

Upper Grand District School Board
Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 14, 2021
Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Grand District School Board was held virtually and in person on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 7:00 p.m. All Trustees were present. Student Trustees Vikasni Kuganesan and Emilie Hill were also in attendance.

Traditional Greeting – Trustee MacNeil

Tribute to Dr. Martha Rogers

Upper Grand DSB Trustees and members of the Executive Committee paid tribute to the late Dr. Martha Rogers. The long-serving retired Director of the Upper Grand DSB was praised as a great mentor, role model, and friend. Dr. Martha Rogers was a champion for children, she made an immense contribution to public education nationally, provincially and within the communities she served. She will be missed by everyone in the Upper Grand DSB system and by the many people that Dr. Rogers connected with at so many levels, and in so many ways.

Condolences

Trustee Busuttil, Chair, reported that condolences were sent on behalf of the Board to the following: the family of Gerald Barnhill, former Superintendent of Education; and Mike Anderson, Principal of Elementary Remote Program, on the loss of his father-in-law.

Good News/Director's Report

Director of Education Sovran provided some reflections, highlights and good news that have been happening in Upper Grand DSB during the month of December.

School Visits

Director Sovran's visits over the past weeks have given him an opportunity to see the very impressive outdoor learning spaces and the visible shifts being made to create learning and working environments that are accepting and inclusive. Director Sovran noted he was particularly inspired by the intense and informed discussion secondary school students were having in class about the connection between mental wellness and learning.

GCVI Music Program

Staff and students from Guelph CVI's Music Program have teamed up with members of the community to give back. The school was contacted by two local community philanthropists Judy and Bob Taylor, who wanted to donate two valuable guitars to the music program. After speaking with the community members, staff learned that they spent a lot of their time volunteering at the Donkey Sanctuary of Canada, located in Puslinch. The organization's goal is to provide a home to donkeys, mules and hinnies who are unwanted, neglected or abused, or whose owners can no longer care for them. The GCVI Music Program decided to adopt one of the sanctuary's donkeys, named Ruby. They will sponsor Ruby each year and hope to hold a concert in the spring with proceeds going to the Donkey Sanctuary.

College Heights SS Tech Students

Students at College Heights SS were recently commissioned to collaborate on a unique piece of metal work for local artist Mike Salisbury. Salisbury and College Heights have been working together on various projects for over five years. This latest project required accurate cutting and assembly using technical drawings in addition to some very creative welding. The working title of the piece is "Look at Me!" and will soon be exhibited in Graffiti Alley, a popular outdoor tourist attraction in Toronto. Salisbury uses abandoned pay phones as a metaphor for connection and disconnection. His phone box street sculptures invite interaction with the public and other street artists. With thanks and gratitude to the students at College Heights, "Look at Me!" was installed at the end of November.

Alma PS Mail Delivery System

Students in Megan Scott's Grade 3-4 class at Alma PS have created a mail delivery system where students across the school are encouraged to write friendly letters, cards, or postcards to members of the school community. The mailbox sits outside the office and the letters are collected each morning by the class and delivered. The initiative is spreading kindness and it helped students who were reluctant to write to be inspired to give it a try. Scott adapted an idea she had seen a colleague do, which set in motion the Alma delivery system. Staff instantly saw a positive effect with students of all ages getting involved. Parents have also reported that their children were also spending time writing at home.

Confirmation of the Agenda

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey, 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 Final Board Meeting Held November 30, 2021

Trustee Ross moved, seconded by Trustee Campbell, that the minutes of the Final Board meeting held November 30, 2021, and the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held immediately prior to the Final Board meeting, be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes of the Inaugural Board Meeting Held November 30, 2021

Trustee Ross moved, seconded by Trustee Topping, that the minutes of the Inaugural Board meetings held November 30, 2021, 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 Campbell, 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 Topping moved, seconded by Trustee MacNeil, that the Board rise and sit in Committee of the Whole with the Chairperson presiding.

The motion carried.

Special Education Advisory Committee

Trustee Edwards moved that the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee held December 8, 2021 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Elementary Principal and Vice-Principal Transfers and Appointments

Executive Superintendent McDonald shared information on the transfer and appointment of Elementary Principals and Vice-Principals. The Trustees of the affected schools were contacted related to the transfers and appointments and School Council input was reviewed.

Principal Appointments: Effective November 29, 2021

Name	From	To
Hayley Holm	Vice Principal, Taylor Evans PS	Acting Principal, Brant Avenue PS

Principal Appointments: Effective January 1, 2022

Name	From	To
Deanne Prins	Vice Principal, Princess Elizabeth PS	Principal, James McQueen PS
Adnan Shahbaz	Principal, Cheyne Middle School, Peel DSB	Principal, Westwood P.S.

