

**Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 14, 2024**  
**Boardroom and Microsoft Teams**

Trustees: Ralf Mesenbrink (Chair), Katherine Hauser (Vice Chair), Jen Edwards, Irene Hanenberg, Alethia O’Hara-Stephenson, Martha MacNeil, Robin Ross, Lynn Topping, Luke Weiler, Laurie Whyte, Brooke Hartley (Student Trustee), Paige Knight (Student Trustee)

Administration: Director of Education Sovran, Associate Director McDonald, Associate Director Giannopoulos, Superintendent of People, Leadership and Culture Pyke, Superintendents of Education Blair, Donaldson, Hamilton, Heaslip, and Taha, Human Rights, Equity and Accessibility Commissioner Ralph, Communications and Public Relations Manager Loney, Manager - Trustee Secretariat Vorkapic

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Grand District School Board was held virtually and in person on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 7:05 p.m.

**1. Meeting Called to Order**

Board Chair Mesenbrink presided and called the meeting to order.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

Trustee Edwards recognized that the Board is meeting on the ancestral, treaty and title lands of two Anishinaabek Ojibwe Nations: The Michi Saagig of the Credit and the Saugeen Ojibway Nation.

**Equity and Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression Commitment Statement**

Student Trustee Hartley highlighted the Board’s commitment to equity and anti-racism/anti-oppression.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Trustee Weiler requested an amendment to add an item to the agenda. He asked to add the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election Voting Methods to item #8 - Other Business.

RESOLUTION #24-149:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte

Seconded by: Trustee O'Hara-Stephenson

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the agenda of May 14, 2024 meeting as amended.

**Carried**

**4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest.

**5. Confirmation of Minutes of the Board**

**5.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Education Development Charges Meeting Held March 21, 2024**

RESOLUTION #24-150:

Moved by: Trustee Edwards

Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the minutes of the March 21, 2024 EDC meeting.

**Carried**

**5.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Education Development Charges Meeting Held April 18, 2024**

RESOLUTION #24-152:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte

Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the minutes of the April 18, 2024 EDC meeting.

**Carried**

### **5.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting Held April 23, 2024**

#### RESOLUTION #24-153:

Moved by: Trustee O'Hara-Stephenson

Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the minutes of the April 23, 2024 meeting of the board.

**Carried**

## **6. Delegation – Brad Gerard - Re: Central PS Enrolment Cap**

Brad Gerard, a parent of a Central PS student, requested to delegate the Board regarding the Central PS Enrollment Cap. On behalf of concerned Central PS families, Mr. Gerard asked the Board to officially prioritize the enrollment of younger siblings of existing Central PS students, should an enrollment cap be deemed necessary.

## **7. Response to Delegation**

## **8. Committee Reports**

### **8.1 Committee of The Whole – Closed**

Pursuant to Section 207(2) of the *Education Act* a meeting of a committee of a board, including a committee of the whole, may be closed to the public when the subject-matter under consideration involves matters set out in 207(2)(a)-(e) of the *Education Act*.

Vice Chair Hauser presented the Committee of the Whole (Closed Session) report held on May 14, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 6:03PM and was held in closed session as per Section 207 (2) of the Education Act. All board members were present and there were no declarations of conflict of interest.

#### RESOLUTION #24-154:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte

Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the business of the Committee of the Whole -Closed Session of May 14, 2024.

**Carried**

Trustee Hauser informed that in the closed session, the Board ratified the Collective Agreement with the OSSTF District 18 Secondary Teachers Bargaining Unit (TBU) and the OSSTF District 18 Secondary Occasional Teachers Bargaining Unit (OTBU). She thanked negotiators for both the bargaining unit and management for their hard work over the past months on coming to these agreements.

## **8.2 Standing Committee(s)**

### **a) Finance and Facilities Committee – April 16, 2024**

Chair Edwards presided the meeting and there were no conflicts of interest declared. The following items that were presented at the meeting were highlighted: the Central PS Accommodation Options Report, the New Centre Wellington ES Boundary Review Report, and the New Guelph Secondary Boundary Review Report. Discussion took place regarding the 2024-25 Budget, and a Capital Projects Update was provided.

Trustee Weiler asked a question of clarification regarding the accommodation of additional portables.

#### RESOLUTION #24-155:

Moved by: Trustee O'Hara-Stephenson

Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the Finance and Facilities Committee report of April 16, 2024 including the following recommendations:

THAT memo PLN: 24-06 "Central PS Accommodation Options" be received; and

THAT staff provides a report outlining the details of an enrolment cap process for Central PS for the 2025-26 school year at a future Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting.

