

Upper Grand District School Board
Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 1, 2020
Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Grand District School Board was held virtually on Tuesday, September 1, 2020. starting at 7:00 p.m. All Trustees were present. Student Trustees Taran Fournier and Kimberly Tan were also in attendance. Trustee MacNeil reminded everyone of the protocol for virtual meetings.

Traditional Greeting – Trustee Lustgarten Evoy

Opening Prayer/Reading – Trustee Bedi

Trustee Bedi read a poem by S.C. Lourie, entitled Butterflies and Pebbles with a message to appreciate and be aware of what really matters to you.

Condolences

Trustee MacNeil, Chair, reported that condolences were sent on behalf of the Board to the following: Barb Omland, Co-op Lead at College Heights SS, on the loss of her mother; Joanne Hunse, Teacher at École Arbour Vista PS, on the loss of her father-in-law; Amy Carter, Supervisor of Payroll in the Human Resources Department, on the loss of her father; and Mary Waldeck, Educational Assistant at Arbour Vista PS, on the loss of her mother.

Good News

Director of Education Rogers highlighted the Good News as follows:

The Ontario Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) Operations Maintenance Award

The Board's Manager of Plant Operations is the recipient of a very prestigious award. John Veit has been named the 2020 winner of the OASBO Wm Wales Award. This award was established in 1985 to recognize an outstanding contribution to the service of plant and facilities operations in the Province of Ontario by an individual who has demonstrated outstanding dedication to the Provincial school system. According to John's nominator, he has "acted as a liaison of the OASBO OMC Committee on various Ministry of Education working groups for the benefit of the Ontario education system". Currently, John is participating, on behalf of the OMC, on the Ministry's School Re-Opening Working Group ensuring that the particular challenges and issues related to facilities operations during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic are clearly understood and articulated to the Provincial government as they develop their plans and finalize their decisions on the path forward for the 2020-21 school year. Congratulations, John!

The 2020-2021 Equity Calendar

The 2020-2021 Equity Calendar is now available on the Board website. This calendar is a celebration of equity in our community. This year's equity and inclusion calendar includes brief explanations of some "dates of importance" - the explanations were created by Upper Grand students, and are located at the front of the calendar. This calendar will help all staff in all roles in their informed inclusive planning. The calendar is available on the Board website so that community members can access it and learn from this valuable resource. Thank you to all of those who were involved in creating this year's calendar and a special thanks to Superintendent Van Ooteghem's team for all the hard work they put into the calendar.

New Student Trustees

Trustee MacNeil welcomed the new Student Trustees; Taran Fournier from Erin DHS, as the rural representative, and Kimberly Tran from Guelph CVI as the urban representative.

Confirmation of the Agenda

Trustee Busuttill requested an amendment to add a new item # 13; update on the re-opening of schools. Trustee MacNeil noted a change to the dates of future meetings, and should read September, not October.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved, seconded by Trustee Foley, that the agenda be confirmed as amended.

The motion carried.

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting Held June 23, 2020, and the Special Board meeting held August 18, 2020.

Trustee Campbell moved, seconded by Trustee Topping, that:

1. The minutes of the meeting held June 23, 2020 and the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held immediately prior to the Board meeting, be approved as printed.

2. The minutes of the Special Board meeting held August 18, 2020, and the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held immediately prior to the Board meeting, be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

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

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

The motion carried.

Delegation - Debbie Montgomery, President, UNIFOR, Local 4268

Debbie Montgomery, President, UNIFOR, Local 4268 delegated the Board to raise concerns from school bus drivers, related to health and safety requirements due to COVID-19. Concerns included the logistics of bus sanitization and disinfection, how to keep social distancing of students on the bus, how to ensure students wear masks and use hand sanitizer, how to manage arranged seating on the bus, double routes and shared runs with other Boards or schools resulting in more exposure to the students, the acquisition of bus monitors to assist drivers, logistics of taking student attendance, safety of drivers and students, compensation to bus drivers for extra work requirements, availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) for drivers as well as for students who arrive without masks, and concerns about bus loads.

Response to Delegation and Questions of Clarification

Following the delegation, Trustees asked many questions of clarification, and expressed thanks for the delegation. It was noted that UNIFOR represented other boards not in this district and that the Transportation Consortium, not the Board, made decisions regarding transportation and busing.

Superintendent of Finance Regier, advised that, as part of his portfolio, he is the liaison person with the Transportation Consortium, a combination of 5 local school boards. He expressed thanks for the presentation and addressed some concerns raised with local context with the Transportation Consortium.

1. PPE: Drivers will be supplied with masks face shields and gloves.

2. The number of students who require transportation this year will likely be less due to remote learning and parents opting out of transportation. The numbers will be reviewed with the hope to provide balanced bus loads with the lowest number of riders possible.
3. The Ministry of Education recently announced that the government has provided enhanced funding to support cleaning, and a driver retention program.
4. The request to have paid school bus monitors is a difficult proposal due to the number of monitors required, considering there are 500 bus routes to deal with. Student Bus patrols may be considered as an option, and can be explored further.
5. The Upper Grand DSB passed a motion that will require **all** students to wear masks, and is consistent with all 5 Boards in the consortium for students on buses. (There are some exceptions for children 5 and under).

Mr. Regier noted that the concerns raised this evening will be shared with the transportation consortium.

Special Education Advisory Committee

Trustee Edwards moved that the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee held August 5, 2020 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Outbreak Management Protocol - Dr. Tenenbaum, Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health

Dr. Tenenbaum advised that he had been working with school boards for a number of months in an effort to keep students and staff safe. He noted that the Provincial government released two documents: Guidance for Schools Outbreak Management, and Operations Guidance, COVID-19 Management in Schools. Local resources from Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) included School Protocol for Students/Staff With COVID-19, and When Student/Staff Test Positive. In a school setting, the WDGPH will do case investigations and determine where the case got exposed (acquisition assessment) and where the case exposed others (contact assessment).