Principal Transfers: Effective January 1, 2022

Name	From	To
Farhan Hussain	Principal, Kortright Hills PS	Principal, John McCrae PS
Tara Topping	Principal, Westwood PS	Principal, Kortright Hills PS

Vice-Principal Appointments: Monday, November 29, 2021

Name	From	To
Nia Pommier	Temporary Vice Principal, Spencer Avenue PS	Vice Principal, Spencer Avenue PS
Cassie Broadhead	Teacher, Mitchell Woods PS	Temporary Vice Principal, Taylor Evans PS

Vice-Principal Appointments: Effective January 1, 2022

Name	From	To
Julie Todd	Vice-Principal, Homestead P.S., Peel DSB	Vice Principal, Princess Elizabeth PS

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the verbal Elementary Principal and Vice-Principal Transfers and Appointments report, dated December 14, 2021 be received.

The motion carried.

UGDSB/WCDSB First Nations, Métis, Inuit Education Council Minutes of December 6, 2021

Trustee Campbell moved that the minutes of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit Education Council meeting of December 6, 2021 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Climate Emergency Committee (TCEC)

Trustee Edwards went over key items in the minutes stating they were very important to her and thought people should hear them as well. A video about an astronaut from France that is sounding the alarm on climate change was also shared.

Trustee Edwards moved that the minutes of the Trustee Climate Emergency Committee dated November 16, 2021 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Bailey moved that the Board direct the chair to write a letter to Minister Stephen Lecce, Minister Steven Guilbeault and Mayor Cam Guthrie, copying local MPs and MPPs, to secure funding for improvements to our new secondary school design to make it carbon neutral, in order to take a significant step in addressing the serious impacts of climate change, and to demonstrate our board's commitment to the future wellbeing of our students, system, and community.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy suggested two friendly amendments:

1. To consider changing "**our new secondary school design**" to "**our new secondary and all subsequent school designs**".
2. To consider changing "**secure** funding for improvements" to "**advocate** for funding for improvements".

Trustee Bailey agreed to the two friendly amendments provided it did not take away from the immediate ask for the carbon neutrality or green funding for the secondary school being built. He did note that he very much liked the idea of demonstrating the board's commitment in asking for subsequent schools as well.

Trustee Bailey moved the following amendment to the above motion as follows:

That the Board direct the chair to write a letter to Minister Stephen Lecce, Minister Steven Guilbeault and Mayor Cam Guthrie, copying local MPs and MPPs, to **advocate** for funding for improvements to our new secondary **and all subsequent school designs** to make **them** carbon neutral, in order to take a significant step in addressing the serious impacts of climate change, and to demonstrate our board's commitment to the future wellbeing of our students, system, and community.

Trustee Foley suggested, since this amended motion relates to future Upper Grand DSB builds, that other mayors within the board's geographical area should be included and copied as well.

Trustee Busuttill recommended adding Wellington and Dufferin mayors.

Trustee Bailey agreed it would be appropriate to include mayors across Upper Grand DSB since it relates to subsequent schools.

Trustee Topping expressed appreciation for mentioning Dufferin and Wellington but asked if two different letters could be sent. One letter asking for funding improvements for the new secondary design in Guelph, and a second letter to Wellington and Dufferin so they are aware and know that for any future school builds, this is being organized and started and that there is a committee who is willing to work with them.

Trustee Busuttill also agreed with Trustee Topping and envisioned a letter to Dufferin, Wellington, and Guelph.

Trustee Ross confirmed in Wellington County, there are mayors for all three municipalities, and each municipality has an elected county representative. There are two people from each municipality that would go to County Council and the mayors can speak. She recommended addressing the letter to Wellington County Council, because it would then go from Council to each municipality through two voices and not just one.

Trustee Busuttill proposed to have three separate motions, one for Dufferin, Wellington, and Guelph or one single motion with the intent of getting the message clear to those three audiences.

Trustee Campbell requested this item be deferred to the next Business Operations meeting in January. She noted work still needed to be done and expressed time to do it properly and thought this was not an urgent matter between now and January.

Trustee Campbell moved that the Trustee Climate Emergency Committee motion be deferred to the January Business Operations meeting.

Trustee Bailey shared the reason that discussions are happening at the Board meeting rather than at the Business Operations meeting was because the Business Operations meeting in December was cancelled. Trustee Bailey stated he did not think it fair that the item that was supposed to go to Business Operations, but was pushed directly to Board, should be deferred.

The motion to defer was lost.

Trustee MacNeil made the following friendly amendment to the above motion and suggested leaving it up to the discretion of the Chair to figure out how many letters to write and who will receive them.

The board direct the chair to write letters to Minister Stephen Lecce and Minister Steven Guilbeault, and copying **mayors, wardens, County Councils**, local MP's and MPPs, to advocate for funding for improvements to our new secondary **and all subsequent school designs** to make **them** carbon neutral, in order to take a significant step in addressing the serious impacts of climate change, and to demonstrate our board's commitment to the future wellbeing of our students, system, and community.

Trustee Bailey agreed to the friendly amendment provided the motion also include language around the intention to provide the Chair latitude to change the wording of the letter depending on the area and who will be receiving the letter.

