitating a special purpose rather than a standard Auditors’ report.

Superintendent Wright reviewed the Draft Financial Statements of Upper Grand District School Board for the Year ended August 31, 2011 along with comparative figures for 2010 in detail, including the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position, Consolidated Statement of Operations, Consolidated Schedule of Changes in Net Debt, Consolidated Statement of Cash Flow highlighting changes and related Notes. The Statements of Upper Grand District School Board Trust Funds for the year ended August 31, 2011 were also reviewed.

The appreciation of the Board was extended to Mr. Mennill, Ms. Starret and KPMG staff and also to Superintendent Wright, Ms. Parker and Ms. Culver and their department.

Trustee Waterston moved

THAT:

1. The report: 2010-2011 Audited Financial Statements (Finance #2011-43), dated November 22, 2011, be received.
2. The Audit Findings Report to the Board, as prepared by KPMG, dated November 22, 2011, be received.
3. The 2010-2011 Audited Financial Statements for the Upper Grand District School Board and the 2010-2011 Audited Financial Statements for the Upper Grand District School Board Trustee be approved.

The motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Janice Wright, Superintendent of Finance, introduced and reviewed the report entitled, "Annual Treasurer's Report," dated November 22, 2011. The report provides Trustees with information about Regulation 41/10 - Board Borrowing, Investing and Other Financial Matters and the Board's investment activity. The only investments the Board held relate to OSBFC Sinking Fund Debentures and will mature in 2013 and 2017 and are held by CIBC Mellon. We have also begun to make Sinking fund Contributions for the retirement of the 1999 Debenture in 2024. This debenture planned for Sinking Fund Contributions of \$1.3M per year for 15 years at a projected interest rate of 5.2%. The Ministry has recognized the unreasonableness of such a high interest rate and have provided us with sufficient funds to contribute \$1.6M per year to the sinking fund.

Trustee Schieck moved that the report: Annual Treasurer's Report (Finance #2011-42) dated November 22, 2011 be received.

The motion carried.

TRUSTEE EXPENSES REPORT

Ms. Janice Wright, Superintendent of Finance introduced and reviewed the report entitled, "Trustee Expenses", dated November 22, 2011. She reported that the expenses will be posted on the website. She noted that because the Trustees' terms differ slightly from the Board's year end, there is an overlap of current and former Trustees; therefore, Appendix A includes the figures for 2009-10 for comparison.

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the report: Trustee Expenses (Finance 2011-41) dated November 22, 2011, be received.

The motion carried.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Ms. Jennifer Rose, Executive Officer of Human Resources, introduced and reviewed the report, “Resignations and Retirements,” dated November 22, 2011, as distributed at the meeting.

Trustee Schieck extended thanks to the long service employees and moved that the report, “Resignations and Retirements,” dated November 22, 2011 (Appendix A and B) be received.

The motion carried

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Borden presented a written report of correspondence received during the past month.

Trustee Busuttill moved that the Board Correspondence report dated November 22, 2011, be received.

The motion carried.

Trustee Borden explained that item 1 was moved into Board Correspondence because it was a Guelph issue and he wished to receive input from the Guelph Trustees prior to responding.

Trustee Busuttill moved that the Board direct the Chair to write a letter of response to Philip and Nicola Walsh.

The motion carried.

TRUSTEE QUESTIONS AND REPORTS

Guiding Principles for the Budget Process

Trustee Busuttill reminded Trustees to send their comments regarding the Guiding Principles for the Budget Process to her for consideration as the document is being finalized.

Me to We Day

Trustee Schieck reported on his recent attendance at Me to We Day at the Kitchener Auditorium. It is the second year he has participated in the spectacular event that was attended by approximately 6,000 students. An opportunity was provided to mingle with colleagues from the other boards that were participating.

It was reported that Student Trustee Sampson has a video from the event that will be shown at a future meeting.

OPSBA Representation

Trustee Bailey raised the issue of the appointment of the UGDSB representatives to OPSBA that will take place at the upcoming organizational meeting. He noted that currently the Board has assigned two separate Trustees as the Director and as the Voting Delegate. Trustee Bailey asked that consideration be given to having the same person serve in both capacities to ensure that the voting delegate has been exposed to the discussions at the OPSBA Board of Directors meetings prior to the recommendations being presented at the AGM. Trustee Fairbairn also noted a positive financial impact would result.

Trustee Bailey moved that the UGDSB appoint a single Trustee to serve as Director and as Voting Delegate to OPSBA.

The motion carried.

Meeting of Board Chairs and Directors

Trustee Borden reported on a meeting that he and Director Rogers attended recently with Directors and Chairs of 28 of the 31 Public Boards across the province. OPSBA also attended as observers. The intention is to continue to hold similar meetings in order to have ongoing dialogue amongst that group, likely in conjunction with scheduled OPSBA events, in order to maintain that link.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the December 2011 schedule for Board and Standing Committee Meetings be approved as follows:

- i. Program Committee – No meeting
- ii. Final Board Meeting be held on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 – 6:45 p.m.
- iii. Organizational Board Meeting be held on Tuesday, December 6, 2011- 7:00 p.m.
- iv. Business Operations be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 -
- v. Regular Board Meeting be held on Tuesday, December 21, 2011

The motion carried.

The list of dates of future meetings was reviewed and the following additions and changes were noted:

- Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) – Monday, November 28, 2011, Room 9, 6:30 p.m.
- Learning Foundation – Monday, December 5, 2011, room 3, 5:30 p.m.
- Chairs' Committee – Tuesday, December 13, 2011 - CANCELLED

The remainder of the meetings are as follows:

- Monday, November 28, 2011 - Laurine Ave. PS User Advisory Committee, Board Room, 4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 6, 2011 - Policy Management Committee Board Room, 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 7, 2011 - Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL), Guelph, 9:30 a.m.
- Monday, December 12, 2011 - Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Orangeville, 1:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 13, 2011 - Audit Committee, Room 9, 4:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 14, 2011 - Special Education Advisory Committee, Board Room, 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 15, 2011 - Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Wellington Heights, 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, December 21, 2011 - Accessibility Committee Room 9, 1:30 p.m.

Rick Hansen 25th Anniversary Relay
December 5, 2011 – Guelph
December 6, 2011 – Elmira, Elora, Fergus,
Orangeville
December 7, 2011 – Orangeville,
Schomberg, Aurora

Thursday, December 15, 2011
Edward Johnson PS Boundary Review
Public Information Session
Laurine Ave. PS, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Winter Break
December 26, 2011 – January 6, 2012

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the Dates of Future Meetings dated November 22, 2011 be received.

The motion carried.

MOTION TO RISE AND REPORT TO THE BOARD

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

The motion carried.

RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS

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

The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Waterston, Seconded by Trustee Fairbairn, that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 8:50 p.m.

The motion carried.