

## **Upper Grand District School Board**

### **Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 26, 2022**

### **Minutes**

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Grand District School Board was held virtually and in person on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 7:00 p.m. All Trustees were present with regrets from Trustee Bedi. Student Trustee Vikasni Kuganesan was also in attendance.

#### **1. Traditional Greeting – Trustee Edwards**

#### **2. Opening Prayer / Reading – Trustee Foley**

Trustee Foley spoke about what it means to be part of a community and how everyone can do better as Community members working towards common goals.

#### **3. Condolences**

Trustee Busuttil, Chair, reported that condolences were sent on behalf of the Board to the following: the family of Patrick Scollard, former teacher with the Upper Grand DSB; the family of Alba Lowery, Administrative Officer in the Wellness and Employee Health Department; Graham Fiddes, teacher at Aberfoyle PS, on the loss of his mother; Brent McDonald, Executive Superintendent of Education, on the loss of his mother-in-law; the family of Jack Kingshott, former custodian with the Upper Grand DSB; the family of Robert Bachuk, teacher at Alma PS.

#### **4. Good News/Director's Report**

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

Director Sovran's school visits in April highlighted the incredible work being done each day to support student learning experiences, and the visits showed him how we are all stronger together.

#### **International Day of Pink**

On April 13, schools celebrated the International Day of Pink. The International Day of Pink is a worldwide anti-bullying, anti-homophobia, and anti-transphobia event. Since the International Day of Pink's inception, students and schools have taken up the mantle of recognizing this day's purpose: to create a more inclusive and diverse global society, by encouraging young people to challenge social norms, to ask more of their educators and school systems, and to stand up against bullying toward their

2SLGBTQIA+ peers. Photos from various schools celebrating the International Day of Pink were shared on the board website.

### Annual H2Awesome water conference wraps-up on Earth Day

All month, Upper Grand intermediate students had the chance to think critically about the importance of water, as part of the “H2Awesome” water conference. The annual event is a celebration of water and allows grade 7 and 8 students to learn about the importance of water and water conservation. This year, more than 1,000 Upper Grand students took part in the various events at the conference, which was held over a five-week period beginning March 22. The conference was intentionally planned to begin on World Water Day and end on Earth Day to help students to spend an extended amount of time focused on environmental learning. Overall, there were 14 speakers over the month, including two presentations in French.

### Centennial CVI Computing Awards

Congratulations are in order to Centennial CVI students Victoria and Emma for winning an Aspirations in Computing award. The Award honours 9th-12th grade girls, genderqueer, or non-binary students for their computing-related achievements and interests and encourages them to pursue their passions.

### Orangeville DSS Leadership Award

Congratulations are in order for Orangeville DSS student Jack Gillies for earning a prestigious Loran Award through his leadership skills displayed in school and his community. Jack is active in his school and local community with various service clubs and a local organization for youth volunteers. Jack is also the secretary to the Upper Grand Student Senate.

### PIC Event

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, the Upper Grand and Parent Involvement Committee will be holding an online event, called ‘A Parent’s Role in Supporting Equity and Indigenous Education.’ The presentation will be held Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 PM and it will be hosted by the Upper Grand DSB’s Coordinating Principal of Equity & Indigenous Education, Gerry Walker, as well as the Upper Grand DSB’s Curriculum Lead for First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education, Colinda Clyne. The presentation will include leading transformational change to integrate anti-colonial, anti-racist, anti-oppressive and equity principles into policies, programs, and practices to eliminate systemic inequities in Upper Grand DSB. Parents and guardians can register for the presentation through the board’s website.

**5. Confirmation of the Agenda**

Trustee Busuttil requested an amendment to the agenda to include a new item # 10: Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Presentation – Dr. Tenenbaum

**RESOLUTION #22-100:** Trustee Topping moved, seconded by Trustee Lustgarten Evoy, that the agenda be confirmed as amended.

**The motion carried.**

**6. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest.

**7. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting Held March 22, 2022**

**RESOLUTION #22-101:** Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved, seconded by Trustee Foley, that the minutes of the meeting held March 22, 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.**

**8. Ratification of Business Transacted by the Committee of the Whole In Camera**

**RESOLUTION #22-102:** Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved, seconded by Trustee Topping, that the business transacted by the Committee of the Whole In Camera be now ratified by the Board.

