

UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

January 25, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of Upper Grand District School Board was held on Tuesday, January 25, 2011, in the Boardroom at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 7:00 p.m.

The Chair, Trustee Borden, presided and all members were present.

OPENING PRAYER OR READING

Trustee Gohn presented an inspirational reading by William Butler Yeats entitled "Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire," from the book Truth Picks, by Peter de Jager.

CONDOLENCES

The Director reported that condolences were sent on behalf of the Board to Lisa Weber, a teacher at Kenilworth P.S., on the loss of her father-in-law; Sheila Nicholas, ESL/Linc Administrator, and Barbara Davis, ESL Assessor at St. George's Centre, on the loss of their mother; Doug McIlwain, a teacher at ODSS and Debby McIlwain, a supply teacher for the UGDSB, on the loss of Doug's father; Barb Cowen, Business Department Head at Wellington Heights S.S., on the loss of her father-in-law; Myrna Hanna, a teacher at Portage (a Section 23 Program) in Elora, on the loss of her mother; Sherry Pirico, a Payroll Clerk in the Human Resources Department, on the loss of her father; Stuart Hood, an EA at College Heights S.S., on the loss of his father; Rob Padovan, a teacher at Laurine Ave. P.S., on the loss of his father; Janet Kranz, a teacher at Centre Dufferin D.H.S., on the loss of her mother; Joanne Besley and Pauline Lloyd, both teachers at Centre Dufferin D.H.S., on the loss of their father; Susan Jenkins, a teacher at College Heights S.S., on the loss of her father; Pauline Lloyd, a teacher at Centre Dufferin District High School, on the loss of her father; Faye Oakes Martin, a teacher at Elora Public School, on the loss of her mother; Andy Pink, Vice-Principal of Centennial Hylands E.S., on the loss of his mother; Tracey Neuman, the Office Coordinator at Primrose Elementary School, on the loss of her father; Susan Lane, an Educational Assistant at John F. Ross C.V.I., on the loss of her mother; and, Gail McKeen, an Early Learning Program Officer and retired Elementary Principal, on the loss of her mother.

GOOD NEWS

Dr. M.C. Rogers, Director of Education, highlighted "Good News" as follows:

Brisbane Students sent 40 Christmas boxes to our troops in Afghanistan

Brisbane P.S. teacher, Carol Davison invited the Brisbane school community to take part in providing packages of comfort items that are mailed

free of charge overseas for Christmas. Students, staff and parents were quick to respond and ultimately some 40 boxes were prepared and sent to the troops. The boxes were sent to Captain Rick Moyer (Captain Moyer is Canadian reserve soldier who is currently serving in Afghanistan on his first tour of duty. He is on leave of absence from his teaching job with the Board). Just before Christmas, the “Brisbane team of Elves” received a letter from Captain Moyer, expressing appreciation for the packages, and bringing “Christmas” to Kandahar.

Erin P.S. – Waste Free Lunch Challenge Winner

Erin P.S. was one of 20 schools from across the province that won a \$1,000 prize for participating in the Waste Free Lunch Challenge from Metro. The money is to be used for school-based environmental projects. All registered students received a reusable aluminium water bottle in recognition for their efforts.

Other Ontario students participated in the Waste Free Lunch Challenge as part of Waste Reduction Week in Canada (October 18 – 22). Nearly 700 schools from 57 boards across the province participated in this year’s challenge, and the results were a great success. Ontario students prevented 50 tonnes of waste from being shipped to landfill sites.

The da Vinci Arts & Science Environmental Leadership Program 2010

The da Vinci Arts & Science Environmental Leadership Program is John F. Ross C.V.I.’s new interdisciplinary program open to all grade 11 students from across the Board. Students have the opportunity to obtain 4 Grade 11 credits (English, Biology, Visual Arts and Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology) while experiencing many opportunities such as a five day canoe trip, teaching grade 4s an eco-artist program, going on an overnight trip to Toronto, putting on an art show and visiting various University science labs at the University of Guelph J.C. Taylor Nature Centre.

