

Upper Grand District School Board
Final Meeting of the 2020/2021 Board
Minutes

November 30, 2021

The Final meeting of The Upper Grand District School Board for the period December 1, 2020 to November 30, 2021 was held virtually as well as in person on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 6:00 p.m.

The Chair, Trustee MacNeil, presided. All members were present

Confirmation of the Agenda

Trustee Campbell moved, seconded by Trustee Lustgarten Evoy that the agenda be confirmed as printed.

The motion carried.

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

Motion to Rise and Sit in Committee of the Whole

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

The motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting Held November 23, 2021

Trustee Campbell moved that the minutes of the Board meeting held November 23, 2021 and the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held immediately prior to the Board meeting be approved.

The motion carried.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy took the Chair for consideration of the following item.

Chairs' Committee Meeting

Trustee MacNeil moved that the minutes of the Chairs' Committee meeting held November 24, 2021 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee MacNeil returned to Chair.

Board Correspondence

Trustee Foley moved that the board correspondence dated November 30, 2021 be received.

The motion carried.

Expressions of Appreciation of the Board

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the Official Appreciation of this Board be expressed to the representatives of the media for coverage of educational matters during the past year; and that sincere appreciation be expressed to the various radio stations for their co-operation and help in broadcasting school bus information on the inclement weather days which occur during the school year.

The motion carried.

Trustee Busuttill moved that the Official Appreciation of this Board be expressed to Martha Rogers and Peter Sovran, Directors of Education, for their co-operation and assistance during the past year, and to all staff members for their loyalty and dedication, and that the Board's best wishes be extended to all staff for the coming year.

The motion carried.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the Official Appreciation of this Board be expressed to all Committee Chairs and members for their services and dedication.

The motion carried.

Trustee Questions or Reports

Trustee Edwards highlighted that the Upper Grand Learning Foundation (UGLF) funds are quite low this year. The UGLF consists of three pillars: scholarship funds, fundraising to help schools, and an equity fund to help out families in need.

Trustee Edwards hopes people will think of the UGLF around this time of year and also mentioned that new members are needed from the community. Trustee Foley suggested instead of recognizing fellow trustees and staff with a token of appreciation over the holidays, to instead make a donation to the Upper Grand Learning Foundation.

Chair, Trustee MacNeil's Closing Remarks for the 2020/2021 School Year

Trustee MacNeil's remarks were as follows:

Last year I began my closing remarks by saying that 2020 was a year for the history books in so many respects. It was hard to imagine that 2021 would follow the same path, and yet, we found ourselves still navigating many challenges brought on by the pandemic as well as other difficult issues. This has been another year of change, resilience, and deep learning. Once again, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank all members of our Upper Grand educational community for their dedication to our students and our system and for their great strength in rising to the ongoing challenges. Without you, we could never have done any of this, and we are very grateful.

Of course, COVID aside, the biggest story in the Upper Grand DSB in 2021 was the search for and hiring of our new director of education, Peter Sovran. The almost year long process was long and intense at times but was filled with rich learning for our Board as we navigated a process that had not occurred in our system for 26 years. We are grateful for the energy and enthusiasm Peter has brought to the role as we Re-engage, Refresh, and Re-Imagine.

Coupled with this was, of course, the retirement of Director Martha Rogers. Dr. Rogers devoted 26 years to the Upper Grand DSB as our director and made a name for herself in education across the province and country. She was the recipient of many awards and honours recognizing her immense contributions to education, most recently including the Fred L. Bartlett award from the Ontario Public School Boards Association. We are grateful for her service and wish her all the best in her retirement.

Our thanks to Directors Rogers and Sovran, along with the Senior Administration team for their outstanding guidance for the system throughout this past year as well as their support of the work of the trustees.

Last but definitely not least, thank you to my fellow trustees for everything you have done this past year. We have continued to learn new ways to do our jobs and support the families and communities in the Upper Grand DSB. The leadership you have shown has been immeasurable and does not go unnoticed.

It is with great pride that I look back on my time as Chair of the Board in 2021, and, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I share our deepest gratitude to everyone for your commitment and hard work during these challenging times. Our dedication to inclusion has created a culture of caring and it is an honour to do this work alongside all of you.

Move to In Camera as per Section 207 (2) of the Education Act

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the Board move to In Camera to complete the confidential items on the agenda.

The motion carried.

The public session resumed at 6:21 p.m. in order to complete the items on the agenda.

Ratification of Business

Trustee Topping moved, seconded by Trustee Lustgarten Evoy, that the business transacted by the Committee of the Whole be now ratified.

The motion carried.

Announcements

Earlier in the evening, in the In Camera session, Director of Education Sovran was pleased to announce that the Upper Grand DSB has appointed Belal Taha and Wendy Donaldson from the board's Superintendent of Education pool to fill upcoming vacancies on the Upper Grand DSB's Executive Committee. Belal Taha currently serves in the York Region DSB as a Principal and will assume the role of Superintendent of Education on January 1, 2022 replacing Superintendent Cheryl Van Ooteghem who is retiring in December. Wendy Donaldson currently serves as the Upper Grand DSB's Assistant to the Superintendent of Program Services, with primary responsibilities for Special Education, Kindergarten to Grade 12, and will assume the role of Superintendent of Education on April 1, 2022 replacing Superintendent of Program Tracey Lindsay who is retiring this spring.

Adjournment and Closure

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey, that having now officially completed its business, Upper Grand District School Board close this meeting at 6:23 p.m. and that the Board as constituted for the period December 1, 2020 to November 30, 2021 be now dissolved.

The motion carried.

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