

Upper Grand District School Board

Special Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 18, 2020

Minutes

The Special Board meeting of the Upper Grand District School Board was held virtually on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, at 7:01 p.m. All Trustees were present. Trustee Student Trustee Kimberly Tran and Taran Fournier were also in attendance. The senior administration was present.

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

Traditional Greeting – Trustee Edwards

Opening Prayer – Trustee Campbell

Trustee Campbell shared the Desiderata poem by Max Ehrmann as she wanted to impart a calming and inspiring message.

Confirmation of the Agenda

Trustee Topping moved, seconded by Trustee Evoy, 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 August 4, 2020

Trustee Campbell moved, seconded by Trustee Foley, that the minutes of the Special Board meeting held August 4, 2020 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

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

Trustee Foley moved, seconded by Trustee Topping, 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 Sit in Committee of the Whole

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

The motion carried.

2020-2021 Budget Report

Trustee Busutil moved,

That

1. The Operating Budget for the period September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021 be approved in the amount of \$416,337,588 as provided for under Section 231 of the Education Act.
2. The proposed Capital Budget in the amount of \$49,126,629 be approved. This Capital Budget includes Debt Repayment, Amortization Expense, New Schools, School Renewal Projects, and School Condition Improvement.
3. The Board designate \$0 from Non-Classroom Operating Budget for the purpose of acquiring those school sites eligible to be funded through the Education Development Charges By-Law, as there are insufficient funds in Non-Classroom.
4. The Board approve the use of \$2,014,455 from Accumulated Surplus to balance the Operating Budget.

The motion carried.

2020 – 2021 Upper Grand DSB In Year Deficit Elimination Plan

Trustee Busutil moved,

That

1. The report entitled "2020 2021 Upper Grand DSB In Year Deficit Elimination Plan" dated August 18, 2020, be received.
2. The proposed In Year Deficit Elimination Plan listed in Table A of the report entitled "2020-2021 Upper Grand DSB In Year Deficit Elimination Plan" dated August 18, 2020, be approved.

The motion carried.

Return to School Update (Verbal Report)

Director Rogers announced that the board had been informed that the secondary quadmester model was compliant. She noted that in their August 13, 2020 announcement, the Ministry of Education, was allowing school boards to access their reserve funds in excess of previously allowed limits, to enhance physical distancing, reduce class sizes and enhance ventilation.

Superintendents of Education Gary Slater (for elementary) and Carlo Zen (for secondary) and John Veit, Manager of Plant Operations presented their updated plans. First staff provided details of the Ministry update and the Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) 164 – Requirements for Remote Learning. Raw August 14 pre-registration survey data that included a count requiring transportation was presented.

School updates provided details regarding remote school staffing, staggered entry and grade cohorts by date, class-size reduction strategies, elementary school greeters, secondary quadmester model combining in person and remote learning in the conventional model taking 2 courses for 10 weeks and the remote model learning model.

The Operations update addressed ventilation in schools and the approach ensuring preventative maintenance and filter changes are up to date, use of natural ventilation in classrooms with exterior wall windows, order of 300 stand-alone HEPA grade air filtration units that can be used in rooms such as interior windowless classrooms where opening windows is not an option along with other areas to improve air quality, and decreasing recirculated air.

Questions submitted in advance and during the meeting were answered by staff. Trustees expressed concern for the opening and return to school of students and staff. The main concerns were regarding screening by the parent and any reports, busing numbers and lack of hand sanitizer, timing of switching decisions for students, staff hires and staff assigned to more than one school and itinerant staff, lunch in elementary schools, technology, and the procedure to follow in the case of outbreak. Information was shared regarding the process of the Ministry evaluating whether a submitted plan is compliant and the surplus funds that UGDSB can submit a business case to use.

Trustee Topping presented four motions related to masks being mandatory for all students, including JK - 3. The second motion directed school staff to explore alternatives such as face shields for students unable to wear masks. Compliance for parents and younger students will focus on education in motion three. After discussion, the trustees brought forward in the fourth motion that there would be progressive disciplinary action for students not complying. Many trustees spoke of their support for this motion.

Trustee Topping moved,

That

1. The UGDSB require masks to be worn indoors for ALL students, staff and visitors allowing for appropriate medical exemptions.
2. School staff explore alternatives such as face shields for students unable to wear masks.
3. Staff approach compliance with parents and younger students in JK - 3 with a focus on education.
4. There be progressive discipline for students not complying.

The motion carried.

Trustee Edwards requested a motion to require all students on buses, including JK - 3 to wear a mask with the same conditions as in the motion placed by Trustee Topping requiring a mask indoors. A point of order by Trustee Busuttill was responded to, by Superintendent Regier, who indicated that he understood and would confirm, that JK - 3 students wearing masks on buses was not a Ministry requirement but was encouraged. With either understanding, a motion would explicitly address the request. No other discussion took place about the following motion.

Trustee Edwards moved,

That

1. The UGDSB require masks to be worn on buses for ALL students, staff and visitors allowing for appropriate medical exemptions.
2. School staff explore alternatives such as face shields for students unable to wear masks.
3. Staff approach compliance with parents and younger students in JK - 3 with a focus on education.
4. There be progressive discipline for students not complying.

The motion carried.

The trustees expressed their thanks for the hard work being done and the time spent to address questions from them, and, by extension, the community.

Dr. Rogers gave thanks for the questions and suggestions that were brought forward and indicated the board would keep learning, would keep improving and would spare no expense within the guidelines, to keep everyone as safe as is humanly possible. She

was grateful to the trustees, senior staff and the public. Chair MacNeil expressed appreciation for all that is being done.

Trustee Topping moved that the Return to School Update (Verbal Report) be received.

The motion carried.

Motion to Rise and Report to the Board

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

The motion carried.

Ratification of Business

Trustee Topping moved, seconded by Trustee Foley 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 Edwards that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 10:00 p.m.

The motion carried.

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