

Upper Grand District School Board

Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Grand District School Board was held virtually on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, starting at 7:00 p.m. All Trustees were present with regrets from Trustee Bailey. Student Trustee Vikasni Kuganesan was also in attendance.

Traditional Greeting – Student Trustee Kuganesan

Opening Prayer / Reading – Trustee Lustgarten Evoy

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy shared a quote from her own book Building Pathways - One Step at a Time.

Condolences

Trustee Busuttil, Chair, reported that condolences were sent on behalf of the Board to the following: the family of Pamela Church, retired teacher from Centre Dufferin DHS; Heather Loney, Communications Manager at Guelph Board Office, on the loss of her mother; Karen Farace, Administrative Office Assistant at School to Career Office, on the loss of her father.

Good News/Director's Report

Director of Education Sovran provided some reflections, highlights and good news that took place in Upper Grand DSB during the month of January.

School visits in January were a mix of in-person and remote visits and once again Director Sovran was able to witness the caring, inclusivity and accepting approach to allow students to re-engage with their learning. As students returned to in-person learning Director Sovran had an opportunity to visit and see first hand some of the additional measures put in place following the break which included non-fit N95 masks for staff, new 3-ply reusable cloth masks for students, reminders of the importance of daily screening and confirmations at each school level, Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT), a daily absence reporting pilot, stand alone HEPA filter units in every learning space, and more outdoor learning.

Brant Avenue PS

Prior to the winter break, students at Brant Avenue PS learned about a kindness video called “The Kindness Boomerang” as a part of the school’s Kindness Week. Students were very moved by the depiction of a person experiencing homelessness in the video and how small acts of kindness make a positive difference. The students decided to collect non-perishable items to donate to Wyndham House, a charitable organization that works to prevent, reduce, and end youth homelessness in Guelph. As a culminating task, students planned and wrote newspaper articles to tell others how they can help.

Hyland Heights ES Kindness Project

Students and staff at Hyland Heights ES launched a ‘30 Days of Kindness’ initiative. The intention behind the initiative is to spread kindness during a month that can sometimes be challenging for a lot of students and adults. The school is participating in a challenge each day, starting when schools resumed in-person learning, and lasting for 30 days. Every day, the students come in and view the challenge of the day that’s posted on their 30 Days of Kindness bulletin board. Some prompts have been, “Tell three people why you think they’re awesome” and “Write a thank you note to a staff member at Hyland Heights ES.” Staff and students hope they can share the impact it has made on their school once they reach the end of the 30 days.

Centre Wellington DHS Kindness Pledge

This January, Centre Wellington DHS launched The Kindness Pledge – a promise that individuals, groups and businesses can take to make their communities kinder and more inclusive. The initiative was started by Abby, a grade 12 student who is passionate about social justice and positive change. Abby founded the Kindness Pledge in the Fall of 2021 with the hope of creating a more kind and inclusive community to live in. Abby has local community partners who have supported her with the development of the project, including the Grove Youth Wellness Hubs, Letter M Marketing, and Pearl Street Communications. Anyone can take The Kindness Pledge, to do their part in demonstrating kindness and inclusivity in their community at kindnesspledge.ca.

New Centre Wellington Elementary School

This month, the board was notified by the Ministry of Education that Upper Grand DSB has been approved for nearly \$8.5 million in funding to construct a new elementary school in Centre Wellington. The funding was part of the province's 2021-22 Capital Priorities Grant program. Staff will bring project updates to trustees at future meetings.

Confirmation of the Agenda

RESOLUTION #22-01: Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved, seconded by Trustee MacNeil, 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 December 14, 2022

RESOLUTION #22-02: Trustee Topping moved, seconded by Trustee Lustgarten Evoy, that the minutes of the meeting held December 14, 2022, 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

RESOLUTION #22-03: Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved, seconded by Trustee MacNeil, 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

RESOLUTION #22-04: Trustee Topping moved, seconded by Trustee Lustgarten Evoy, that the Board rise and sit in Committee of the Whole with the Chairperson presiding.

The motion carried.

Program Committee

RESOLUTION #22-05: Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the minutes of the Program Committee held January 4, 2022 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

RESOLUTION #22-06: Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that:

1. The verbal school re-opening update be received.
2. The verbal update from Student Trustees be received.

3. The verbal update on Mental Health be received.
4. The verbal PIVOT Project report be received.
5. The verbal Digital Citizenship report be received.
6. The verbal OPSBA report be received.

The motion carried.