**The motion carried.**

**9. Motion to Rise and Sit in Committee of the Whole**

**RESOLUTION #22-103:** Trustee Topping moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey, that the Board rise and sit in Committee of the Whole with the Chairperson presiding.

**The motion carried.**

**10. Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Presentation – Dr. Tenenbaum**

Dr. Tenenbaum, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health's Associate Medical Officer of Health, presented an update on the current COVID-19 situation in our community, and changes that have happened in the past month.

Dr. Tenenbaum shared updates on the following: the community currently in 6<sup>th</sup> wave of the pandemic; increased case numbers; high community risk and maintaining measures known to reduce the risk of COVID-19; the importance of vaccination; and being mindful of the three C's – thinking about closed spaces, crowded spaces, and close contact scenarios.

Dr. Tenenbaum reported the need to be extra careful in scenarios where COVID-19 transmits most easily and being extra thoughtful about wearing a good fitted mask, physical distancing, and limiting the size of gatherings. He stated the more chances there are to incorporate these practices, the more that will be done to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in the community.

Trustees asked questions of clarification and thanks were expressed to Dr. Tenenbaum, for his presentation and for his time to attend the meeting and to answer questions.

**RESOLUTION #22-104:** Trustee Topping moved that the verbal WDG Public Health COVID-19 Update be received.

**The motion carried.**

#### **11. Program Committee**

**RESOLUTION #22-105:** Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the minutes of the Program Committee held April 5, 2022 be received and considered.

**The motion carried.**

**RESOLUTION #22-106:** Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that:

1. The verbal update from Student Trustees be received, with thanks.
2. The report PLN: 22-08 “2022/23 JK FI On-Time Overview” be received.
3. The verbal report for SHSM – Education (French Focus) be received.
4. The verbal OPSBA report be received.

**The motion carried.**

#### **12. Business Operations Committee**

**RESOLUTION #22-107:** Trustee MacNeil moved that the minutes of the Business Operations Committee held April 12, 2022 be received and considered.

**The motion carried.**

**RESOLUTION #22-108:** Trustee MacNeil moved that:

1. The minutes of the Trustee Climate Emergency Committee (TCEC) held March 10, 2022 be received and considered.
2. The report Preliminary Elementary Teacher Staffing for 2022-2023 School Year dated April 12, 2022 be received.
3. Based on the projected Elementary FTE of 24,247 and system needs, a preliminary allocation of Elementary teaching staff for the 2022-2023 school year be set at 1411.7 FTE teachers.
4. That report re Preliminary Secondary School Teacher Staffing for 2022-2023 School Year dated April 12, 2022 be received.
5. Based on system needs and the projected Secondary ADE of 10,889.5 (includes projected international students), a preliminary allocation of Secondary Teaching staff for the 2022-2023 school year be set at 747.83 FTE teachers.
6. The verbal OPSBA update be received.
7. The verbal Absenteeism report be received.

**The motion carried.**

**13. Special Education Advisory Committee**

**RESOLUTION #22-109:** Trustee Edwards moved that the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee held April 13, 2022 be received and considered.

**The motion carried.**

**14. Policy Management Committee**

**RESOLUTION #22-110:** Trustee Ross moved that the minutes of the Policy Management Committee held April 5, 2022 be received and considered.

**The motion carried.**

**RESOLUTION #22-111:** Trustee Ross moved that:

1. Policy 503 Safe Schools be approved.
2. Policy 111 – Use of Corporate Resources for Elections be approved.
3. Policy 312 – Website and Social Media Management be released for public consultation.

4. Policy Public Consultation Plan for 312 – Website and Social Media Management dated April 05, 2022 be received.
5. Policy Public Consultation Plan for 312 – Website and Social Media Management dated April 05, 2022 be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**15. Safe Equitable and Inclusive Schools Steering Committee (SEISSC)  
Minutes of April 20, 2022**

**RESOLUTION #22-112:** Trustee MacNeil moved that the minutes of the SEISSC meeting dated April 20, 2022 be received.

**The motion carried.**

**16. First Nation, Métis, Inuit Education Council (FNMIEC)**

**RESOLUTION #22-113:** Trustee Campbell moved that the minutes of the First Nation, Métis, Inuit Education Council meeting held April 4, 2022 be received.

