

**Upper Grand District School Board**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 29, 2022**  
**Minutes**

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Grand District School Board was held virtually and in person on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 7:00 p.m. All Trustees were present. Student Trustee Brooke Hartley was also in attendance.

**1. Meeting Called to Order**

Board Chair Mesenbrink presided and called the meeting to order.

**2. Land Acknowledgement – Trustee Manzerolle**

**3. Equity and Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression Commitment Statement – Trustee MacNeil**

**4. Chair’s Remarks**

Trustee Mesenbrink asked that everyone take a silent moment to reflect with compassion and strength, to all those who have suffered loss in their personal lives, across all Upper Grand schools and in the community.

**5. Director’s Remarks**

In response to the withdrawal of services from CUPE earlier this month, all Upper Grand schools remained opened during this time. Director Sovran expressed thanks to every person involved and all efforts that were made across the school system, for the students to continue with in-person learning.

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

Student Trustee Recipient of Vimy Pilgrimage Award

John F. Ross CVI student and Upper Grand Student Trustee, Julia Elmslie, has been named a recipient of the Vimy Foundation’s Vimy Pilgrimage Award. The Vimy Foundation created the award to recognize the actions of young people ages 14-17 who are dedicated to the betterment of society. According to the Vimy Foundation, “recipients demonstrate an outstanding commitment to volunteer work through positive contributions, notable deeds, or bravery that benefits their peers, school, community, province, or country.” This November, Julia travelled to France and Belgium with a

group of 15 like-minded peers to represent Canada and explore the history of the First World War.

### Westside SS Celebrates Annual Pink Day Fundraiser

Students and staff at Westside SS raised over \$15,000 with their annual Pink Day fundraiser in support of Breast Cancer Canada, a nearly 40 per cent increase from the amount raised last year. Westside's Pink Day fundraiser began back in 2004 when a staff member had been diagnosed with breast cancer. Pink Day at Westside has evolved into their largest spirit day of the year, where students and staff can engage through wearing pink and participating in fundraising activities and families are invited to the school's community pancake breakfast.

### Wellington Heights SS Student Receives the Queen's Jubilee Medal

A student from Wellington Heights SS has received the Queen's Jubilee Medal for her bravery and thoughtfulness. On October 18, 2022, Tori, a Grade 12 Wellington Heights SS student, was at her home when a tragic car accident occurred on Highway 6 in front of her home causing both vehicles involved in the accident to burst into flames. Tori wasted no time, calling 911 for help while running to the burning vehicles. Acting quickly and bravely, Tori helped to pull an individual from their burning car and brought them to safety until emergency personnel arrived on the scene. Tori was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal on November 8, 2022, by Member of Parliament, John Nater. A small ceremony was held in the Wellington Heights SS front foyer with Tori and her family, local dignitaries, Trustee Chair, and friends from her Biology class.

## **6. Confirmation of the Agenda**

**RESOLUTION #22-352:** Trustee Edwards moved, seconded by Trustee Whyte, that the agenda be confirmed as printed.

**The motion carried.**

## **7. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest.

## **8. Confirmation of Minutes**

- a) **Approval of the Minutes of the Final Board Meeting Held November 14, 2022**

**RESOLUTION #22-353**: Trustee MacNeil moved, seconded by Trustee Edwards, that the minutes of the Final Board meeting held November 14, 2022, be approved as printed.

**The motion carried.**

**b) Approval of the Minutes of the Inaugural Board Meeting Held November 15, 2022**

**RESOLUTION #22-354**: Trustee Edwards moved, seconded by Trustee Manzerolle, that the minutes of the Inaugural Board meeting held November 15, 2022, be approved as printed.

**The motion carried.**

**9. Ratification of Business Transacted by the Committee of the Whole (In Camera)**

**RESOLUTION #22-355**: Trustee Weiler 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.**

**10. Committee Reports**

**a) Audit Committee**

**RESOLUTION #22-356**: Trustee MacNeil moved, seconded by Trustee Topping, that the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held on November 14, 2022, be received.

**The motion carried.**

**11. Financial Reports**

**a) 2021/2022 Audited Financial Statements**

Executive Superintendent Regier presented an overview of the Audited Financial Statements for the Board, and the 2021/22 Audited Financial Statements for the Upper Grand District School Board Trust Funds. Key points were highlighted, and an in-depth overview of the Audit Financial Statements were provided for the year ending August 31, 2022.

Stacey Stahlman from KPMG reported on the Audit Findings for the year ending August 31, 2022. Ms. Stahlman reported no changes in accounting practices and policies and stated that no audit differences and no significant control deficiencies were identified.