The program has completed a project designed to raise awareness and promote biodiversity in our community. This student-driven project has resulted in an exceptional showcase of biodiversity art which will appear on and in Guelph transit buses. This public display has been made possible by the City of Guelph, Guelph Transit, Sambrook Media, the Gosling Foundations and Lumichrom.

There will also be an art show at Ed Video in downtown Guelph on Monday January 31st, from 6 to 9 p.m. which will showcase these posters as well as art created throughout the semester. For more information about the program visit www.davinciprogram.ca.

International Society of Certified Benefit Specialists Magazine Article

Sandy Edwards, Administrative Officer, Teaching Division, has had an article published in the *International Society of Certified Benefit Specialists* magazine. Sandy’s article in this international publication summarizes a presentation on changes to Canadian Legislation related to pensions and benefits. The publishing of this article demonstrates the high level of expertise that Sandy Edwards has in the area of pension and benefits and brings recognition to our Board.

Board Office Staff donate to Foods and Friends Program

Members of the Upper Grand Staff Association presented Anita Macfarlane of Food and Friends with a cheque totalling more than \$9,600 in support of the program's snack/breakfast programs which operate in many of our schools. The funds were raised by the Board Office staff at who donated \$2 each week to "Jean Day" (Dress Down Day).

Premier's Award for Excellence in Leadership

Trustee Borden reported that a nomination package for Dr. Martha Rogers, Director of Education, is being submitted for the Premier's Award for Excellence in Leadership.

CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA

Trustee Schieck moved 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 BOARD MEETING HELD DECEMBER 14, 2010

Trustee Waterston moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey that the Minutes of the Minutes of the meeting held December 14, 2010, 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 Schieck moved, seconded by Trustee Fairbairn, 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 Cooper moved that the Board rise and sit in Committee of the Whole, with the Chairperson presiding.

The motion carried.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Moziar moved that the minutes of the Program Committee held January 4, 2011 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Moziar moved the adoption of recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 as contained in the Minutes of the Program Committee, dated January 4, 2011 as printed.

The motion carried.

The recommendations are as follows:

THAT:

1. the presentation entitled, "The Career Education Council" be received.
2. the presentation entitled, "Green Legacy Programme" be received.
3. the presentation entitled, "EcoSchools: Building Environmentally Responsible Students" be received.
4. the presentation entitled, "Program Services – Staff Web Portal – Curriculum Department and Board Improvement Plan" be received.
5. the verbal OPSBA report be received.
6. the Student Trustee presentation be received

Motion of Support for Inalienable Right to Education for all First Nation Students

Student Trustee Vander Vlugt provided background information regarding Shannen's Dream Campaign seeking the right to education for all First Nation students. OSTA and all the Student Trustees who are members of OSTA have supported the Shannen's Dream Campaign, and Student Trustee Vander Vlugt asked for the support of the Board for this initiative.

Trustee Busuttil moved THAT:

1. the board support the Shannen's Dream campaign; and,
2. the Chair and Student Trustee be directed to write a letter to the federal government of Canada and to the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada.

Trustee Moziar requested a recorded vote and the results are as follows:

Yeah: Trustees Bailey, Borden, Busuttil, Cooper, Fairbairn, Gohn, Moziar, Schieck, Topping and Waterston

The motion carried (unanimously)

BUSINESS OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the minutes of the Business Operations Committee held January 11, 2011 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Fairbairn moved the adoption of recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 as contained in the Minutes of the Business Operations Committee, dated January 11, 2011.

The motion carried.

The recommendations are as follows:

THAT:

1. the UGDSB Planning Department Report be received.
2. the report: 2010 2011 Interim Financial Reporting as at October 31, 2010 (Finance #2011-01) dated January 11, 2011, be received.
3.
 - a) the report, "Resignations and Retirements" dated January 11, 2011 be received;
 - b) the Board approve the Executive Officer of Human Resources' decisions as outlined in the report "Resignations and Retirements," dated January 11, 2011 (Appendix A and B).
4. the verbal report on Health and Safety, as presented by Ms. J. Rose, Executive Officer of Human Resources, be received as information.
5. the verbal report on Centre Guelph Reorganization (Staffing) be received.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee held January 12, 2011 be received.

