

Upper Grand District School Board
Board Meeting, Tuesday, November 24, 2105
Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Grand District School Board was held on Tuesday, November 24, 2015 in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 7:30 p.m. All Trustees were present with the exception of Trustee Lustgarten Evoy. Student Trustees Challinor and Johnson were in attendance.

Opening Prayer - Busuttil

Trustee Busuttil presented an inspirational reading by Lama Govinda.

Condolences

Trustee Bailey, Chair, reported that condolences were sent on behalf of the Board to the following: Ruth Anne Chishom-Davin, teacher at Wellington Heights SS on the loss of her mother; Scot Bishop, Principal at Centennial C.V.I. on the loss of his father; Jenny Waterston, former Chair and Trustee of the Upper Grand DSB and Wellington County, on the loss of her daughter; Hillary Stortz, temporary EA at Maryborough PS on the loss of her mother.

Good News

Dr. Rogers highlighted the Good News as follows:

Co-op Students

Our military co-op students were given a test on content that was a bit beyond the course work and the top scorers participated at the November 11th Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Woodlawn Cemetery. Top scorers (were two young ladies) - one was from Centre Wellington DHS and one from Our Lady of Lourdes. They were given the honour of firing the gun! The other top scorer was a young man also from Centre Wellington DHS who was given the honour of raising the flag.

Upper Grand Science Teachers

On November 13th, James Ball, a physics teacher won the Irwin Talesnick Award for Excellence in Teaching of Science, provided by the Science Teachers' Association of Ontario (STAO). Among the many requirements of the recipient of the STAO award are unique and extraordinary accomplishments in teaching science to students in the province. Students have described James' lessons as "fuelled by passion and creativity". According to his students, James can take complex subjects and effectively teach them in a unique way, making sure each student understands. According to James, receiving the award is a special honour because Talesnick was his professor at

teacher's college. In addition to being extremely proud of James and his accomplishments, we were also very proud to be the only Board that has three staff members as part of the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics. Glen Wagner (Centre Wellington DHS) and Ashley Kozak (Princess Margaret PS) are currently on secondment to the Perimeter Institute and James is the Out Reach Coordinator. Congratulations to all three!

Wellington Heights DHS

Wellington Heights DHS raised an amazing \$30,000.00 during the Relay for Life event.

Confirmation of the Agenda

Trustee Cooper moved, seconded by Trustee Fairbairn, that the agenda be confirmed as printed.

The motion carried.

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting Held October 27, 2015

Trustee White moved, seconded by Trustee Topping, that the minutes of the meeting held October 27, 2015.

The motion carried.

Motion to Rise and Sit in Committee of the Whole

Trustee Schieck moved, seconded by Trustee Cooper, that the Board rise and sit in Committee of the Whole with the Chairperson presiding.

The motion carried.

Program Committee

Trustee Moziar moved that the minutes of the Program Committee held November 3, 2015 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Moziar moved that:

1. The verbal report from student Trustees be received.

2. The verbal report on the Best Practices to Meet the Needs of English Language Learners be received.
3. The verbal update on the International Students Program be received.

The motion carried.

Business Operations Committee

Trustee Cooper moved that the minutes of the Business Operations Committee held November 10, 2015 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Cooper moved that:

1. The report "Resignations and Retirements" dated November 10, 2015 be received, with special thanks for the many years of service.
2. The verbal report on Health and Safety be received, with thanks.
3. The report entitled "Renewal Projects (2015-2016) CP:15-05 dated November 10, 2015 be received.

The motion carried.

Special Education Advisory Committee

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee held November 11, 2015 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Resignations and Retirements

Director of Education Rogers presented the Resignations and Retirements report dated November 24, 2015.

Trustee Schieck moved that the report Resignations and Retirements, Appendix A and Appendix B dated November 24, 2015 be received, with thanks for the many years of service.

The motion carried.

2014 2015 Audited Financial Statements

Superintendent Wright, together with Tom Mennill from KPMG, presented the 2014-2015 Audited Financial Statements for the Board's consideration and for approval. Ms.

Wright advised that the Financial Statements needed to be approved by the Ministry of Education by December 4, 2015. Together, Ms. Wright and Mr. Mennill provided an overview of the reports and highlighted certain details. Mr. Mennill noted that he was happy to report KPMG did not identify any adjustments in the course of the audit, also did not identify any deficient control, and it was a clean report. He advised that, after to approval of the Board, he will provide a signed letter of representation, and issue a report noting that the statements were approved. Mr. Mennill expressed his appreciation for the assistance he and his staff received from the finance department. Superintendent Wright proceeded to present the financial statement trust funds which are used for paying scholarships. Trustees expressed thanks for the report to both KPMG as well as to staff. Questions of clarification were answered.