**The motion carried.**

**17. Authorization for Increase in Line of Credit**

**RESOLUTION #22-114:** Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the Upper Grand District School Board's line of credit at The Royal Bank of Canada be increased to \$19,000,000 from the current limit of \$10,000,000.

**The motion carried.**

**18. Monthly COVID-19 Update**

Executive Superintendent McDonald shared some updates on Upper Grand DSB's continued response to the impact of COVID-19 in Upper Grand schools. Since the last board meeting in March, absenteeism, and the prevalence of COVID-19 in the schools mirrored what was happening across the community. There was a peak in the majority of schools in early April, but over the past two weeks there has been a slow, steady decline in absenteeism rates both amongst students and staff.

A summary of measures which continue to be employed in schools were provided and Mr. McDonald highlighted a renewed emphasis on asking staff and students to wear masks as recommended by Public Health, both locally and provincially.

An overview of 3 key areas were provided:

1. COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidance

- Protective Measures Campaign
  - Common message from Board and Union partners
  - Request to wear masks indoors
  - Poster campaigns and visual reminders
  - Classroom education materials
  - All protective measures continuing
  
- Screening and Verification continuing

2. Absenteeism Reporting and Updates

- New COVID-19 Self-Reporting Data
  - Provide a regular report of positive COVID-19 cases that were self-reported to the school
  - Provided for a short time period to respond to increasing case counts in the community
  - The self-reported cases will show on their school website the date it was updated, and the number of cases that were self-reported to the school on that date
  
- Recent Absenteeism Data
  - Daily absent tracking pilot continues
  - Allows to monitor trends in absenteeism rates and gives a better sense of the impact of COVID-19 on schools
  - Generally absences are now trending down after peaking in early April

3. Elementary and Secondary Updates

- Mental Health Supports
  - Continue to be both proactive and responsive in approach to support student, staff, and families
  - Continue to provide direct support for students from JK-12 relating to Mental Health and Wellbeing through in school mental health professionals specialized supports
  - Provide opportunities for direct modeling as well as targeted and intentional learning opportunities most notably through the Wellness Works Project
  - Regularly monitoring newly emerging data relating to COVID-19 impacts on children, youth and family mental health and wellbeing

- Parent webinars series is continued – partnered with Compass to Design on how to know if your child is struggling and strategies to support
- Continued collaboration with community partners around trends, gaps, and sharing of resources to ensure that support systems and pathways focus on the current needs of students and families

Trustees asked questions and expressed thanks for the update.

**RESOLUTION #22-115:** Trustee Foley moved that the verbal monthly COVID-19 update be received with thanks.

**The motion carried.**

## **19. Multi-Year Plan Update**

Director of Education Sovran provided an update on the Multi-Year Plan. Through a board resolution #22-08 dated January 11, 2022, which was approved at the January 25<sup>th</sup> board meeting, initiated the Upper Grand Multi-Year Plan Process. Director Sovran shared a diagram of the MYP process and milestones, and he noted one adjustment to the process in the month of April, which is a second session for the trustees which will happen tomorrow on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Following that session, a draft vision and priorities will be brought forward to the next board meeting at the end of May. Before the May board meeting, the engagement process with students, families, and community members will begin gathering their voice around the draft of the vision as well as the priorities. Director Sovran expressed thanks to trustees for their work in undertaking the MYP Process and reminded everyone that the MYP has been posted on the board website as well as on Upper Grand's social media accounts and updates will continue to be provided to the community and public.

**RESOLUTION #22-116:** Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the verbal Multi-Year Plan Update be received with thanks.

**The motion carried.**

## **20. Staff Retirements and Resignations**

Executive Officer of Human Resources Pyke presented the Staff Retirements and Resignations report dated April 26, 2022.

**RESOLUTION #22-117:** Trustee Topping moved that the Staff Retirements and Resignations report Appendix A and Appendix B dated April 26, 2022 be received.



**The motion carried.**

## **21. Board Correspondence**

**RESOLUTION #22-118:** Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the Board Correspondence dated April 26, 2022, be received.