The motion carried.

POLICY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Gohn moved that the minutes of the Policy Management Committee held January 11, 2011, received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Gohn moved the adoption of recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 4 as contained in the Minutes of the Policy Management Committee dated January 11, 2011.

The motion carried

The recommendations are as follows:

THAT:

1. Policy 705 Investments be approved.
2. Policy 316 Records and Information Management be approved.
3. Policy 417 Reimbursement of Trustee Expenses be approved as amended.
4. A Trustee be appointed to sit on the Environmental Policy Development Committee.

Trustee Busuttill moved that Trustees Cooper and Bailey be appointed to sit on the Environmental Policy Development Committee.

The motion carried.

CHAIRS' COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Busuttill moved that the minutes of the Chairs' Committee held January 11, 2011, received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Busuttill moved that the Monthly Financial Statements as of November 30 and December 31, 2010 and the final audited August 2010 Financial Statement be received.

The motion carried.

TRUSTEE ORIENTATION: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Mr. John Shanks, Chief information Officer, Mr. Mike Albano, Field Services Manager and Mr. Ted Brown, Systems Integration Manager gave a presentation providing an overview of the Information Technology Department including its evolution within an ever changing environment, its organization, its functions and strategic planning. Their goal is to ensure there is service and support to enable students, educators and administrators to perform appropriately. Governance and planning is guided by the Tech Council, in partnership with stakeholders with the focus remaining on student learning and support for students. The targets moving forward are 21st Century Learning (anything, anywhere, anytime) and education/learning on demand.

Trustees then viewed a video of a presentation by an MIT doctoral student to the TED Conference held fifteen months ago that illustrated the direction and fast changing nature of technology as it moves toward integration of our physical and digital environment.

The strong link and collaboration between the IT and Program Departments to make sure the essential services required for education and instructional practice in the classroom is supported, was highlighted.

Mr. Shanks also reviewed the environmental initiatives in place to maximize energy efficiency and recycle waste computer systems, noting the life cycle of desktop computers is 6 years.

Trustees raised some concern regarding the availability of funding to keep up with the fast changing technology, the potential for negative impact on the attention span of students, and equitable access to technology for at risk students. In order to provide an opportunity to further discuss these and other relevant issues and concerns relating to technology, a workshop will be scheduled in the spring.

Trustee Busuttill moved that the Information Technology Department presentation be received.

The motion carried.

GUELPH PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

A letter addressed to Director Rogers dated December 22, 2010, from The Deputy City Clerk regarding Council Appointments to the Guelph Public Library Board of Directors was reviewed. The City is seeking input from the U.G.D.S.B. regarding the recommendation from the Guelph Public Library Board to remove school board representation from the Board and replace those positions with public citizens.

Dr. Martha Rogers, Director of Education, reported that the Library Boards of Dufferin and Wellington Counties and the City of Orangeville do not have school board representatives. In addition, follow-up with the Program Department indicated there would not be a negative impact on their work if the school board was not represented on the Library Board. Ms. Maggie McFadzen, Director of Communications, has served as the U.G.D.S.B. representative and is being recommended for reappointment by the City as a public citizen for a term ending in 2014, once the new structure has been finalized. Staff will maintain the strong working relationship with the Library that currently exists.

Trustee Moziar moved that the Board discontinue the appointment of a representative from the U.G.D.S.B. to the Guelph Public Library Board.

The motion carried.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Ms. J. L. Rose, Executive Officer of Human Resources, introduced and reviewed her report, "Retirements," dated January 25, 2011, as distributed at the meeting.

Trustee Schieck expressed thanks to the long-term employees who are retiring and moved THAT:

1. the report, "Retirements," dated January 25, 2011 be received; and
2. the Board approve the Executive Officer of Human Resources' decisions as outlined in the report "Retirements," dated January 25, 2011 (Appendix A).

The motion carried.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Borden presented a written report of correspondence during the past month. In addition a letter dated January 21, 2011 addressed to the School Board from Faye Sonier, Legal Counsel for the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada regarding the Freedoms of Conscience and Religion of Ontario Parents and Students, and a letter dated January 24, 2011 addressed to Chair Borden from Brian I. Debiens, Chair and Marguerite Jackson, CEO of EQAO regarding EQAO Information Tools for Ontario School Board Chairs, were distributed at the meeting.

