

UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

October 26, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of Upper Grand District School Board was held on Tuesday, October 26, 2010, 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 with the exception of Trustee Best.

OPENING PRAYER OR READING

Trustee Busutil presented the opening reading.

CONDOLENCES

The Director reported that condolences were sent on behalf of the Board to: Jenny Marino, Clinical Psychologist with the Specialized Support Team, on the loss of her father-in-law; Linda Hough and Glenn Dube, on the loss of their daughter, Chantel Dube, a student at O.D.S.S.; Linda Ghent, Educational Assistant at J.D. Hogarth, on the loss of her daughter; Deb Leyland, an Educational Assistant at Waverley Dr. P.S., on the loss of her mother; Betty Lou Boyd, a teacher at Princess Elizabeth P.S. and Roland Boyd, a teacher at Westside S.S., on the loss of Betty Lou's father; Brenda Pettifer, a teacher at C.W.D.H.S. and Jamie Skeoch, a teacher at Aberfoyle P.S. on the loss of their father, Vern Skeoch, a recently retired teacher at Norwell D.H.S.; and, Jayne Brubacher, an Educational Assistant at Centennial C.V.I., on the loss of her mother.

GOOD NEWS

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

Queen Elizabeth II Aiming for the Top Scholarships

146 Upper Grand 2010 graduates have won the Province's Queen Elizabeth II Aiming for the Top Scholarships.

The Queen Elizabeth II Aiming for the Top Scholarship Program is a program of the Ontario Government that rewards students who graduate with top marks at their high school, and who plan to continue their studies at an Ontario college or university. Students who maintain an 80 percent average at the post secondary level can receive these scholarships, which are worth up to a maximum of \$3,500 per year, for up to four years in total.

Green Legacy

The following elementary schools all achieved the Gold level award from Green Legacy. This means that every student participated in one or more of their programs last year which include: planting and caring for seeds that grow into tree seedling (in classrooms), tree planting, and transplanting small trees at the Green Legacy nursery.

- Aberfoyle Public School
- Alma Public School
- Brant Ave Public School
- Erin Public School
- Fred A. Hamilton Public School
- John Black Public School
- Paisley Road Public School
- Rockwood Public School
- Taylor Evans Public School
- Victoria Terrace Public School
- Arthur Public School
- Central Public School
- Eromosa Public School
- James McQueen Public School
- Maryborough Public School
- Ponsonby Public School
- Sir Isaac Brock Public School
- Tytler Public School
- Willow Rd Public School

Walkable Schools Initiatives

An event initiated by a group consisting of City staff, Board planning staff, staff from Wellington Dufferin Health Unit, and the principals from Westminster Woods and St. Ignatius of Loyola planned a walk event. On August 25th a group consisting of 100 community members, including the Mayor, some councillors, police safety officers, and staff from both schools met at St. Ignatius of Loyola at 6:30 p.m. and walked to Westminster Woods P.S. After the walk refreshments were provided and people had the opportunity to talk with their neighbours, meet school staff, plan their walk to school routes, meet with police safety officers and collect information about the benefits of walking and ways to walk safely to school.

Sir Isaac Brock P.S. holds monthly walks called “Power Yourself to School Days.” Their first one held on September 22 had an amazing 86% participation and 5 classes had 100% participation.

October 6 was International Walk to School Day.

Salem P.S.

Salem P.S. (population 172) raised \$2048.59 for Terry Fox this year. As a result the staff will have to do an air band presentation for students because they surpassed their goal of \$1000 dollars.

National Teacher Award

Zach Gammage, a teacher at Parkinson Centennial P.S., received the Grand & Toy National Teacher's Award – "A Day Made Better." "Mr. G." (as he is known to his students) demonstrates great leadership skills both in class and with his colleagues as a member of Parkinson's leadership team. Through his actions, he inspires children to tackle new challenges and reach their full potential. He is an active member of his community working with a local agency and bringing in guest speakers allowing his students to have first-hand experiences. Mr. G. coaches several sports teams and leads other extracurricular activities, as well as providing extra help to students who want it. He was one of a dozen educators selected from across Canada and was presented with \$2,000 worth of classroom supplies from Grand & Toy. His prize included a new chair and an array of art supplies, paper, pencils, a digital camera, a small stereo and more. Congratulations Mr. G. and thank you for all that you do for our students.