**Carried**

**b) Governance Committee – May 7, 2024**

Acting Chair Ross presided the meeting and there were no conflicts of interest declared.

RESOLUTION #24-156:

Moved by: Trustee Weiler

Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the Governance Committee report of May 7, 2024 including the following recommendations:

1. Delegation Ad Hoc Committee

THAT a public engagement policy be developed; and

THAT Section 4.5 of By Law No. 1 be amended to read as follows:

4.5 Delegations to the Board

The Upper Grand District School Board provides many opportunities for groups and individuals to provide advice or commentary to the Board. One option to address the full Board is through delegations.

Individuals or groups who are seeking to delegate to **a committee or Board** should contact the Manager of the Trustee Secretariat, to request a delegation, on or before 12 noon of the Friday prior to the meeting.

The Manager of the Trustee Secretariat will ensure that all potential delegates will be made aware of the procedures to be followed when appearing before **a committee or Board**.

**Delegation topics shall be linked to an agenda topic.**

**The number of delegations at a particular board meeting may be limited at the discretion of the Chair.**

The length of each presentation shall be limited to five (5) minutes and may be followed by Trustee questions of clarification.

All delegates and guests must adhere to the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC) and the Upper Grand District School Board Code of Conduct.

At no time will trustees or staff engage in discussion with the spokesperson or any member of the delegation except to clarify, through the chairperson, a point made in the presentation.

Consideration of requests by delegations may be addressed during the Board meeting or referred to a committee, or to a future Board meeting; and

2. Ontario Regulation 83/24 – Director of Education Performance Appraisal

THAT in accordance with Upper Grand DSB By Law No. 1, the Governance Committee shall be responsible for conducting a performance appraisal of the Director of Education for the board, and that the Chair of the Governance committee will act as the chair for the purposes as outlined in Ontario Regulation 83/24 – Director of Education Performance Appraisal; and

THAT the Policy Committee rescind Director of Education Performance Appraisal Policy 113 and begin the process of developing a new Policy in accordance with Reg 83/24; and

3. Multi-Year Plan Advisory Committees

THAT beginning in September 2024 the board will receive reports from the Multi-Year Plan Advisory Committees on a schedule to be determined.

**Carried**

**c) Policy and Priorities Committee – May 7, 2024**

Chair Ross presided the meeting and there were no conflicts of interest declared.

RESOLUTION #24-157:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil

Seconded by: Trustee Whyte

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the Policy and Priorities Committee report of May 7, 2024 including the following recommendations:

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board rescind Director of Education Performance Appraisal 113; and

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board approves Policy 406 – Health and Safety; and

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board approves Policy 417 – Violence in the Workplace; and

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board receive Policy 521 – Admission and Registration; and

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board release for public consultation Policy 521 – Admission and Registration.

**Carried**

### **8.3 Advisory Committee**

#### **(a) Parent Involvement Committee – March 25, 2024**

Trustee MacNeil presented the PIC report on behalf of Co-Chairs Gillian Prier and Barb White. A few items highlighted from the meeting were: a detailed report on updates regarding the Multi-Year Strategic Plan and areas of focus; a Board/Ministry Report from Associate Director McDonald; updates on format changes to the Student Census report; and a presentation on the current budget and details on remaining PIC funding.

#### RESOLUTION #24-158:

Moved by: Trustee Edwards

Seconded by: Trustee Hanenberg

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the Parent Involvement Committee report of March 25, 2024.

**Carried**

## 8.4 External Appointment

### a) Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) – May 2024

Trustee MacNeil presented the OPSBA report. The Labour Relations Symposium held a meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, and The OPSBA Board of Directors met on April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> immediately following the Labour Relations symposium. Trustees MacNeil and O'Hara-Stephenson shared highlights from these meetings, as well as upcoming important dates.

#### RESOLUTION #24-159:

Moved by: Trustee Hauser

Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the OPSBA Report of May 14, 2024.

**Carried**

Trustee MacNeil also provided an update on the changes to the Ontario Non-Profit Corporations Act and to OPSBA's Requirements/By-laws.

Trustee Mesenbrink added, as the Board is contemplating replacing the May 28<sup>th</sup> meeting with a Finance and Facilities meeting which will focus on the Budget for 2024-2025, and these recent changes to the Ontario Non-Profit Corporations Act, it would be prudent to have a motion to confirm Trustee MacNeil's role as OPSBA voting delegate for the AGM/Annual Meeting (AM), and Trustee Edward's role as Alternate Voting Delegate.

