

Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Grant Evans Education Centre and Microsoft Teams

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

Absent: Robin Ross

Administration: Director of Education Sovran, Associate Director McDonald, Associate Director Giannopoulos, Chief Financial Officer Regier, 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

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Grand District School Board was held virtually and in person on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 40 Amelia Street, Orangeville, starting at 7:00 p.m.

1. Meeting Called to Order

Board Chair Mesenbrink presided and called the meeting to order.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Trustee Hanenberg 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

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

3. Approval of the Agenda

RESOLUTION #24-171:

Moved by: Trustee O'Hara-Stephenson

Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the agenda of June 11, 2024 meeting as printed.

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 Board Meeting Held May 14, 2024

RESOLUTION #24-172:

Moved by: Trustee Topping

Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the minutes of the May 14, 2024 meeting of the board.

Carried

6. Student and Staff Recognition

Director of Education Sovran provided stories and good news that took place across Upper Grand community.

The board has run another successful Mental Health and Education Week campaign as well as celebrating the 20th anniversary of Special Olympics Track and Field. Over the past six weeks, two Upper Grand educators have won prestigious awards that have supported learning across the Upper Grand. SHSM students have immersed themselves with Canadian Artistry museums as well as collaborated with other local organizations to make social impact. Several Upper Grand students have also set records in music competitions, made incredible breakthroughs in science, have hosted live paint shows, and so much more.

Upper Grand Black Student Conference returns to University of Guelph

Students from Black Chapter groups across the Upper Grand gathered at the University of Guelph recently for their annual conference themed "Enough Misconceptions: Allow us to Reintroduce Ourselves". Over 160 attendees from Upper Grand DSB secondary schools participated in a variety of workshops. The conference aims to promote community and pride among Black-identified students by highlighting Black experiences and empowering student voices.

Upper Grand Educator wins Todd Pottle Award for Excellence in eLearning

Congratulations to Steve Wynen, a dedicated Upper Grand DSB educator in online education, for winning the esteemed Ontario eLearning Consortium 2024 Todd Pottle Award for Excellence. Mr. Wynen expressed his gratitude, highlighting the honour of being recognized for collaborative efforts to enhance eLearning across the province. With a journey that began in 2008, Mr. Wynen played pivotal roles including Upper Grand DSB's first eLearning contact, as well as the Chair of the OeLC. He has significantly advanced eLearning initiatives right across the province, especially during the pandemic. His work will continue to ensure that students have flexible and enriching online education options, highlighting the benefits of Upper Grand's collaborative work across the province.

Guelph CVI Student Wins Big at Canada Wide Science Fair

Congratulations to Grade 11 student from Guelph CVI Roocha S. for winning multiple awards at the 2024 Canada Wide Science Fair for her research on plant growth and development. Roocha received the Senior Gold Medal Challenge Award for Best in Division for Agriculture and the prestigious Youth Can Innovate Award for her project GreenArmour, which demonstrates that sea buckthorn berry extract aids plant growth and resilience. Her pioneering research started in October 2023 and concluded in March 2024 and involved extensive experimentation and was the first to document these effects on plants. Roocha's success has fueled her dedication to science, continuing a track record of excellence in science fairs since seventh grade.

Upper Grand Schools Celebrate Unity and Pride at 3rd Annual Pride Picnic

Five schools from the Upper Grand kicked off Pride celebrations with the third annual Pride Picnic at Monora Park, hosted by Orangeville DSS. The event offered 2SLGBTQIA+ and allied students an opportunity to connect and celebrate through games, crafts, workshops, and lively open mic performances. Planned by the Orangeville DSS Gender and Sexuality Alliance, the picnic emphasized student leadership and empowerment.

7. **Delegation(s) -Nil**
8. **Response to Delegation(s)**
9. **Committee Reports**

9.1 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 June 11, 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 with regrets sent by Trustees Weiler and Ross. There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

RESOLUTION #24-173:

Moved by: Trustee Topping
Seconded by: Trustee O'Hara-Stephenson

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the business of the Committee of the Whole - Closed Session of June 11, 2024.

Carried

9.2 Standing Committee(s)

a) Governance Committee – May 28, 2024

The Governance Committee held a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 6:00pm. Chair Weiler presided the meeting. There were no conflicts of interest declared, and no items on the agenda to discuss.

RESOLUTION #24-174:

Moved by: Trustee Edwards
Seconded by: Trustee Topping

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the Governance Committee report of May 28, 2024.

Carried

b) Finance and Facilities Committee – May 28, 2024

The Finance and Facilities Committee held a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2024. Chair Edwards presided the meeting and there were no conflicts of interest declared. Discussion took place regarding the 2024/2025 Budget including the new structure for Ministry Funding, Draft Projections for 2024/2025 Core Education Funding and key next steps. The 2024/2025 Draft Budget will be presented at the June 18th Finance and Facilities Committee for recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

RESOLUTION #24-175:

Moved by: Trustee O’Hara-Stephenson

Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the Finance and Facilities Committee report of May 28, 2024.

