

**Upper Grand District School Board
Organizational Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 15, 2022
Minutes**

The Organizational Meeting of the Upper Grand District School Board for the period November 15, 2022 to November 14, 2023 was held virtually and in person on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 7:00 p.m. All members were present.

Meeting Called to Order

The Chief Executive Officer of the Board, Director of Education Sovran, presided and called the meeting to order.

Election Returns for the position of Trustee, Upper Grand DSB, term November 15, 2022 to November 14, 2026, as certified by the respective Clerks' Office.

Director of Education Sovran read aloud the name of each Trustee-Elect by Municipality:

Wellington North – Robin Ross

Town of Mono – Lynn Topping

Town of Orangeville – Kenn Manzerolle

Guelph/Eramosa Township – Jen Edwards

Township of Centre Wellington – Marina Hanenberg

City of Guelph (Wards 1 and 5) – Martha MacNeil and Luke Weiler

City of Guelph (Wards 2, 3, and 4) – Laurie Whyte and Ralf Mesenbrink

City of Guelph (Ward 6 and Puslinch - Katherine Hauser

Land Acknowledgement – Student Trustee Julie Elmslie

The Upper Grand District School Board is situated on the ancestral, treaty and title lands of two Anishinaabek Ojibwe Nations: the Michi Saagig of the Credit and the Saugeen Ojibway Nation. This land also includes a specified tract of land granted to the Six Nations of the Grand River. These Nations hold legal and specific rights in their

respective territories. This area has been and continues to be home for Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous peoples.

Equity and Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression Commitment Statement – Student Trustee Brooke Hartley

As an educational community we have a responsibility to identify and describe racism and oppression and then work to dismantle it.

The Upper Grand District School Board is committed to disrupting systemic racism and oppression in all of its forms.

We will implement ongoing mandatory anti-racism and anti-oppression training for all staff, review our protocols and policies, including our hiring practices, and be fully transparent and accountable to all Upper Grand students, staff, families, and stakeholders in an ongoing manner.

National Anthem of Canada

Everyone was invited to stand and join in as the National Anthem of Canada was played.

Declaration of Office – Gillian Tuck Kutarna

Director Sovran introduced Gillian Tuck Kutarna, partner at Miller & Thomson, who administered the Declaration of Office.

Confirmation of Agenda

RESOLUTION #22-332: Trustee MacNeil moved, seconded by Trustee Hanenberg, that the agenda be confirmed as printed.

The motion carried.

Process and Procedures for Conduct of Meetings

Chief Executive Officer, Director of Education Sovran advised on the process and procedures for the remainder of the meeting. Director of Education Sovran advised that in the event of multiple nominations, Executive Superintendent Glen Regier and Administrative Assistant Basia Zakaria, and will be appointed as scrutineers. This meeting was held virtually and in person and the voting would be done through a secret ballot (digital voting system).

Election of Chair of the Board

The Board proceeded to the election of Chair of the Board for the period November 15, 2022 to November 14, 2023, in accordance with the Board's By-law No. 1.

Nominations

Trustee Whyte, seconded by Trustee Edwards, nominated Trustee MacNeil as Chair of the Board.

Trustee MacNeil agreed to stand as Chair of the Board.

Trustee Weiler, seconded by Trustee Hauser, nominated Trustee Ralf Mesenbrink as Chair of the Board.

Trustee Mesenbrink agreed to stand as Chair of the Board.

RESOLUTION #22-333: Trustee Whyte, seconded by Trustee Mesenbrink, moved that the nominations be closed.

The motion carried.

Nominators spoke in support of their nominees for the position of Chair of the Board.

Trustees MacNeil and Mesenbrink spoke in support of their nomination to the position of Chair of the Board.

A vote by secret ballot (digital voting system) was conducted in accordance with the Board's By-law No. 1.

RESOLUTION #22-334: Trustee Whyte, seconded by Trustee Topping moved that the ballots be destroyed.

The motion carried.

Director of Education Sovran announced that there was a tie between Trustee MacNeil and Trustee Mesenbrink. In accordance with the Board's By-law, the result of a tie between two parties without simple majority will be determined on the drawing of lots (virtual).

Having attained drawn lots in accordance with section 9 of the Board's By-Law No. 1. Trustee Mesenbrink was declared Chair of the Board for the period November 15, 2022 to November 14, 2023.

Trustee Mesenbrink took the Chair and presided for the remainder of the meeting.

Inaugural Address

Trustee Mesenbrink provided his Inaugural Address, a copy of which is attached to the minutes.

Trustee Weiler placed the following motion: That items 11, 12, 13, and 23 (Election of Vice-Chair of the Board; Election of Chairs of the Two Standing Committees: Election of Vice-Chair for Each of the Two Standing Committees and Trustee Representation on Committees) be deferred to the next regular Board meeting in January 2023, as to provide the Board with the opportunity to review and revise By-law 1.