#### RESOLUTION #24-160:

Moved by: Trustee Weiler

Seconded by: Trustee Whyte

THAT the Upper Grand DSB confirm Trustee MacNeil's role as the OPSBA Director and Voting Delegate, and Trustee Edwards as the Alternate Voting Delegate.

**Carried**



## **9. Report from Chair**

On behalf of trustees, Chair Mesenbrink welcomed New Associate Director Evelyn Giannopoulos who joined the Upper Grand DSB Executive Committee.

Chair Mesenbrink noted that spring is always a busy time of year for the education system, as students and staff prepare for the end of the school year as well as preparing for the next school year. Trustees will have many opportunities to join schools in joining celebrations and performances, which show the great learning that has and continues to occur at Upper Grand DSB.

Chair Mesenbrink acknowledged the staff, both those working with students and those working behind the scenes, as there is lots of work to be done to plan for the next year, to prepare for and respond to several Ministry announcements, and to continue the board's commitments and path laid out in the Multi-Year Plan. Work which will include preparing the budget for the 2024-25 school year, implementing new curriculum, the continuous learning done by staff, and planning for any facilities work that needs to be done.

Chair Mesenbrink thanked labour partners for their work every day, for the past negotiations, and for their commitment to public education which allowed the Board to ratify the last two outstanding local term Collective Agreements this evening.

Next weekend is the May long weekend and Chair Mesenbrink wished students, families, and staff a safe and restful weekend.

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

## **10. Report from Director**

Director of Education Sovran welcomed new Associate Director Evelyn Giannopoulos to Upper Grand DSB, and acknowledged Associate Director McDonald's title change, who previously held the title of Executive Superintendent.

Director Sovran mentioned how schools have been busy in preparation for not only the end of the school year, but also for the upcoming provincial assessment (EQAO) for Grades 3, 6, and 9 math. He acknowledged the efforts of all the students, and thanked the ongoing contributions of staff which ensures that all students have the support throughout each day to be able to perform at their very best.

Director Sovran congratulated and recognized the efforts put forward by many Upper Grand students at the Skills Ontario Competition which was held in Toronto last week.

Trustee Ross disconnected from the meeting.

## 11. Other Business

### 2026 Municipal and School Board Election Voting Methods

Trustee Weiler shared an email received from the City of Guelph. An important early decision ahead of the next regular election which is approaching with a City Council decision anticipated on May 28, 2024, regarding alternative voting methods. As Upper Grand DSB would be affected by this decision, Trustee Weiler expressed that the last second timing to consult and share input with City Council felt like an afterthought, with limited opportunities for engagement. The deadline to include correspondence or delegate at the May 28<sup>th</sup> meeting is on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Weiler specifically spoke about the recommendation adopted by the Committee of the Whole to pursue online voting against staff recommendation. He highlighted several potential risks involved with an online election such as voter fraud, the inability to determine results or conduct a physical recount, security risks due to malicious actors, and technical dependencies that could impact the reliability of service.

#### RESOLUTION #24-161:

Moved by: Trustee Weiler

Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Chair be directed to write a letter to City Council requesting that they adopt city staff's recommendations concerning options for the upcoming municipal election and not pursue the online voting option in 2026.

**Carried**

#### RESOLUTION #24-162:

Moved by: Trustee Weiler

Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Upper Grand DSB express frustration at the lack of consultation with the school board, as a party affected by the decision.

**Carried**

**12. Correspondence**

**12.1 Correspondence from Rainy River DSB regarding support for students with special needs**

RESOLUTION #24-163:

Moved by: Trustee Edwards

Seconded by: Trustee Whyte

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the correspondence.

**Carried**

Trustee Whyte requested that the correspondence be forwarded to SEAC to be addressed by the Committee as well.

**13. Information Items**

Trustee Edwards commented how wonderful it was to see so many students being involved on Empowerment Day. It was full of inspiring and engaging performances and was held at the Sleeman Center put on by Elora PS.

Trustee Mesenbrink advised that due to maintenance work being done at the Guelph Board Office boardroom, the June 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> board meetings have been moved to the Grant Evans Education Centre in Orangeville. He also mentioned that the May 28<sup>th</sup> board meeting will be replaced with the Finance and Facilities meeting.

**14. Adjournment**

RESOLUTION #24-164:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte

Seconded by: Trustee O'Hara-Stephenson

THAT the Upper Grand DSB adjourns at 8:15 p.m.

**Carried**

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