

## **Upper Grand District School Board**

### **Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 31, 2021**

### **Minutes**

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Grand District School Board was held virtually and in person on Tuesday, August 31, 2021, in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 7:25 p.m. All Trustees were present. Student Trustees Emilie Hill and Vikasni Kuganesan were also in attendance.

#### **Traditional Greeting – Trustee Lustgarten Evoy**

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy shared Anishinabek Teachings: The Teachings of the Seven Grandfathers this evening. The teachings provided lessons in the following principles: wisdom, love, respect, bravery, honesty humility, and truth.

#### **Opening Prayer / Reading – Trustee MacNeil**

In light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, Trustee MacNeil shared thoughts she wrote about superheroes in our education system, and how everyone is a superhero doing everything they can to keep all of us safe and healthy and continuing to learn.

#### **Condolences**

Trustee MacNeil, Chair, reported that condolences were sent on behalf of the Board to the following: Wendy Lowery, Teacher at Priory Park PS, on the loss of her fiancé; Joyce Schenk, Human Resources File Clerk at the Guelph Board Office, on the loss of her husband; Florinda Pontes, Human Resources Administrative Assistant at the Guelph Board Office, on the loss of her father.

#### **Good News**

Director of Education Rogers highlighted the Good News as follows:

#### **Indigenous Students Spent Part of the Summer Participating in Birch Bark Canoe Build**

In July, five Indigenous students from across the Board took part in a canoe build at John F. Ross CVI under the guidance of First Nations master canoe builder Chuck Commanda.

The canoe build began on July 18 when the eager students arrived at John F. Ross CVI to start the journey. Materials for the canoe consisted of birch bark, 700 feet of spruce root, spruce gum as well as oak and cedar wood.

Over the course of nine days, the students and Commanda transformed these materials into a fully functional canoe.

Once the canoe was complete, it was launched by students and Commanda in the Eramosa River at the end of July.

Starting in September, the canoe will travel between the schools of participating students and will be on display to help educate students and staff about Indigenous traditions.

Great job to all those involved in the canoe build.

### GCVI's International Baccalaureate Class Exceeded World Average

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme class of 2021 at Guelph CVI once again exceeded the IB world average and scored impressive results.

The highest possible score for an IB Diploma is 45 points. The Guelph CVI IB class average this past school year was 36.2 points compared to the world average of 33.02 points.

Now in its fourth year of offering the IB program, Guelph CVI's average has consistently been above the world average. This past school year, three students earned an impressive 44 points, with one-third of the cohort earning 40 points or more.

In addition to these results, Guelph CVI IB students also took on a leadership role throughout the two-year program. Some initiatives led by the students included a blood drive, the Terry Fox Run, a community park cleanup, a Ramadan Awareness campaign, and the launching of a girls coding YouTube channel.

Congratulations to the Guelph CVI IB class of 2021 and best of luck as you begin your post-secondary programs.

### The Guelph Community Foundation Awarded Scholarships to Upper Grand DSB Students Over the Summer

Four Upper Grand students were awarded scholarships from the Guelph Community Foundation over the summer. These students received grants that were set up by community fund-holders to help local students achieve their post-secondary goals.

Centennial CVI student Andrew was awarded the Class of '71 Kathryn Winegard Memorial Scholarship of \$500.

Centre Wellington District High School student Abby was awarded the \$1,000 Mabel Anne Brouwer Scholarship Fund for Women in STEM.

Guelph CVI student Natalie was awarded the \$1,000 Bruce Graham Memorial Fund Scholarship for women in STEM.

Norwell District Secondary School student Enya was also awarded the \$1,000 Bruce Graham Memorial Fund Scholarship for women in STEM.

Congratulations to the students who received these scholarships and good luck in your post-secondary studies.

### Centennial CVI Students Continue to Participate in Advanced Placement (AP) Exams Despite COVID-19 Challenges

Centennial CVI has been offering students in grades 11 and 12 the chance to participate in Advanced Placement exams for over 25 years.

Despite the challenges of pivoting to an online format, students at the school continued to excel during these exams, which were offered in May.

This past school year, 27 students at the school wrote at least one AP exam. From this group, 11 students received scores of level 4 or 5 on one or more exam. As a cohort, 70% of the exams received a score of level 3 or above. Exam subjects included Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Calculus.

Great job to all the students who participated in these exams.

### **New Student Trustees**

Trustee MacNeil welcomed the new Student Trustees; Emilie Hill from Centre Dufferin DHS, as the rural representative, and Vikasni Kuganesan from Centennial CVI as the urban representative.

### **Confirmation of the Agenda**

Trustee Busuttill requested that the agenda be amended to add a new item #13; A motion regarding vaccination disclosure.