Trustee Weiler spoke to the motion he placed and expressed interest in having more time to review the Board's By-law 1 before moving forward and appointing the Vice-Chair of the Board; Election of Chairs of the Two Standing Committees: Election of Vice-Chair for each of the Two Standing Committees and Trustee Representation on Committees.

Board Chair Mesenbrink read the motion, seconded by Trustee Edwards.

Trustee Weiler moved, seconded by Trustee Edwards, that items 11, 12, 13, and 23 (Election of Vice-Chair of the Board; Election of Chairs of the Two Standing Committees: Election of Vice-Chair for Each of the Two Standing Committees and Trustee Representation on Committees) be deferred to the next regular Board meeting in January 2023, as to provide the Board with the opportunity to review and revise By Law No. 1.

No one spoke to the motion.

Board Chair Mesenbrink called the vote.

RESOLUTION #22-335: Trustee Weiler moved, seconded by Trustee Edwards, that items 11, 12, 13, and 23 (Election of Vice-Chair of the Board; Election of Chairs of the Two Standing Committees: Election of Vice-Chair for Each of the Two Standing Committees and Trustee Representation on Committees) be deferred to the next regular Board meeting in January 2023, as to provide the Board with the opportunity to review and revise By Law No. 1.

The motion carried.

Motion to Rise and Sit in Committee of the Whole

RESOLUTION #22-336: Trustee Edwards moved, seconded by Trustee Hauser that the Board rise and sit in Committee of the Whole with the Chairperson presiding.

The motion carried.

Royal Bank of Canada

RESOLUTION #22-337: Trustee Manzerolle moved that the Royal Bank of Canada continues to be the Banker for Upper Grand District School Board.

The motion carried.

Authorization for Line of Credit

RESOLUTION #22-338: Trustee Edwards moved that the Audit Committee be authorized to activate a line of credit or Banker's Acceptances, up to \$19,000,000 if required, at The Royal Bank of Canada.

The motion carried.

Authorization to Borrow Funds

RESOLUTION #22-339: Trustee MacNeil moved that, in accordance with Section 243 of the Education Act, the Board authorize the Chair of the Board and the Director of Education as Secretary-Treasurer to borrow, from time to time, such funds as this Board considers necessary to meet the current expenditures of the Board; further, that the amounts that may be borrowed at any one time, together with the total of any similar borrowings that have not been repaid, shall not exceed the unreceived balance of estimated revenue of the Board for the current year; and that the Chair of the Board and the Director of Education as Secretary-Treasurer be authorized to sign any required forms.

The motion carried.

Signing Authority

RESOLUTION #22-340: Trustee Whyte moved that:

- a) The signing officers for financial transactions be the Chair of the Board and the Director of Education and Secretary-Treasurer.
- b) The Chair of the Board, Trustee Mesenbrink, and the Director of Education and Secretary-Treasurer, Peter Sovran, be named as the

cheque-signing authorities of the Board for the period November 15, 2022 to November 14, 2023, and that they be authorized to sign the required banking forms, including the authority to make use of a mechanical facsimile of their signatures.

- c) The Royal Bank of Canada be authorized and directed to pay any and all cheques against the account of the Board which may be presented for payment bearing the facsimile signature impressed thereon by mechanical means, of the Chair of the Board and the Director of Education, as Secretary-Treasurer of the Board, to all intents and purposes as though such cheques had been signed in their own handwriting and duly issued by such signing officers with the authority on behalf of the Board. It is also agreed that, in consideration of the Bank's paying or negotiating cheques issued on behalf of the Board and bearing the mechanically imprinted facsimile signature of the Chair of the Board and the Director or Education, as Secretary-Treasurer of the Board, the Board will and hereby does undertake to hold the Bank harmless from, and indemnified against, all losses, costs, damages and expenses arising out of the payment or the negotiation or any cheque on which the facsimile signature has been wrongfully affixed.

The motion carried.

Provision for Reserve

RESOLUTION #22-341: Trustee Weiler moved that:

- a) The Board provide for either a Provision for Reserve for Classroom Expenditures or a Transfer from Reserve for Classroom Expenditures.
- b) The Board provide for either a Provision for Reserve for Pupil Accommodation or a Transfer from Reserve for Pupil Accommodation.
- c) The Board provide for either a Provision for Reserve for Special Education or a Transfer from Reserve for Special Education.
- d) The Board provide for either a Provision for Working Funds Reserve or a Transfer from Working Funds Reserve in its Financial Statements equal to the amount of surplus or deficit as determined after the year end audit.
- e) The Director of Education, the Executive Superintendent of Business Operations and Support Services or the Executive Officer of Human

Resources be authorized to act on behalf of the Board in matters relating to the Canada Revenue Agency.