Business Operations Committee

RESOLUTION #22-07: Trustee MacNeil moved that the minutes of the Business Operations Committee held January 11, 2022 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

RESOLUTION #22-08: Trustee MacNeil moved that:

1. The Memo PLN: 22-01 “2022/23 Development Area School Assignments” dated January 11, 2022 be received.
2. The Development Area School Assignments as outlined in Appendix A to memo PLN: 22-01 “2022/23 Development Area School Assignments” be approved for the 2022/23 school year.
3. The Memo PLN: 22-02 “2021 Community Planning and Facility Partnership Report” dated January 11, 2022 be received.
4. The Board advise the community partners on the Partnership List that there are no partnership opportunities or suitable surplus spaces available at this time in existing facilities.
5. Staff be directed to continue consultation with community partners regarding interest in co-build opportunities at possible future schools and additions in the jurisdiction.
6. The verbal report entitled “Multi-Year Plan” dated January 11, 2022 be received.
7. The verbal report entitled “School Reopening Update” dated January 11, 2022 be received.
8. The verbal OPSBA update be received.

The motion carried.

Special Education Advisory Committee

RESOLUTION #22-09: Trustee Edwards moved that:

1. The minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee held January 12, 2022 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

RESOLUTION #22-10: Trustee Edwards moved that:

2. The Board move the Special Education Advisory Committee Appointment of Patricia Townson as representative of Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County from February 1, 2022 to November 2022.

The motion carried.

Audit Committee

RESOLUTION #22-11: Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the minutes of the Audit Committee held January 11, 2022 be received.

The motion carried.

Safe Equitable and Inclusive Schools Steering Committee (SEISSC)

RESOLUTION #22-12: Trustee Bedi moved that the minutes of the SEISSC meeting dated January 13, 2022 be received.

The motion carried.

Director's Annual Report (2020-21)

Director Sovran presented to the Board the Director's Annual Report for the School Year 2020-2021. Director Sovran acknowledged the work of Heather Loney, Communications Manager, and noted moving forward Upper Grand DSB will be working towards a fully digital Annual Report beginning next year with 2021-2022. Trustees expressed thanks for the report.

RESOLUTION #22-13: Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the verbal Director's Annual Report (2020-21) be received.

The motion carried.

Multi-Year Plan Development Process

At the Business Operations meeting on January 11, 2022, Director of Education Sovran provided an overview of the Multi-Year Plan Development Process. The next steps were to bring forward a formal report outlining the process and look for a recommended decision to proceed as outlined in the report with the process.

RESOLUTION #22-14: Trustee MacNeil moved that:

1. The Executive Report “Multi-Year Plan Development Process” dated January 25, 2022 be received.
2. The Upper Grand District School Board undertake a multi-year plan (MYP) development process as outlined in Executive Report “Multi-Year Plan Development Process”, including student, staff and community engagement and consultation.

The motion carried.

P16 Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocol

Superintendent Hamilton provided an information report to the trustees on the development of P16 Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocol that outlined the process for identifying, investigating, and responding to instances of suspected sex trafficking. As a brief background, on July 6, 2021, the Ministry of Education released Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) 166 entitled Keeping Students Safe: Policy Framework for School Board Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocol. This PPM directed school boards to develop a local Anti-Sex Trafficking protocol to be in place by January 31, 2022. The implementation of the Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocol will be an on-going process that will be updated regularly based upon the best practices established through consultation with community partners. Staff and student training will begin in September 2022.

RESOLUTION #22-15: Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the P16 Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocol report be received.

The motion carried.

Monthly COVID-19 Update

Director of Education Sovran, Executive Superintendent McDonald, Superintendents Zen, Regier, Heaslip, Hamilton, and Lindsey collectively presented the monthly COVID-19 update. An overview of three key areas were provided:

1. Return to In-Person Learning Updates
 1. Tracking and Reporting Staff and Student Absences
 - Upper Grand DSB Daily Absence Tracking Pilot

- Ministry of Education – Absence Reporting Tool (ART)
2. Monitoring Daily Unfilled Jobs
 - Superintendents work with their schools to problem solve and prioritize where system supports are needed in order to keep schools open
 3. Transportation
 - Driver availability challenges
 - Impact on daily arrival and departure of bus routes
 - Alternate plans when routes are delayed or cancellations are necessary
2. Masks, COVID-19 Testing, and Vaccination Clinics
 1. Masks
 - Distribution of 3-ply reusable student cloth masks distributed directly to schools
 - Non-Fit N95 masks for staff
 - Update to mask exemption certificate
 2. COVID-19 Testing
 - Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) were received and distributed to elementary schools for staff and students
 - Anticipate more rapid tests this week for delivery to secondary schools
 3. Vaccination Clinics
 - Continue to work closely with WDG Public Health
 - Upcoming vaccination clinics Public Health will be hosting in schools were shared with more to be confirmed
 3. Elementary and Secondary School Updates
 - Elementary Temporary Remote Participation
 - Secondary students returning to a 4-period per day semester model supported by WDG Public Health
 - Grade 9 EQAO Math Assessment for students in quadmester 2 have been deferred
 - On-going and Upcoming Mental Health Support Updates

Trustees asked questions of clarification and expressed appreciation for the verbal report.