Trustee Foley moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey, 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 Meeting Held June 22, 2021**

Trustee Topping moved, seconded by Trustee Ross, that the minutes of the meeting held June 22, 2021, 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 Topping moved, seconded by Trustee Edwards, 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 of the Whole**

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved, seconded by Trustee Foley, that the Board rise and sit in Committee of the Whole with the Chairperson presiding.

**The motion carried.**

### **Business Operations Committee**

Trustee MacNeil noted this motion was originally part of the report presented at the June 8, 2021 Business Operations meeting and was moved by Trustee Busuttill and approved by the Board. Unfortunately, it was not added to the June 22, 2021 Board meeting agenda and needed to be approved so that the staff can begin the study.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that:

1. Staff be directed to undertake a study of the consolidation of a JK-8 FI program in West Guelph schools.

**The motion carried.**

### **Annual Capital/Renewal Projects Update**

Operations Officer Scinocca provided the Board with an extensive update of the construction and renewal work completed at schools during the school year. Renewal work focused on ventilation and accessibility, and included general renovations, ventilation, mechanical and electrical projects, asphalt paving, roofing replacements, Building Automation Systems (BAS) upgrades and replacements, Roof Top Unit (RTU) HVAC replacements, and lighting upgrades. In addition, school boards received funding, in the 2020-21 school year, to support COVID-related upgrades, including

ventilation projects, scheduled to be completed by December 2021 or later. The Upper Grand DSB received funding for 20 Capital/Renewal projects in this program, as well as funding for an additional 24 projects. Details about these projects are posted on the board website. Trustees asked questions of clarification and expressed thanks for all the work done in the schools.

Trustee Topping moved that the Annual Capital/Renewal Project verbal report be received.

**The motion carried.**

### **Vaccination Disclosure Protocol**

Trustee Busuttill requested a motion for Trustee consideration regarding vaccination disclosure protocol within the board. The focus of the initiative is to keep staff, students, and the community safe. Trustee Busuttill stated the community is looking to the Board to lead actively and to be strategic around what is being done in the schools given the changing community circumstances.

Trustee Busuttill moved that:

1. To ensure that Upper Grand DSB workplaces remain as safe as possible for students and staff, that the Director of Education be directed to work with WDG Public Health, local health partners, and Upper Grand DSB employee groups to develop a strategy and protocol to require all Upper Grand DSB staff, trustees, and visitors to disclose and provide proof of vaccination status.

The procedure will address the following key areas:

1. Individuals covered by the procedure are expected to submit a formal attestation if they are “fully vaccinated” against COVID-19 and provide proof of vaccination.
2. Individuals who have not been vaccinated will be required to attend mandatory education on the benefits of vaccination.
3. That the procedure contemplates where regular COVID-19 testing would be required.
4. A schedule for dates by which point any unvaccinated individuals must disclose if they have received first and second doses of the COVID-19 vaccines.

5. Upper Grand DSB will comply with its human rights obligations and accommodate employees who are legally entitled to accommodation.
6. That the finalized procedure and strategy be implemented prior to school re-opening on September 7, 2021, if feasible, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Trustee Busutil requested a recorded vote.

Yeah: Trustees Bailey, Bedi, Busutil, Edwards, Foley, Lustgarten Evoy, MacNeil, Topping, and Ross

Nay: none

Absent: Trustee Campbell

**The motion carried.**

Trustee Edwards requested an additional motion.

Trustee Edwards moved that:

We direct Superintendent Regier to raise awareness of the motion we just passed with the transportation consortium and other member boards.

**The motion carried.**

### **School Reopening Plans for September 2021**

The reopening plan for September 2021 was presented by Superintendents Hamilton, Heaslip, Lindsay, McDonald, Regier, Zen, Executive Officer of Human Resources Pyke, and Manager of Health and Safety Culham. The presentation outlined a number of main topics including COVID-19 vaccinations and case management, health and safety protocols for school sites, ventilation enhancements, transportation, school day operations, and student and program services. The Superintendents presented each section and explained the details of the plan to the trustees. Trustees asked questions of clarification and expressed their thanks for the time spent to address questions from them, and, by extension the community.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the School Reopening Plan report dated August 31, 2021 be received.

**The motion carried.**

## **Elementary Principal/Vice-Principal Transfers and Appointments**

Director of Education Rogers announced, in the In Camera session earlier this evening, trustees were advised of administrative transfers as a result from the movement of two administrators over the summer into new roles.

Gerry Walker, Principal of Brant Ave PS, is being appointed Principal of Equity and Indigenous Education. Leslie Newman will be temporarily replacing Gerry Walker as Principal at Brant Ave PS until November 30, 2021.