Trustee Topping moved that the Board Correspondence Report of January 25, 2011 be received.

The motion carried.

TRUSTEE QUESTIONS AND REPORTS

Sir Isaac Brock P.S.

Trustee Cooper raised the issue of multiple emails that have been received from parents from Sir Isaac Brock P.S. expressing their interest in having grades 7 and 8 introduced at the school. Director Rogers explained that based on enrolment projections when the school was built, grades 7 and 8 would be added on Sir Isaac Brock no sooner than 2013. Last fall the Planning Department re-examined the enrolment projections to 2015 and determined there would be a negative impact on several other schools if the grade 7 and 8 students were removed from their program. A review will be undertaken again in 2013. The Principal was made aware of this information. Mr. Borden has been responding to individual emails on behalf of the Trustees and, in consultation with the Guelph Trustees, a letter has been drafted for circulation to the Sir Isaac Brock parents tomorrow. The letter confirms what is planned and advised that there will be an opportunity for the school community to provide input on the

issue of phasing in Grades 7 and 8 at Sir Isaac Brock during the Long-term Accommodation Plan process.

Extended Day Fees

Trustee Busutil raised concern regarding the lack of public funding available to support special needs children in the extended day program provided by school boards.

Trustee Busutil moved that the Chair of the Board be directed to send a letter to the Premier and the Minister of Education with copies to OPSBA and SEAC, outlining our concerns regarding parent fees for extended day special education service.

The motion carried.

Brant Avenue P.S. World Cafe

Trustee Moziar reported on her recent attendance at the Brant Avenue World Cafe. The topic for the evening was what could be done to make the school safer and more inviting. The children had also been asked for their input and their responses were posted around the room. The event was well attended and the parents were very engaged.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Program Committee - Tuesday, February 1, 2011
 Business Operations Committee Meeting - Tuesday, February 8, 2011
 Regular Board Meeting - Tuesday, February 22, 2011

The motion carried.

The list of Dates of Future Meetings was reviewed and revised as follows:

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| Tuesday, February 1, 2011 | - | Trustee Forum on the Use of Technology in the Board Room, 5:30 p.m., Board Room |
| Monday, February 7, 2011 | - | Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils (SALEP), 1:00 p.m., Orangeville |
| Monday, February 7, 2011 | - | Dufferin FI Review, Mono Amaranth Public School 4:00 p.m. |
| Tuesday, February 8, 2011 | - | Policy Management Committee, 3 p.m., Board Room |
| Tuesday, February 8, 2011 | - | Chair's Committee, 5:00 p.m., Trustees' Lounge (date to be confirmed) |

- Wednesday, February 9, 2011 - Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils (SALEP), 9:30 a.m., Guelph
- Wednesday February 9, 2011 - Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), 7:00 p.m., Board Room
- Tuesday, February 15, 2011 - Board Operational Review Workshop, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Board Room
- Thursday, February 17, 2011 - Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils (SALEP), WHSS, 9:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, February 22, 2011 - Budget Liaison Committee, 4:30 p.m. Room 9.

**Public Education Symposium
January 27-29, 2011
Sheraton Centre, Toronto**

**Audit Committee Training
January 31-February 1, 2011
Courtyard Marriott, Hamilton**

In addition, Director Rogers reported that “We Day,” an initiative of *Free the Children* (founded by Craig and Mark Kielburger) is being held on February 17th at the Kitchener Auditorium. The U.G.D.S.B., the Wellington Catholic District School Board and the Public and Catholic Boards of Waterloo Region are participating and approximately 5,000 youth are expected to participate. Trustees Bailey, Busuttill, Schieck and Student Trustee Vander Vlugt volunteered to attend on behalf of the Trustees.

Trustee Topping moved that the Dates of Future Meetings dated January 25, 2011 be received.

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

The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Cooper moved, seconded by Trustee Waterston, that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 9:05 p.m.

The motion carried.