Carried

9.3 External Appointment**a) Ontario Public School Boards’ Association (OPSBA) – June 2024**

Trustee MacNeil presented the OPSBA report. The OPSBA AGM is occurring on July 4th as part of the Canadian School Boards’ Association Congress and National Gathering on Indigenous Education. The Regional Elections will be held on July 5th. Trustee MacNeil shared several matters that will be voted on at the upcoming AGM Meeting and as the Board’s voting delegate, asked that any direction from the Board, along with any questions or comments be forwarded to her. After receiving any trustee feedback, a more formal OPSBA report will be presented at the June 25th board meeting.

RESOLUTION #24-176:

Moved by: Trustee Topping

Seconded by: Trustee Weiler

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the OPSBA Report of June 11, 2024.

Carried

9.4 Student Trustees and Student Senate Report – May 2024

Student Trustees Brooke Hartley and Paige Knight presented the Student Trustees and Student Senate Report. The following highlights were shared from the May Student Senate Meeting. Discussion took place regarding Upper Grand's Vision 2026, and a memorandum issued by the Ministry of Education which outlined regulatory and policy reforms in alignment with the Better School and Student Outcomes Act. A Math and Literacy update was presented, as well as a Student Input on Attendance presentation where discussion took place regarding why students might miss school. Other discussions took place regarding the PPM 128 (Provincial Code of Conduct) Announcement, a Mental Health Moment, Policy reviews and changes, and Student Senate Feedback. Lastly, a tour of the Orangeville Innovation Lab was shared with the trustees.

RESOLUTION #24-177:

Moved by: Trustee O'Hara-Stephenson

Seconded by: Trustee Topping

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the Student Trustees and Student Senate report of June 11, 2024.

Carried

10. Report from Chair

On May 15th, Chair Mesenbrink joined Trustees, Director Sovran, parents and Upper Grand staff to cheer on over 800 student athletes and their peer coaches from over 60 schools in the Upper Grand and Wellington Catholic DSB's at the 2024 Special Olympics Track and Field Day for the County of Wellington.

Chair Mesenbrink and Trustee O'Hara-Stephenson attending the citizen ceremony on May 28th at Orangeville DSS. This was an opportunity for 200 Grade 10 students to participate in a citizenship ceremony, where approximately 20 people including a few of our own Upper Grand DSB students became Canadian citizens.

Chair Mesenbrink joined Trustee McNeil at John F. Ross CVI where several classes had invited Guelph member of Provincial Parliament Mike Schreiner to talk about several issues related to the environment and development. Chair Mesenbrink noted he has and continues to have conversations with elected representatives at other levels of government, including community municipal leaders.

On June 3rd, Chair Mesenbrink joined Director Sovran for a presentation and raising of

the Pride flag at John F Ross CVI. He mentioned the student voices he heard describing how important it is to feel welcome and accepted as they are, were very articulate and powerful.

June is National Indigenous History Month and Chair Mesenbrink noted he has taken it upon himself to learn something new about indigenous history. Last week many trustees participated in school events. There will be many school celebrations and events in last few weeks of the school year, and when possible, he expressed to his trustee colleagues to continue to enjoy and celebrate with their school communities.

Last week there was a cabinet shuffle, and the new Minister of Education is Todd Smith, a member of Provincial Parliament for the Bay of Quinte. Chair Mesenbrink shared a letter of congratulations was sent to the Minister with an open invitation to visit Upper Grand DSB.

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.

11. Report from Director

Director of Education Sovran noted he will bring his reflections on the 2023-24 school year to the June 25th board meeting.

12. Other Business

13. Correspondence

13.1 Correspondence from Rainy River District School Board regarding feedback on Bill 185

13.2 Correspondence from Ottawa-Carleton District School Board regarding Support of Distribution of Products to Support Menstrual Equity Program

RESOLUTION #24-178:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil

Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the correspondence.

Carried

Trustee MacNeil placed the following motion regarding the Ottawa Carleton correspondence. She requested that a letter be sent to support fellow school boards in the pursuit of equity and fundamental human rights for all.

RESOLUTION #24-179:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil
Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the Upper Grand DSB directs the Chair to write a letter to the Minister of Education in support of the Ottawa Carleton District School board's request regarding distribution and funding of menstrual products.

Carried

14. Information Items - Nil

15. Adjournment

RESOLUTION #24-180:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil
Seconded by: Trustee O'Hara-Stephenson

THAT the Upper Grand DSB adjourns at 7:37 p.m.

Carried

This document is available in alternative formats upon request.