Blayne Primeau, Vice-Principal of Elementary Remote School, is being appointed Academic Achievement Data Analyst.

The Board received Elementary Principal/Vice-Principal Transfers and Appointments as follows:

### **Principal Transfers**

Name	From	To
Gerry Walker	Principal, Brant Ave PS	Principal of Equity and Indigenous Education, Guelph Board Office

### **Vice Principal Transfers**

Name	From	To
Keith Coutu	Vice Principal, Westminster Woods PS	Vice Principal, Elementary Remote School

### **Vice Principal Appointment**

Name	From	To
Erin Hamilton	Vice Principal, Stanley Mills PS, Peel DSB	Vice Principal, Westminster Woods PS

### **Staff Retirements and Resignations**

Senior Manager of Human Resources Rose presented the Staff Retirements and Resignations report dated August 31, 2021. There was a change required to the report

on Appendix B. Heather Aitken was brought to the June board meeting, therefore it could be removed from the report.

Trustee Bailey moved that the Staff Retirements and Resignations report dated August 31, 2021 be received.

**The motion carried.**

### **Board Correspondence**

Trustee MacNeil advised that several letters were received regarding menstrual equity. These letters are part of a larger campaign to urge the Ministry of Education to include funding for this program in the funding received from the Ministry. Currently Upper Grand DSB funds this program through the generosity of the Upper Grand Learning Foundation, but not all boards have the benefit of this kind of financial support. Upper Grand DSB has been asked by the creators of this campaign to write a letter to the Ministry in support of this campaign.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved to direct the Board Chair MacNeil to write a letter supporting and requesting funding from the Ministry of Education for period products.

**The motion carried.**

Trustee Topping moved that the Board Correspondence dated August 31, 2021 be received.

**The motion carried.**

### **Trustee Questions and Reports**

Trustee Foley shared a letter he received that brought attention to the fact that the board does not have a policy or protocol regarding the use of outside businesses or organizations. Several people who had been excluded from organizations in the community have reached out to Trustee Foley. He stated the only time someone who identifies as 2SLGBTQIA+ would be allowed into these organizations was when they were rented out by the board. The Board stands firmly with all components of our community in expecting fairness and respect be afforded to all people.

Trustee Foley moved that we fully research all vendors that we use to ensure that they provide a safe space for all of our students, staff, and community members, including those who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+, or any other equity-seeking group.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy asked how many spaces we were currently struggling with and if there are alternate spaces to use. Trustee Foley commented that there are plenty of



spaces in town and this would not impair any of the board's activities. Superintendent Hamilton assured the Board that secondary schools have begun to make alternate arrangements for this year.

Trustee Bailey commented on the amazing work done over the last few years on equity and inclusion. Trustee Bailey very much supported this motion, as it made sense that the Board reflect those values in terms of the lens used to choose which organizations the Board does business with.

Trustee Busuttil clarified there is already a Policy 302 Purchasing that applies to everything we do, and wondered whether the place for this would be to review Policy 302 Purchasing. Perhaps referring the already existing Policy 302 Purchasing to Policy Management Committee (PMC) to address the issues and concerns so there is a component of this adopted into the policy instead of creating something new. Trustee Busuttil commented this was not an amendment to Trustee Foley's motion, but a suggestion to consider to remove the original motion and place a new motion that reviews Policy 302 Purchasing to embed those values that Trustee Foley has spoken about.

Trustee Foley accepted Trustee Busuttil's suggestion. He decided to withdraw the original motion and place the following new one.

Trustee Foley moved that we review Policy 302 Purchasing to take into consideration that all vendors we use provide a safe space for all of our students, staff, and community members, including those who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+, or any other equity-seeking group.

**The motion carried.**

Director of Education Rogers attended her last board meeting tonight. A remarkable 50 year career in education, in which 26 of those years were as the Director of Education at Upper Grand DSB. Director Rogers retirement was celebrated with cake and trustees expressed their congratulations and thanks for everything Director Rogers has done for this board and this province. Hear, hear.

### **Dates of Future Meetings**

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the September 2021 schedule for Board and Standing Committee Meetings be approved as follows:

Program Committee	No meeting
Business Operations	September 14, 2021
Board Meeting	September 28, 2021

**The motion carried.**

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the Dates of Future Meetings dated August 31, 2021 be received, with the above noted additions.

**The motion carried.**

### **Motion to Rise and Report to the Board**

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

**The motion carried.**

### **Ratification of Business**

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

**The motion carried.**

### **Adjournment**

Trustee Topping moved, seconded by Trustee Lustgarten Evoy that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 11:10 p.m.

**The motion carried.**

**This document is available in alternative formats upon request.**