**The motion carried.**

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

## **22. Trustee Questions and Reports**

Trustee Busuttill presented the OPSBA Policy Resolution Submission Form – Environmental Determinants of Student Health and Well-Being and placed three separate motions on the floor for discussion:

1. Be it resolved, that OPSBA's Whole Child and Student Well-Being Priority, recognize the environmental determinants of mental health on student achievement and well-being, and that this be included in OPSBA advocacy work plans and activities.
2. Be it resolved, that OPSBA's Whole Child and Student Well-Being, and Sustainable and Equitable Education Funding Priorities recognize the inequitable impact of climate change on Indigenous Peoples, young people and socially and economically disadvantaged populations, and advocate for local board efforts in addressing these inequities.
3. Be it resolved, that OPSBA's Sustainable and Equitable Education Funding Priority, advocate for dedicated Capital and Renewal funding targeted to reduce School Board Energy and Transportation Carbon emissions.

Trustee Busuttill shared that this really puts at the forefront, the priority of climate change in the actions and the work of the Ontario Public School Board Association, and she hopes that trustees will be able to support this.

Trustee Bailey thanked Trustee Busuttill for the work and research that went into the policy resolution created on the board's behalf, and has no hesitation supporting it. He did note that he would like to include language that would advocate for specific carbon neutral funding embedded in the resolutions.

Trustee Busuttill proposed the last motion be revised to include:

3. Be it resolved, that OPSBA's Sustainable and Equitable Education Funding Priority, advocate for dedicated **Carbon Neutral**, Capital and Renewal funding targeted to reduce School Board Energy and Transportation Carbon emissions.

Both parties agreed to the friendly amendment.

**RESOLUTION #22-119:** Trustee Busuttil moved that the three resolutions, the last one as amended, be approved by the Upper Grand DSB for submission to the Ontario Public School Board Association as a policy resolution.

**The motion carried.**

Trustee Busuttil returned to the Chair.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy indicated trustees should have received their invitation to purchase tickets for the Inaugural Upper Grand Learning Foundation Gala on May 27, 2022. This is the first gala being held for the UGLF and limited tickets are being sold due to space. She hopes that each trustee chooses to purchase a couple of tickets and to come out and join in. Trustee Edwards expressed thanks and appreciation to Trustee Lustgarten Evoy for stepping in and helping the UGLF.

### **23. OPSBA Report**

Trustee MacNeil provided the following OPSBA update:

#### Update from Central West Regional meeting

Current OPSBA Strategic Priorities were discussed and input was sought for any changes or additions. Information was shared regarding the upcoming elections. This information was previously shared with trustees in an email. Also discussed were advocacy actions that OPSBA is undertaking in the lead up to the provincial and municipal/school board elections. A discussion took place to brainstorm ideas for how best to share information between the Board of Directors and member boards. Updates were received from the work groups and Project Compass. The Upper Grand DSB Regional Board report was shared and was in the Board package.

#### PPAN Scholarship

This is the final year for the Public Property Assessment Network Scholarship for a \$1000 award for a student graduating from high school. Information about the scholarship has been shared on the board social media. Please reshare on your trustee accounts to help spread the word. The Central West Regional Vice-President is looking for volunteers for the Selection Committee for the scholarship and if interested to contact them directly.

#### Important Dates

Human Relations and Labour Symposium April 28 Virtual

Board of Directors meeting April 29-30th

AGM June 9-11 Ottawa/Virtual

Central West Regional meeting June 11 at AGM Ottawa/Virtual

Policy Resolution Submissions

An opportunity to share any proposed policy resolutions for the OPSBA AGM. Submissions need to be sent to OPSBA by noon on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.

**RESOLUTION #22-120:** Trustee Topping moved that the verbal OPSBA report dated April 26, 2022 be received.

**The motion carried.**

**24. Dates of Future Meetings**

**RESOLUTION #22-121:** Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the May 2022 schedule for Board and Standing Committee Meetings be approved as follows:

Program Committee	May 3, 2022
Business Operations	May 10, 2022
Board Meeting	May 24, 2022

**The motion carried.**

**RESOLUTION #22-12:** Trustee Edwards moved that the Dates of Future Meetings dated April 26, 2022 be received.

**The motion carried.**

**25. Motion to Rise and Report to the Board**

**RESOLUTION #22-123:** Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the Committee of the Whole rise and report to the Board.

**The motion carried.**

**26. Ratification of Business**

**RESOLUTION #22-124:** Trustee Topping moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey that the business transacted by the Committee of the Whole be now ratified by the Board.

**The motion carried.**

**27. Adjournment**

**RESOLUTION #22-125:** Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved, seconded by Trustee Foley that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 8:12 p.m.

**The motion carried.**

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