Star Award

Jackie Pye a teacher at Pine River Institute, a school for troubled teens was nominated for the Star Award by a former student.

The student began her journey at the Pine River Institute as a drug-addicted and troubled teen. She emerged, just over a year later, a confident young woman who is now finishing her high school diploma with plans to go on to university. The one person she credits as "friend, mentor, a shoulder, a mother" who helped her through those difficult times: her gym teacher, Jackie Pye. The student submitted a heart warming story to the Toronto Star, in which she credits the staff at Pine River with "saving my life". Thank you Jackie for everything that you do for our students and for making a difference in someone's life!

Chair Borden extended congratulations on behalf of the Board to Trustee Schieck on the celebration of his 70th birthday.

Trustee Borden acknowledged the election results and extended appreciation to Trustee Edwards for his wise counsel and hard work over the past 10 years. He then congratulated the Trustees who will be returning to the Board and reported that Marty Fairbairn and Kathryn Cooper will be joining the Board in December.

CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA

Trustee Borden reported the addition of a new item 14, Road Construction – Impact on Trees. The remainder of the agenda was renumbered accordingly.

Trustee Bailey moved that the agenda be confirmed as amended.

The motion carried.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

Trustee Waterston moved, seconded by Trustee Topping, that the Minutes of the Board meeting held September 28, 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 Edwards moved, seconded by Trustee Busuttill 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 Topping moved that the Board rise and sit in Committee of the Whole, with the Chairperson presiding.

The motion carried.

DELEGATIONS

Central Guelph ARC

Chair Borden reported the following changes to the scheduled delegations. Delegations 2, 10, 11, 12, 15 and 16 have been deleted. In addition, Kim Parr will present delegation 5 on behalf of Sheri Hincks. Delegations 6, 17 and 18 were not in attendance.

Bruce Dadey

Mr. Bruce Dadey, the parent of a child in the Grade 7 Gifted Program, spoke in support of the implementation of Scenario NS15-Delayed. He noted any other option would mean that gifted students face four or more moves throughout their participation in the program. Mr. Dadey also noted that the consolidation of the Gifted Program at Waverley Drive P.S. results in the retention of many of the teachers and resources for the program and provides

stability to the program in the short-term. The collective efforts of parents, staff and Trustees in reaching this compromise were acknowledged.

Marc LaBerge

Mr. Marc LaBerge, the parent of a student in the Gifted Program at F.A. Hamilton P.S. spoke in favour of the implementation of Scenario NS15-Delayed as it was a community driven compromise that adapted an ARC majority supported proposal in order to meet the needs of the Gifted and FI communities. Mr. LaBerge highlighted the benefits of this scenario and urged the Trustees to vote in favour of the implementation recommendations and the consolidation of the Gifted Program at Waverly Drive P.S.

Ryla Alice Downie

Ms. Ryla Alice Downie expressed her thanks and respect for the Trustees in supporting the NS15-Delayed Scenario.

Sheri Hincks

Ms. Kim Parr read a letter on behalf of Sheri Hincks, past Chair of the Canadian Parents for French Upper Grand Chapter. She thanked the Board for their commitment to providing all students with an equal opportunity to embrace French language learning and for making the decision to move the grade 7 and 8 students in the short term to a FI centre.

Lynette Segal

Ms. Lynette Segal, a parent of students in the FI and the Gifted Programs, shared the sentiments of previous speakers in support of the implementation of Scenario NS15-Delayed.

Kristin Moriarty

Ms. Kristin Moriarty, a parent of children attending King George and Paisley Road schools, spoke in support of the implementation of Scenario NS15-Delayed. She addressed the misconception that the change to support NS15-Delayed was disrespectful of the work of the ARC over the past 2 years as the scenario built on the work of that group. She further explained that the scenario was not only supported by two narrow interest groups, but was supported by families from at least five schools who had expressed concern for Scenario U10 Staff Variation. Ms. Moriarty reviewed the results of the surveys conducted at the various schools and other input provided by school communities and school councils. She urged the Board to decide in favour of moving forward with the implementation of Scenario NS15-Delayed.

Harsh Hundal

Dr. Harsh Hundal, spoke as Co-Chair of the Waverley Drive School Council and as the parent of students in the Gifted Program at Waverley Drive and F.A. Hamilton.