Trustee Fairbairn moved that:

1. The Report 2014 2015 Audited Financial Statements dated November 24, 2015, be received.
2. The Audit Findings Report to the Board, as prepared by KPMG, for the year ended August 31, 2015, be received.
3. The 2014 2015 Audited Financial Statements for the Upper rand District School Board and the 2014 2015 Audited Financial Statements of the Upper Grand District School Board Trust Funds be approved.

The motion carried.

Inclement Weather and School Closure Administrative Procedure

Trustee Fairbairn moved that:

The following motion be deferred to the November Board meeting and that the Policy Management Committee examine the Region of Waterloo's frigid temperatures policy and consider adapting it to meet the needs of the Upper Grand DSB and take into consideration the variations in weather conditions throughout the geographic regions of the Upper Grand DSB.

The motion was defeated.

Trustees White and MacNeil presented the report Inclement Weather and School Closure Administrative Procedure, and explained the intent of each recommendation contained in the report. They noted that communication to the community is paramount.

Trustee Busuttil moved that the report entitled Inclement Weather and School Closure Administrative Procedure dated November 18, 2015 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Busuttil moved that:

1. That the Inclement Weather and School Closure Administrative Procedure be amended as follows:
 - *“This is a joint procedure of the Upper Grand and Wellington Catholic District School Boards and is based on Environment Canada’s wind chill index. The two Directors of Education make a joint decision on school closures with both Board Chairs.*
 - *At the discretion of the Director, schools may be closed when the Environment Canada Wind Chill index is forecast to be –35C at 7am (similar to the previous standard of 2000 watts/m2 approved in 1999.)*
 - *This is not based on equivalent temperature (ambient air temperature).*
 - *Schools and media outlets will be notified.”*
3. That a plain language Bus Cancellation and School Closures document be created and be made available on the UGDSB and all school websites and also distributed through all normal information channels (ie. Twitter, school councils, hard copies to parents as necessary, etc.)
4. That schools communicate to their families that extreme cold temperatures present a higher risk of frostbite within minutes of skin being exposed and that families should ensure their children are properly dressed for extreme cold weather.
5. That the UGDSB inform schools and parents that: municipal crossing guards may not be providing service as a result of the extreme cold temperatures.

The motion carried.

Trustee Busuttil moved that each school provide Municipal crossing guard information for instances of inclement weather and school closure so that parents are able to make informed student safety decisions.

The motion carried.

Trustee Schieck moved that consideration be given to reflect local needs and the particular circumstances of the school/site.

The motion carried.

Trustee MacNeil moved that Trustees delegate authority to the Director of Education to close schools as necessary.

The motion was defeated.

Trustee Fairbairn expressed thanks to Trustees MacNeil and White and anyone else involved in this project and for the development of the report which is something that needed to be dealt with.

Board Correspondence

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the Board Correspondence dated November 24, 2015 be received.

The motion carried.

Trustee Questions and Reports

Trustee Schieck raised a question about funding for child care spaces in Shelburne and Palmerston. Director Rogers and Superintendent Benallick provided clarification of the funding particulars.

The motion carried.

Dates of Future Meetings

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the November 24, 2015 schedule for Board and Standing Committee Meetings be approved as follows:

Final/Inaugural Board Meeting	December 1, 2015
Business Operations	December 8, 2015
Board Meeting	December 15, 2015

The motion carried.

Director Rogers added the following to the Dates of Future Meetings:

Thursday, December 10, 2015, Environmental Education Committee meeting, Board Room at 4:00 p.m.

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the Dates of Future Meetings dated November 24, 2015 be received, with the above noted additions.

The motion carried.

In Camera Session

As directed at the Committee of the Whole meeting earlier in the evening, the In Camera session was resumed at approximately 7:23 p.m. in order to complete the confidential items on the agenda.

Trustee Moziar moved that this committee move In Camera to complete the remainder of the In Camera agenda.

The motion carried.

Public Session Resumed

The public session resumed at 9:20 p.m. to complete the public portion of the agenda.

Ratification of Business Transacted by the Committee of the Whole In Camera

Trustee Schieck moved, seconded by Trustee Cooper, that the business transacted by the Committee of the Whole In Camera be now ratified by the Board.

The motion carried.

Motion to Rise and Report to the Board

Trustee Bailey moved that the Committee of the Whole rise and report to the Board.

The motion carried.

Adjournment

Trustee Moziar moved, seconded by Trustee White that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 9:55 p.m.

The motion carried.