

Upper Grand District School Board
Board Meeting, Tuesday, August 26, 2014
Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Grand District School Board was held on Tuesday, August 26, 2014, in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 7:25 p.m. All Trustees were present with the exception of Trustee Waterston. Student Trustees Woodford and Challinor were also in attendance.

Opening Prayer

Trustee Moziar read an excerpt from the book "Thank Heaven for Teachers" focusing on teachers as a new school year begins.

Condolences

Trustee Bailey, Chair, reported that condolences were sent on behalf of the Board to the following: the family of Kathy Brown, teacher at Mount Forest PS; Pauline Lloyd, teacher at Centre Dufferin DHS, on the loss of her mother; Joanne Besley, EA at Highland Heights ES, on the loss of her mother; Brian Hathway, teacher at College Heights SS, on the loss of his brother; the family of Henry Neufeld, student at Centre Peel PS; the family of Ross Austin, retired teacher at Orangeville DSS; the family of Dave Biggs, retired teacher at Willow Road PS; the family of David Mander, retired teacher at East Garafraxa PS; Kim Lebrun, teacher at Elora PS, on the loss of her father; Liz Lebrun CYC at various elementary schools, on the loss of her grandfather; Steve Longman, technician in the maintenance department, on the loss of his mother; Bill Moran, caretaker at Erin DHS, on the loss of his mother; the family of Betty Curylo, teacher at Princess Elizabeth PS; Gareth Diamond, teacher at J.F. Ross CVI, on the loss of his father; Cindy Douma, Terry James Media Centre, on the loss of her father; and to Reesor Draper former audio visual technician, on the loss of his wife.

Confirmation of the Agenda

Trustee Fairbairn moved, seconded by Trustee Schieck, 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 Meeting Held June 24, 2014

Trustee Topping moved, seconded by Trustee Borden, that the minutes of the meeting held June 24, 2014, 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

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.

Trustee Moziar commented on the Director's report which was discussed earlier in the evening, and on behalf of the Board of Trustees, expressed thanks to senior administration for their excellent work during the past year and wished them continued success for the upcoming year.

Motion to Rise and Sit in Committee of the Whole

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

The motion carried.

Appointment of Compliance Audit Committee – Election

In compliance with the Municipal Elections Act, Superintendent Wright advised that school Boards need to appoint an audit committee to hear and decide on applications for compliance audits, and that this process is done every four years.

Trustee Schieck moved that:

1. The Report: "Compliance Audit Committee" dated August 26, 2014, be received.
2. The Board appoint Bruce Robinson, Steven Routenburg and Nancy Claridge to its Compliance Audit Committee.

The motion carried.

Director's Objectives for 2014 – 2015

Director Rogers presented her objectives for 2014-2015 which included the following Strategic Directions: High Level of Student Achievement; Energizing Staff; Increased Public Confidence; and a section on Leadership Management. Action Plans supporting

these objectives include: Board Improvement Planning; Diversity of Instruction; Prioritizing Initiatives and Resources; Creating Synergy Through Teamwork; Supporting and Developing Staff; Celebrating Staff and Students; Clarifying Expectations, Accountability and Transparency; Increased Public Confidence; and Engaging the Community. Director Rogers advised that she pays careful attention to what is going on in this Board, which enables her to understand, oversee, and manage the operations of the Board. She will continue to supervise the work of managers, stay focused on student learning, and will ensure that we continue to be a learning organization. Her goal is to strive for peace and stability so that we can be the best we can be. Trustees were very appreciative of the report and expressed congratulations and thanks to Director Rogers for a very ambitious set of goals, and a job well done.

Trustee Fairbairn moved that:

1. The report entitled "Director's Objectives for 2014 – 2015" dated August 18, 2014 be received.
2. The objectives outlined in Appendix A of the report entitled "Director's Objectives for 2014 – 2015" be approved.

The motion carried.

Process for Appealing STWDSTS Decisions

In order to provide a consistent process for all members of the STWDSTS when appealing transportation decisions, Superintendent Wright presented the proposed process. This process was drafted by the Transportation Management Committee to provide a fair, equitable, and standardized process for transportation appeals. Appeals may still be heard by the Board, however, it was suggested that the process be followed first. It was suggested that a flow chart be developed and posted on the web-site as a tool to assist appellants follow the process. It was also suggested that, on a somewhat regular basis, a report be presented to the Board outlining issues presented and resolutions made. Concerns were raised with regard to reporting, timelines, principles by which decisions are made, documentation, privacy and transparency, accountability, and considering that it is a new process, what will work and what will not. Superintendent Wright agreed to take back the concerns raised and noted that changes and modifications may be necessary, as the STWDSTS works through the process, and identifies areas that work well and areas that need to be revised. An update was requested for the September Board meeting.