Dr. Hundal introduced the suggestion from the Waverley Drive Council that a post mortem of the ARC process be conducted in order to identify what worked well and what could be improved. He went on to indicate the belief that the decision made by the Board has been in the best interest of all.

On behalf of his children, Dr. Hundal noted that the Gifted program falls under the Special Education umbrella and that the children are an at risk population for greater drop out rates, for being victims of bullying and for suffering isolation and depression. Transitions and change are difficult for this complex group of children who benefit most from a strong, supportive and stable community. He supports the consolidation of the Gifted program at Waverley Drive as it results in the least loss of teachers and resources and will be the least disruptive for the children. Dr. Hundal urged the Board to consider NS15-Delayed as an opportunity to develop a long-term plan for the Gifted program and to be challenged into investigating other models of providing service based on creativity, a strong desire to engage communities and to find the best solution for all children in all communities.

Netta Benazon

Netta Benazon provided a consolidation of comments on behalf of herself, Kim Parr and Kelly Glasgow. She thanked the Board for their decision to support Scenario NS15 Delayed and outlined the reasons for believing it was an improvement over the U10 Staff Variation Scenario. Ms. Benazon indicated that the efforts made by numerous involved FI parents between May and August were not an attempt to undermine the efforts of the ARC or the Board planning staff, but rather an effort to improve the plans and strengthen the FI program in Guelph, without compromising the existing English and gifted programs. She acknowledged that parents do not wish their children to switch schools during their formative years, but that numerous children would be displaced regardless of which scenario is implemented. Ms. Benazon urged Trustees to support the motions that will initiate the implementation of the NS-15 Delayed Scenario.

Susan Glasauer

Ms. Susan Glasauer, a parent of a student in the Gifted program at Waverley Drive, thanked the Board for their support of Scenario NS15-Delayed as she felt it provides the greatest benefits for the majority of students. Ms. Glasauer indicated her belief there is some misunderstanding around the gifted students. They stand out as being different from peers and are often bullied and teased. By consolidating the program at Waverley Drive P.S. there will be the critical mass of support to decrease the isolation of these students as they will be united by a common experience. It will also allow completion of five years at one school which is in the best interest of the students. In closing Ms. Glasauer urged the Board to take steps to address the issue of bullying which has become a world-wide phenomenon that often goes undetected.

Sarah Harwood

Ms. Sarah Harwood expressed concerns regarding the communication throughout the ARC process, and subsequent decision-making process. She encouraged Trustees to move forward to implement NS 15 Delayed, to begin to repair relationships in the community, and to resolve to do a better job in future.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Moziar moved that the minutes of the Program Committee held October 5, 2010 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Motion 2 as contained in the minutes of the Program Committee held October 5, 2010 was deferred for consideration at the Board meeting and was addressed separately.

Trustee Moziar moved the adoption of recommendations 1, 3, and 4 as contained in the Minutes of the Program Committee, dated October 5, 2010.

The motion carried.

The recommendations are as follows:

THAT

1. the presentation entitled, “Upper Grand District School Board – Elementary Music Teacher’s Association” be received.
3. the verbal OPSBA report be received.
4. the Student Trustee presentation be received.

Motion 2 as contained in the minutes of the Program Committee dated October 5, 2010 is as follows: “that the Board remove the word “optional” as a descriptor of the French Immersion Program.

It was noted that the issue has been raised by a previous ARC member and a parent delegation at previous Board and Committee meetings. The word “optional” has been removed from the FI descriptors in other boards, including the Toronto District School Board. Removing the word “optional” in no way changes the provincial designation for FI as a program that may be offered. It is believed that removal of the word “optional” will indicate to parents throughout the jurisdiction that the Board values the program. The alternate wording, “FI is a program parents may choose” was suggested.

Trustee Moziar moved that the word “optional” be removed as a descriptor of the French Immersion Program and be replaced with the wording, “French Immersion is a program parents may choose.”

The motion carried.

BUSINESS OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Busuttill moved that the minutes of the Business Operations Committee held October 12, 2010 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Busuttill moved the adoption of recommendation 1a) and 1b) as contained in the Minutes of the Business Operations Committee, dated October 12, 2010, as follows:

1.
 - a) the report entitled, “Plan for Elementary Guelph Gifted Classes for September 2011,” dated October 12, 2010 be received and considered.
 - b) the Guelph Gifted Program Grades 4 to 8 be consolidated at Waverly Drive Public School commencing September 2011.