The motion carried.

Authority to Close School

RESOLUTION #22-342: Trustee Edwards moved that the Director of Education be authorized to act as Agent for the Board on the matter of school closing for a temporary period, in accordance with Section 19 of the Education Act, and that such action be reported to the Board as soon as possible.

The motion carried.

Ontario Public School Boards’ Association Membership

RESOLUTION #22-343: Trustee Topping moved that Upper Grand District School Board’s annual membership in the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association (OPSBA) be approved for the term of the new Board of Trustees (November 15, 2022 to November 14, 2023).

The motion carried.

Policy 103 Trustee Code of Conduct

RESOLUTION #22-344: In accordance with this Policy, it is the responsibility of the Chair of the Board to bring the Trustee Code of Conduct to the attention of all Trustees at the annual organizational meeting. This serves as a reminder to all Trustees that an acknowledgement of this Code of Conduct was signed at the beginning of the term, (November 15, 2022).

The motion carried.

Special Education Advisory Committee Appointment

RESOLUTION #22-345: Trustee Whyte moved that the following representatives of associations and the community be appointed to the Special Education Advisory Committee effective November 15, 2022 to November 14, 2023:

Autism Society of Ontario: Mandi McCreary

Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo Wellington Dufferin: Denise Helm

Community Member-at-Large: Sara Avoledo

Dufferin Child & Family Services (DCAFS): Andrea Wyshniowsky

Easter Seals Ontario: Dianna Landry

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD ONE): Maren Vsetula

Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County (IDAWC): Patricia Townson

OPVIC/Views (Ontario Parents of Visually Impaired Children): Shelley Marks

The motion carried.

Audit Committee

RESOLUTION #22-346: Trustee Weiler moved that Mark Gilroy and Debbie Speight be approved as external appointments to the Audit Committee for the term November 15, 2022 to November 14, 2025.

The motion carried.

Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION #22-347: Trustee MacNeil moved that the next Regular Board Meeting be scheduled for Tuesday, November 29, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

The motion carried.

RESOLUTION #22-348: Trustee Hanenberg moved that the Board continue the practice of holding a Committee of the Whole meeting In Camera (if required) immediately prior to the regular Board meeting, or immediately following the Board meeting.

The motion carried.

Report to the Board

RESOLUTION #22-349: Trustee Hauser moved that the Committee of the Whole rise and report to the Board.

The motion carried.

Ratification of Business

RESOLUTION #22-350: Trustee Manzerolle moved, seconded by Whyte, that the business transacted by the Committee of the Whole be now ratified by the Board.

The motion carried.

Adjournment

RESOLUTION #22-351: Trustee Hanenberg moved, seconded by Trustee MacNeil, that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 8:15 p.m.

The motion carried.

This document is available in alternate formats if required.

Inaugural Address – Trustee Mesenbrink, November 15, 2022

I would like to thank my trustee colleagues for their support.

Together, we (both board and organization) have some big tasks ahead of us, and the work starts right away:

- Governance review and review of Bylaw #1
- Overseeing the Multi-Year Plan with the development of indicators and outcomes to give us the tools to monitor implementation
- The design and construction of two new schools, an elementary school in Fergus and the Guelph south-end high school, and the boundary reviews these will no doubt necessitate
- Welcoming a new Human Rights Advisor to the system to support the equity pillar of the Multi-Year Plan
- Making sure that our learners catch up and eliminate any learning gaps that the past few years have caused
- Listening to the various voices – students, staff, and the community
- Most importantly, supporting our staff in critical the work they do with our learners – that is, in the end, why this organization exists.

These are significant tasks, but working through them will reward us as individuals, as an organization and benefit the community.

We also have some significant challenges ahead – Collective Agreement negotiations at the central and local levels, and the COVID situation as well as health and wellbeing challenges facing many of our staff and learners

Throughout my career and community volunteer work, I have tried to put energy and resources towards those who need it most, whether it be the strong teacher working with struggling students in math, having adult ESL teachers work with refugees who may not be literate in their first language, or running targeted employment programs for those who have barriers to employment, celebrating their every success along the way. Whether it be building a community garden in the west end of Guelph to improve food access for residents (the easy part) or working with the gardeners to build their capacity to govern the as caring stewards (the hard part) I am committed to making a difference.

This role provides all of us with the challenge and the ability to make a difference in learner's lives, from Kindergarten to Graduation, and that's why all of us are here.

I think I speak for all my colleagues when I say that we are looking forward to working with and supporting every staff member in this organization to the benefit of all our learners.

Thank you again to my colleagues.