RESOLUTION #22-16: Trustee Foley moved that the verbal monthly COVID-19 update be received.

The motion carried.

Staff Retirements and Resignations

Executive Officer of Human Resources Pyke presented the Staff Retirements and Resignations report dated January 25, 2022.

RESOLUTION #22-17: Trustee Edwards moved that the Staff Retirements and Resignations report Appendix A and Appendix B dated January 25, 2022 be received.

The motion carried.

Board Correspondence

RESOLUTION #22-18: Trustee MacNeil moved that the Board Correspondence dated January 25, 2022 be received.

The motion carried.

Trustee Questions and Reports

Trustee Foley requested, due to the increased anxiety, stresses and overall mental health of Upper Grand DSB students, that the board send a letter to the Ministry of Education to request the EQAO testing for grades three and six be deferred to sometime in the future. Trustee Foley feels with the amount of anxiety and stress that students are facing the results of these tests would be skewed at this point in time.

Trustee Foley moved that due to the current mental health needs of Upper Grand DSB students, the Board direct the Chair to send a letter to the Minister of Education to request that EQAO testing for grades 3 and 6 be deferred outside of this school year to another year.

Director of Sovran clarified, at this time Upper Grand DSB has the ability to defer the current grade 9 EQAO. Any alterations or full on cancellation or deferrals outside of this school year would require a ministerial order and any remaining EQAO assessments that would be required this year would need to proceed unless the Ministry of Education provides an order otherwise.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy questioned the necessity to defer this particular item and noted the value of the EQAO.

Trustee MacNeil supports this motion and agrees it can not hurt to ask the Minister of Education to consider the possibility of taking this action to perhaps ease some of the stress on the students and staff.

Trustee Campbell shared she would be reluctant to support this motion. She was hopeful to think if there was truly an objection this would not work, that the Ministry of Education would have considered it carefully and would have held back.

Trustee Edwards wants to support this motion and does agree it takes a lot of time and stress for these tests, but also values the metrics that these tests provide to know where the students are at.

RESOLUTION #22-19: Trustee Foley moved, seconded by Trustee MacNeil that due to the current mental health needs of Upper Grand DSB students, the Board direct the Chair to send a letter to the Minister of Education to request that EQAO testing for grades 3 and 6 be deferred outside of this school year to another year.

The majority of votes carried Trustee Foley's motion.

The motion carried.

OPSBA Report

Trustee MacNeil reminded trustees that the OPSBA Public Education Symposium (PES) is taking place on Friday, January 28th, and information for the virtual conference should have been sent out to everyone.

Immediately after the conclusion of the PES program the Central West Regional Meeting will be taking place virtually and all trustees are welcome to attend. Elections will be taking place at this meeting for the positions of Central West Regional Vice Chair and Central West Policy Work Group representative. The work group representative position is open to all trustees, being a member of the OPSBA Board of Directors is not a requirement. Trustees will be given an update on current labour issues as well as having an opportunity to participate in preliminary discussions of OPSBA's Annual Priorities. Trustees were asked to forward any input for the Board update report for the regional meeting to Trustee MacNeil. Trustees were reminded to RSVP to Carla Garbas or Donna Danielli.

Updates on Project Compass will be shared at PES and at the regional meeting.

Trustees should have received an email regarding a request for feedback from the Ministry Initiatives Committee. There were questions regarding secondary pathways, as well as curriculum questions, and if trustees have any input on these questions, they are

welcome to forward it to Trustee MacNeil and she will submit the document to the committee

RESOLUTION #22-20: Trustee MacNeil moved that the report titled “OPBSA” dated January 25, 2022 be received.

The motion carried.

Dates of Future Meetings

RESOLUTION #22-21: Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the February 2022 schedule for Board and Standing Committee Meetings be approved as follows:

Program Committee	February 1, 2022
Business Operations	February 8, 2022
Board Meeting	February 22, 2022

The motion carried.

RESOLUTION #22-22: Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the Dates of Future Meetings dated January 25, 2022 be received.

The motion carried.

Motion to Rise and Report to the Board

RESOLUTION #22-23: Trustee Campbell moved that the Committee of the Whole rise and report to the Board.

The motion carried.

Ratification of Business

RESOLUTION #22-24: Trustee Foley 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

RESOLUTION #22-25: Trustee Campbell moved, seconded by Trustee MacNeil that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 8:47 p.m.

The motion carried.

This document is available in alternative formats upon request.