The motion carried.

Trustee Busuttill moved the adoption of recommendation 2a) to 2o) inclusive, as contained in the Minutes of the Business Operations Committee, dated October 12, 2010, as follows:

THAT:

2.

- a) memo PLN: 10-21 entitled “Centre Guelph (FI) Accommodation Review – Implementation Report #1”, dated October 12, 2010 be received.
- b) effective June 30, 2011, the Grade 7 & 8 FI program at King George be closed and that King George opens as a JK-8 Regular Track school starting in September 2012.
- c) effective June 30, 2012, Laurine Ave PS be closed and consolidated at King George PS effective September 2012.
- d) effective June 30, 2012, Tytler PS be closed and consolidated at King George PS effective September 2012.
- e) effective June 30, 2011, the Grade 7 FI students at King George, be reassigned to John McCrae for Grade 8 for the 2011/12 school year.

- f) effective June 30, 2011, the Grade 6 students at John McCrae remain at John McCrae for Grade 7.
- g) effective June 30, 2011, the Grade 6 FI students at Victory, Paisley and Edward Johnson graduate to Grade 7 at John McCrae PS as an interim holding school for north grades 7 and 8 FI until a JK-8 FI program can be established in north Guelph.
- h) effective June 30, 2011, the JK-6 Regular Track program at Fred A. Hamilton PS be closed and that FA Hamilton becomes an FI centre starting with JK-5 in September 2011.
- i) effective September 2011 the FA Hamilton JK-6 Regular Track students be consolidated at Jean Little PS.
- j) Area A of the John McCrae PS JK-6 FI boundary as shown on Map 1 be reassigned to FA Hamilton effective September 2011. The Grade 6 students within Area A will remain at John McCrae for 2011/12.
- k) Area B of the John McCrae PS JK-6 FI boundary as shown on Map 1 be reassigned to Edward Johnson PS effective September 2011. The Grade 6 students within Area B will remain at John McCrae for 2011/12.
- l) Area C of the Jean Little PS JK-6 boundary as shown on Map 2 be reassigned to Priory Park PS effective September 2011. The Grade 6 students within Area C will remain at Jean Little for 2011/12.
- m) Area D of Victory JK-6 FI boundary as shown on Map 3 be reassigned to Paisley Rd PS effective September 2011. The Grade 6 students within Area D will remain at Victory for 2011/12.
- n) the attendance area boundaries for King George PS, John McCrae PS, FA Hamilton PS, Jean Little PS, Priory Park PS, Paisley Rd PS, Victory PS and Edward Johnson PS as outlined in Maps 4 to 13 be approved.
- o) French Immersion enrolment growth and school capacity in Guelph be reported annually by Staff in the Identified (ID) Schools Report in an effort to determine the timing and location of new French Immersion programs.

Trustee Moziar requested a recorded vote, the results of which are as follows:

Yeah: Trustees Busuttil, Edwards, Gohn, Moziar, and Schieck

Nay: Trustees Bailey, Topping and Waterston

Abstained: Trustee Borden

The motion carried.

Trustee Busuttill moved the adoption of recommendations 3 to 8 inclusive, as contained in the Minutes of the Business Operations Committee, dated October 12, 2010, as follows:

THAT:

3. memo PLN: 10-19 entitled, “7/8 Implementation Plan at Sir Isaac Brock P.S.,” dated October 12, 2010 be received.
4. the report, “Human Resources Department – Multi-Year Plan,” dated 2010 10 12 be received.
5.
 - a) the report, “Resignations and Retirements” dated October 12, 2010 be received; and,
 - b) the Board approve the Executive Officer of Human Resources’ decisions as outlined in the report “Resignations and Retirements,” dated October 12, 2010 (Appendix A).
6. the verbal report on Health and Safety, as presented by Ms. J.L. Rose, Executive Officer of Human Resources, be received as information.
7. the verbal report regarding the Erin Property and the College Avenue School property as presented by Mr. D. Cuomo, Manager of Planning, be received.
8. the report entitled Elementary Vice-Principal Transfers and Appointment dated 2010 10 11 be received.

The motion carried.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Waterston moved that the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee held October 13, 2010 be received.

The motion carried

POLICY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Gohn moved that the minutes of the Policy Management Committee held October 5, 2010, received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Gohn moved the adoption of recommendations 1, and 2 as contained in the Minutes of the Policy Management Committee, dated October 5, 2010.