Trustee Moziar moved that the Report entitled "Process for Appealing STWDSTS Decisions" dated August 26, 2014 be received.

The motion carried.

Strategic Plan Update

Trustee Busuttil advised that the Strategic Plan Committee made recommendations to continue with three strategic directions which were already in place, and to add a new direction “equity of access and opportunity”. She noted that it was the responsibility of the committee to provide the headings, and that Senior Administration would develop action plans supporting those headings, which would be in the form of workshops. In order to enable Director Rogers to share the Strategic Plan at the State of the System address, Trustee Busuttil requested approval in principle of the fourth direction “equity of access and opportunity”. Trustee Busuttil suggested that a written report and recommendations would be prepared in the very near future to support this verbal report.

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the verbal report on the Strategic Plan Update be received.

The motion carried.

Trustee Cooper moved that the Board consider a motion of approval in principle of the fourth strategic direction, “equity of access and opportunity”.

The motion carried.

Summer 2014 Project Update

Operations Officer Scinocca provided an extensive update on the Summer 2014 Projects. He noted that, where possible, he combined capital with renewal projects, to save time and money and limit the number of school disruptions. He highlighted 22 capital projects, and advised of the status of each, combined with pictures of the various stages of construction. He commended his great team of staff Jennifer Piercey, John Charbonneau, Blair Capling, and Peter Zilio for their dedication and hard work which resulted in occupancy permits for all but four sites. The four sites still to obtain occupancy permits are J. D. Hogarth PS, Rockwood Centennial PS, Ecole Harris Mill PS, and William C. Winegard PS. In response to a concern raised, it was agreed that accessibility projects be identified in future reports. Trustees expressed their appreciation, thanks, and congratulations to the Capital/Renewal team for a great job, to Mr. Scinocca for a very elaborate report, and for creating safe and clean facilities for our students.

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the verbal report Summer 2014 Project Update be received.

The motion carried.

OPSBA – EQAO Position Paper

Trustee Fairbairn distributed a document entitled “OPSBA Draft Discussion Paper EQAO And Large Scale Testing In Ontario”. He requested that Trustees read this document and forward comments to him by the 4th of September. He stated that he would like to share the comments received with OPSBA.

Trustee Borden moved that the “OPSBA – EQAO Position Paper” be received.

The motion carried.

Resignations and Retirements

Executive Officer of Human Resources Rose presented the Resignations and Retirements report dated August 26, 2014.

Trustee Schieck moved that the report “Resignations and Retirements, Appendix A and Appendix B” dated August 26, 2014 be received, with thanks.

The motion carried.

Trustee Questions and Reports

Trustee Cooper questioned a perceived policy change in the transportation policy. It was noted that the walking distance for students in grades 9 – 12 did not change, and that the policy was revised only to correct an error.

Trustee Moziar suggested that all French schools be spelled “*école*” not “*ecole*” with the proper accent included and that signage be changed accordingly. Trustee Bailey requested that staff investigate this issue.

Trustee Fairbairn shared congratulations and thanks to all staff responsible for the Learning Fair which was held this summer at Notawasaga Inn. He noted it was an amazing program and a great venue.

Dates of Future Meetings

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the August 26, 2014 schedule for Board and Standing Committee Meetings be approved as follows:

Program Committee	September 9, 2014
Business Operations	September 16, 2014
Board Meeting	September 30, 2014

The motion carried.

Board Meeting, August 26, 2014

The following additions were made to the Dates of Future Meetings:

Monday September 29, 2014	PIC, 7:00 p.m. Boardroom (changed from September 22 nd)
Friday, August 29, 2014	Learning Choices, 8:30 a.m., Boardroom
Wednesday, September 25, 2014	SAL, North Wellington, Wellington Heights SS., 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (changed from September 24 th)

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the “Dates of Future Meetings” dated August 26, 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 9:32 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.

Rise and Report to the Board

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

The motion carried.

Ratification of Business

Trustee Schieck moved, seconded by Trustee Topping 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 Fairbairn that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 9:50 p.m.

The motion carried.