Trustee Campbell opposed this motion and expressed it is premature and should be discussed more thoroughly and the wording of the motion finished by the time it comes to Board.

Trustee Ross suggested to ask for this type of funding for any school within the Upper Grand DSB and to not reference the Guelph school. The letters sent to different areas would not have to be modified and the process would be simplified.

**The amendment having precedence
was put first and carried.
The amended motion carried.**

Monthly COVID-19 Update

Superintendent Heaslip, Executive Officer of Human Resources Pyke, Superintendent of Program Lindsay, Executive Superintendent McDonald, and Superintendent Hamilton collectively presented the monthly COVID-19 update. The presentation included the following information: a summary of COVID-19 cases in the past three weeks that were connected to schools, WDGPH and Ministry Guidance updates and changes (Omicron variant of concern), update on rapid antigen testing kits for students, updates to the vaccination disclosure, mental health updates, and a second semester update for secondary schools, which has been decided will follow a 4-period semester schedule starting February 2022, with WDG-Public Health guidance permitting.

Trustees raised concerns and asked questions of clarification and expressed thanks for the report.

Trustee MacNeil moved that the verbal monthly COVID-19 update dated December 14, 2021 be received.

The motion carried.

Motions from Board Meeting held on November 23, 2021

1. The Director prepare a report with recommendations to initiate the process for the development of the Multi-year plan for consideration at the December board meeting.

2. The Multi-year plan report and recommendations include Process Management and governance, the Development of Board Strategic Directions with trustees, Community Engagement and consultation and a timeline

Director Sovran presented a verbal report this evening on the above two items. He noted in the previous board meeting approved that a report would come forward with regard, to the multi year plan for consideration at the December board meeting. Director Sovran stated that at this time, given the ever changing landscape in terms of public health efforts and the sudden passing of Dr. Rogers, with the indulgence of the Board, requested that this item be deferred to the Business Operations meeting in January where a full written report would be provided.

Trustee MacNeil moved that the verbal staff update be received with the Strategic Planning report to come to the January 2022 Business Operations meeting.

The motion carried.

Staff Retirements and Resignations

Executive Officer of Human Resources Pyke presented the Staff Retirements and Resignations report dated December 14, 2021.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the Staff Retirements and Resignations report Appendix A and Appendix B dated December 14, 2021 be received.

The motion carried.

Board Correspondence

Trustee Topping inquired whether a copy of the letter received from public health regarding Dr. Rogers would be sent to her family. Trustee Busuttill confirmed that it would be sent.

Trustee Topping moved that the Board Correspondence dated December 14, 2021 be received.

The motion carried.

Trustee Questions and Reports

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy shared that Trustee Bedi would like to sit on the Trustee Climate Emergency Committee (TCEC) and offered to resign her position on this

committee for Trustee Bedi. Trustee Bedi indicated her interest in participating as a member of the TCEC.

Trustee MacNeil moved to approve the appointment of Trustee Bedi as a member of the Trustee Climate Emergency Committee.

The motion carried.

Trustee Busuttil had the pleasure of meeting with student senators in order to complete their appointments. Student Trustee Vikasni Kuganesan would like to join the Learning Choices Committee and Student Trustee Emilie Hill would like to join the Safe, Equitable and Inclusive Schools Steering Committee (SEISSC).

Trustee MacNeil moved to approve the appointments of the student trustees.

The motion carried.

Trustee Foley requested feedback from Director of Education Sovran on the School Resource Officer (SRO) program that was worked on and changed last year. He would like information at a later date regarding how schools have been operating since discontinuing the SRO program, and what type of effect it has made, whether good or bad.

Trustee Foley asked what was being done with any remaining rapid antigen test (RAT) kits. Superintendent Heaslip reported that at this time, since the kits went home with the students yesterday and today at the latest, at this point there is no sense of how many RAT kits remain. If a school had any leftover kits, they were not to distribute them anywhere else, and instructed to hold on to them for future direction.

Trustee MacNeil acknowledged today was Superintendent Van Ooteghem's last board meeting and thanked her for her service to the Upper Grand DSB and wished her a happy retirement.

Trustee Busuttil reminded trustees about the Public Education Symposium. OPSBA needs to be advised of who will be attending the virtual PD session.

Dates of Future Meetings

Trustee MacNeil moved that the January 2022 schedule for Board and Standing Committee Meetings be approved as follows:

Program Committee

January 4, 2022

Business Operations January 11, 2022

Board Meeting January 25, 2022

The motion carried.

Trustee Edwards added the following to the Dates of Future Meetings:

Tuesday, January 18, 2022 Trustee Climate Emergency Committee Meeting (TCEC), 7:30 p.m., Virtual

Trustee Topping moved that the Dates of Future Meetings dated December 14, 2021 be received.

The motion carried.

Motion to Rise and Report to the Board

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

The motion carried.

Adjournment

Trustee Ross moved, seconded by Trustee Bedi that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 9:09 p.m.

The motion carried.

This document is available in alternative formats upon request.