The motion carried

The recommendations are as follows:

THAT

1. Policy 504 Equity and Inclusive Education be approved as amended.
2. Religious Accommodation Guidelines be received.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION – IMPACT ON TREES

Mr. Paul Scinocca, Manager of Capital and Renewal Projects, provided a verbal update on the impact of the road construction in front of the Board office at 500 Victoria Road, North and the impact on some of the trees along the front of the property. A change in grading has either impacted the trees negatively or created the potential to impact the trees negatively at some point in the future. The young trees can be replanted; however, the mature trees cannot be moved. The city is seeking input from the Board to address the issue. The cost of the remediation will be born by the City. Following discussion Mr. Scinocca was directed to work with the City of Guelph to have the mature trees replaced with trees of appropriate maturity, with consideration being given to the species and location of the trees in order to maximize shade to the parking area. It was also clarified that the length of the warranty on the trees (should the trees fail to thrive) will be negotiated.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS - Nil

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

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

Trustee Edwards moved that the Board Correspondence dated October 26, 2010 be received.

The motion carried.

TRUSTEE QUESTIONS AND REPORTS

ARC Executive Summary

Trustee Moziar suggested that an executive summary be developed regarding the Central Guelph Accommodation Review process in order to provide factual historical information that would be helpful in identifying areas for improvement when undertaking any future reviews.

Communication with the Public

Trustee Schieck noted the recent announcement of provincial grant money for Alma P.S. to improve communication. The issue of what information parents would like to receive and how best to provide it to them was also acknowledged and the initiative in Alma will be watched with interest.

Parent Meeting

It was noted that a meeting with parents from King George School to garner input regarding the temporary relocation of the students during the construction of the new school has been tentatively scheduled on November 11, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Trustee Schieck moved that the November 2010 schedule for Board and Standing Committee Meetings be approved as follows:

- i. Program Committee be held on Tuesday, November 2, 2010
- ii. Business Operations be held on Tuesday, November 9, 2010
- iii. Regular Board Meeting be held on Tuesday, November 23, 2010

The motion carried.

The list of dates of future meetings was reviewed with the following additions and revisions:

- Accessibility Committee - Monday, November 1, 200, 1 p.m., Board Room
- Student Discipline Committee – Tuesday, November 2, 2010, 6:00 p.m., Board Room and Tuesday, November 9, 2010, 6:00 p.m., Board Room
- Equity and Inclusion Meeting – Friday, November 5, 2010, 8:30 a.m. Trustee Lounge
- Budget Liaison Committee – Tuesday, November 9, 4:00 p.m. Room 9
- OPSBA, Central West Region – Saturday, November 13, 2010, Hamilton–Wentworth DSB (rescheduled from October 2, 2010)
- Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils (SALEP), Guelph has been rescheduled to Thursday, November 11, 9:30 a.m.
- Board Workshop on Early Learning (Year 3) will be scheduled on Tuesday, November 9 or Tuesday, November 16 (details to be confirmed)

Trustee Busutil moved that the Dates of Future Meetings dated October 26, 2010 be received.

The motion carried.

- Monday, November 1, 2010 - Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), Room 9, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 2, 2010 - Policy Management Committee, Board Room, 3 p.m.
- Monday, November 8, 2010 - Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils (SALEP), 9:30 a.m., (Orangeville)
- Tuesday, November 9, 2010 - Chair's Committee, 5:00 p.m., Trustees' Lounge
- Thursday, November 11, 2010 - Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils (SALEP), 9:30 a.m., (Guelph)
- Wednesday, November 10, 2010 - Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), 7:00 p.m., Boardroom
- Thursday, November 11, 2010 - King George Building Committee, Board Room, 3 p.m.
- Friday, November 12, 2010 - Regional Orientation Seminars for Trustees
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Toronto
- Tuesday, November 16, 2010 - Trustee Orientation, Board Room, 7 p.m. – no as far as this group.
- Monday, November 22, 2010 - Dufferin District School Council, Credit Meadows,
7 p.m.
- Thursday, November 25, 2010 - Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils (SALEP), WHSS, 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, November 25, 2010 - King George Building Committee, Board Room, 3 p.m.

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 Topping 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 Waterston moved, seconded by Trustee Edwards, that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 8:47 pm.

The motion carried.