Ms. Stahlman expressed thanks to the staff in the Finance and Management teams for their assistance with the 2021-22 audits.

**RESOLUTION #22-357**: Trustee Topping moved, seconded by Trustee Manzerolle,

That:

1. The Report: "2021 2022 Audited Financial Statements" dated November 29, 2022, be received.
2. The Audit Findings Report to the Board, as prepared by KPMG, for the year ended August 31, 2022, be received.
3. The 2021-2022 Audited Financial Statements for the Upper Grand District School Board and the 2021 2022 Audited Financial Statements of the Upper Grand District School Board Trust Funds be approved.

**The motion carried.**

## **12. Reports from Officials**

### **a) Ontario Public School Board's Association (OPSBA), Interim Delegate**

Trustee Mesenbrink shared that at the November 15, 2022 Inaugural meeting, the Board deferred several agenda matters, including external appointments to the next regular Board meeting in January 2023, to engage in a review and possible revision to By-Law 1. Trustee Mesenbrink recommended that formally appointing voting delegates to OPSBA while the Board reviews its By-Law 1 ensures Board representation should any OPSBA business occur between now and the Organizational meeting. Trustee MacNeil has been the Upper Grand DSB delegate to OPSBA since December 2021, and Trustee Mesenbrink is presently the Chair of the Board.

**RESOLUTION #22-358**: Trustee Manzerolle moved, seconded by Trustee Hauser,

That:

1. The report titled Chair's Report Dated November 29, 2022, be received.
2. Trustee Martha MacNeil be appointed Interim OPSBA Voting Delegate until the Board undertakes its Organizational meeting in January 2023.
3. Trustee Ralf Mesenbrink be appointed Interim OPSBA Alternate Delegate until the Board undertakes its Organizational meeting in January 2023.

**The motion carried.**

**b) Regular Board Meeting – January 2023**

Director of Education Sovran announced that the Board is currently engaged in a comprehensive review of the Board By-Law 1 including the structure of committees, the frequency of meetings, and the conduct of business at Board meetings. This work is expected to conclude by the end of December 2022. Director Sovran recommended scheduling the next Regular Board meeting from the regular 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month to Tuesday, January 17, 2023. This would provide a two-month period to conduct the review of Board By-Law 1, including a two-week break (December 22 - January 8) as outlined in the approved 2022-2023 Upper Grand DSB School Year Calendar. Director Sovran also added that scheduling a Regular Board meeting on January 17, 2023 would likely reduce the need to call a Special Board meeting to address pressing matters of the Board.

**RESOLUTION #22-359**: Trustee Edwards moved, seconded by Trustee Weiler,

That:

1. Executive Report “Meeting Dates – January 2023” dated November 29, 2022, be received.
2. The January Board Meeting be scheduled on Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

**The motion carried.**

**13. Staff Retirements and Resignations**

Executive Officer of Human Resources Pyke presented the Staff Retirements and Resignations report dated November 29, 2022.

**RESOLUTION #22-360**: Trustee Hauser moved, seconded by Trustee Topping, that the Staff Retirements and Resignations report Appendix A and Appendix B dated November 29, 2022 be received.

**The motion carried.**

**14. Correspondence**

**RESOLUTION #22-361**: Trustee Whyte moved, seconded by Trustee MacNeil, that the Board Correspondence dated November 29, 2022, be received.

**The motion carried.**

## **15. Trustee Questions and Reports**

Trustees MacNeil and Mesenbrink attended the OPSBA Board of Directors Meeting held on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Trustee MacNeil received a meeting summary from OPSBA and informed that the report (with links) would be sent to the Trustees. Brief highlights were shared on the following: retiring Executive Director W.R. (Rusty) Hick; new OPSBA Director of Labour Relations Andrew Gold and new OPSBA Director of Program Policy Dr. Valerie Nielsen; Education Policy and Program Issues; Legislative Updates; Education Finance; Government Relations, Public Affairs and Communications; 2022 Municipal and school Board Elections; and Program Policy.

Trustee Edwards asked why a Dates of Future Meetings Report was not included on the agenda. Trustee Mesenbrink explained at the present moment, there is only the Regular Board meeting scheduled for January 17, 2023, and with the Board currently reviewing the Board's By-Law 1, there most likely would have been several changes to titles, names, and so forth. It was indicated that the Dates of Future Meetings report could be incorporated after the Board finishes a comprehensive review of By-Law 1.

## **16. Adjournment**

**RESOLUTION #22-362**: Trustee Weiler moved, seconded by Trustee Whyte that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 7:55 p.m.

**The motion carried.**

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