

Upper Grand District School Board
Special Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 4, 2020
Minutes

The Special Board meeting of the Upper Grand District School Board was held virtually on Tuesday, August 4, 2020, at 5:48 p.m. All Trustees were present. Student Trustee Kimberly Tran was also in attendance. Additionally, Nancy Culham (Manager of Health and Safety), Jennifer Rose (Executive Office of HR) and John Veit (Manager of Plant Operations) were in attendance.

Trustee MacNeil reminded everyone of the protocol for virtual meetings and that the meeting was being recorded.

Traditional Greeting – Trustee Campbell

Opening Prayer – Trustee Ross

Trustee Ross shared a quote by Peter Hilton on adaptability to change. She noted she believes that everyone at Upper Grand is working very hard to continuously adapt to all the changes and that we should be modelling successful education to anyone who is watching.

Confirmation of the Agenda

Trustee Ross moved, seconded by Trustee Topping, 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 Special Board Meeting Held July 14, 2020

Trustee Foley moved, seconded by Trustee Topping, that the minutes of the Special Board meeting held July 14, 2020 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Motion to Rise and Sit in Committee of the Whole

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved, seconded by Trustee Edwards, that the Board rise and sit in Committee of the Whole with the Chairperson presiding.

The motion carried.

Fall 2020-2021 Reopening Plans

Prior to getting started with the presentation, Trustee MacNeil made a note to clarify for the public that 'board' with a small 'b' refers to our staff, and 'Board' with a big 'B' refers to Trustees; therefore, the word board used throughout the report refers to our staff. She also asked that everyone hold their questions until the end.

An introduction to the plan was provided by Dr. Rogers outlining the direction that the board has received from the Ministry of Education regarding the development of plans for three possible scenarios.

The plan was then presented by Superintendents Slater, Zen, Lindsay, and Regier. They presented each section and explained the details to the trustees. At the end of the presentation, the superintendents answered questions from the trustees.

Trustee Busuttil expressed thanks to the staff for their non-stop work on the plan. She asked questions about the approval process. Dr. Rogers replied that approval lies with the Ministry of Education and Public Health. Trustee Busuttil asked additional questions related to public health which were responded to by Superintendent Slater. Trustee Busuttil asked about flexibility at the school level with respect to the plan in response to local and unique circumstances. Dr. Rogers replied that this would be taken into account in planning for each school. Trustee Busuttil asked questions about cohorts and switching between models. Superintendents Slater and Zen responded. Trustee Busuttil asked about specialized programs. Superintendent Zen responded that work is being done to preserve the programs as best we can. Trustee Busuttil asked about screening of students. Superintendent Slater replied that screening will be done at home by parents and monitoring of symptoms will be done by schools. Trustee Busuttil asked about an operational plan being presented to trustees. Superintendent Zen responded that this will come after the "bigger picture" items are worked out.

Trustee Evoy thanked the staff for the outstanding work they have done. She asked about tightening up of the language in the Ministry documents. Dr. Rogers replied that they are expecting a Policy Program Memorandum from the Ministry that would clarify this. Trustee Evoy asked if the day would be shortened at all. Superintendent Slater replied that the board has clear direction from the Ministry not to shorten the day. Trustee Evoy asked about hand sanitizer which was responded to by Nancy Culham, Manager of Health and Safety. Trustee Evoy asked if anyone would supervise physical distancing at the bus stops. Superintendent Regier replied that there will be encouragement from the board but we can't "police" the bus stop. Trustee Evoy asked about process if we have to close. Superintendent Slater replied that we would follow the direction of Public Health. All UGDSB methods of communication would be used. Trustee Evoy asked about communication with the unions up to now. Jennifer Rose, Executive Officer of Human Resources, responded that there have been ongoing meetings with all of our unions and these will continue.

Trustee Ross asked about busing. Superintendent Regier replied that buses will be loaded as per normal capacity as directed by the Ministry. Trustee Ross asked about personal belongings. Superintendent Slater clarified that students will keep their belongings with them. Trustee Ross asked if students will be sent home if they keep taking off their mask. Superintendent Slater said no, the school would work to help the student understand why it is important.

Trustee Edwards commented that she is glad staff are being encouraged to take advantage of outdoor space. Trustee Edwards asked if there is an outbreak at a school, would the whole board change model? Superintendent Slater answered that we will follow the direction of Public Health.

Trustee Campbell thanked the staff for taking an overwhelming issue and making it manageable. Trustee Campbell asked about lunch supervision. Superintendent Slater replied that schools will do what works best for them. Trustee Campbell asked about hand sanitizer. Nancy Culham responded that sanitizer will be employed where handwashing is not available (e.g. Portables). Ms. Culham also noted the current shortage of hand sanitizer that is safe for students and therefore, sanitizer will be used where it is needed most. Trustee Campbell asked about sharing buses with other boards. Superintendent Regier replied that, as happens usually, some routes may be shared by schools from different boards. Trustee Campbell asked about contract caretaking. John Veit, Manager of Plant Operations responded that contact tracing will be required for contractors who work in more than one location. Trustee Campbell asked about switching between models. Superintendents Slater and Zen explained that there will be re-entry points throughout the year. We will need to monitor numbers to minimize reorganizing of classes and to respect class caps.

Trustee Foley asked about busing, physical distancing, and students who refuse to wear a mask. Superintendent Regier replied that a student wouldn't initially be refused entry to the bus and that the school would work to help the student to understand the importance. Trustee Foley asked about technology and ways to assist families with covering the cost of Internet. Superintendent McDonald replied that the board has options in place and families will be made aware of this, just like in the spring.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the report entitled, Upper Grand District School Board Elementary and Secondary Draft Reopening Plans, dated August 4, 2020, be received.

The motion carried.

Board Correspondence

Trustee Foley moved that the Board Correspondence dated August 4, 2020, be received.

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.

Ratification of Business

Trustee Bedi moved, seconded by Trustee Campbell that the business transacted by the Committee of the Whole be now ratified by the Board.

The motion carried.

Adjournment

Trustee Topping moved, seconded by Trustee Busutil that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 7:29 p.m.

The motion carried.

This document is available in alternative formats upon request.