Management of a Case in a School

WDGPH will notify the school and collect information related to the case. Information needed may include: attendance records, class/cohort lists, seating charts, before and/or after school child care lists, transportation lists and seating charts, updated contact information for students and/or staff, and special assignments/programs/activities such as special education, and records of essential visitors. Schools are asked to keep all such records for a period of at least 30 days. WDGPH will conduct a risk assessment and provide recommendations to the school. Key measures would include: dismissing high risk contact so that they can self-isolate at home which may include members of the cases' cohort and additional persons outside the cohort, recommend that high risk contacts get tested, monitor closely for other symptomatic persons in the school, and that WDGPH is responsible for following up with contacts.

Management of an Outbreak

The definition of an outbreak is at least 2 confirmed cases where at least one case could have reasonably acquired the infection in the school, including transportation and before/after school care. The outbreak is over when there are over 14 days with no evidence of ongoing transmission that could reasonably be related to the school. Management of outbreak in school measures may include, signage, outside agencies, essential visitors only, and minimize movement of staff between cohorts. The outbreak does not necessarily need to be over to re-open the school. WDGPH will provide appropriate guidance. Outbreak measures will be scaled up and down based on risk. The outbreak management was founded on strong partnerships between school, board, and WDGPH. He noted that what we are doing is critical to be preventative to reduce as much risk as possible. A question and answer period followed.

1. Are students to wear masks for recess?

Students should take off their masks when outside, however they can be kept on for less risk of transmission.

2. If students wear masks outside, where do they leave them and take them off?

Masks should be placed in a closed paper or zip lock bag and kept in a pocket. They should not be placed in a pocket without a bag, as the mask is not protected from other exposures.

3. Do they need a new bag each time they remove their mask?

The cloth masks should be cleaned regularly with soap and hot water, and the bag should be changed when the mask is changed.

4. Lunch time, while eating at a desk and maintaining social distancing, is it reasonable to take off the mask?

Absolutely. However, once they are finished eating the mask must be worn again. It is recommended that children under the age of 5 wear masks when they can. It is important to know how to take masks on and off, by pinching the middle. Studies on benefits of children wearing masks all day, know that masks are effective. The more they are worn, the higher the intervention.

5. When will mask-wearing mandate be lifted?

It is a strong recommendation from WDGPH to develop policies for everyone to wear masks.

6. Will children with seasonal allergies be sent home?

No. The teacher and/or principal should be informed of any allergies, and that they respond to allergy medications. If there are new or unexplained or worsening symptoms, they should be investigated further.

7. If a student or teacher shows symptoms, will the whole class be in quarantine?

No. The confirmed case would be sent home.

8. When can a student or teacher return to school after experiencing COVID-19 symptoms?

They would need to follow up with public health, and return either 14 days after onset or 14 days after they were tested. If they have tested negative, they should stay home for a period of 24 hours after symptoms started.

9. What is considered high risk?

High risk is measured by the type of exposure. If someone is in close proximity to an infected person by adjacent desks or in shared space, it would be considered a high risk. If someone passes an infected person in the hallway, it would not be considered high risk.

10. How does WDGPH determine when a school must be closed?

Every outbreak is individually assessed.

11. What can be done for families where English is not their first language where the first level of screening can be difficult, as it may not be in plain language?

WDGPH has taken the Provincial documents and made them as accessible and easy to understand as possible.

12. What is the recommended distance for social distancing, 1 meter or 2 meters?

The best practice is to maintain a distance of 2 meters, if possible. However, it was noted that it is not always possible, and would be best to strive for 2 meters.

13. Is it beneficial to download the COVID-19 App on cell phones?

Yes. This App provides data for contact tracing in the event of a positive test and to determine the contact trail.

14. What is the data on asymptomatic children under 7 years old?

It is likely that young children, more than adults could be asymptomatic.

15. How do we protect children on school buses?

Students need to wear masks, the windows should be open on the buses as long as possible, siblings should be seated together, and that the seat behind the driver remain empty.

16. Are there standards for re-usable masks?

Yes. They should be made with 2 layers, cover the nose, mouth and chin, and create a seal with the appropriate fit and fabric. Hand hygiene must be done before and after putting on masks. If cloth masks get visibly soiled, wet, or moist, they should be changed as it makes breathing difficult with a soiled mask.

Trustee MacNeil, expressed thanks to Dr. Tenenbaum, Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health for his presentation and for his time taken to answer so many questions.

Trustee Topping moved that the outbreak management protocol verbal report presented by Dr. Tenenbaum be received.

The motion carried.

Update on Re-Opening of Schools

Director of Education Rogers, thanked Trustees, parents, and students for their patience during these difficult times. Over the past few months, there has been a lot of information and direction, which resulted in changes and updates to handbooks and processes. It was suggested that parents visit the Board's website for updates. Following the Special Board meeting on August 18, the Board extended the date for parents to decide if their child will attend school in person or register for remote learning. Should parents of elementary students decide to change from remote to in-class or vice versa, this may happen after the fall progress report, which would likely be in mid-November. Secondary students programming is quadmester, a 4-semester system. The opportunity for a change for secondary students would be after the end of the first quad (semester), on or about the 10th or 11th of November. There will be a need to reorganize classrooms and schools in November and possibly in February to address all changes requested.

Elementary and Secondary children in self-contained special education classes, will return to school on September 8 and 9 and will attend full days every day. In elementary schools, self-contained learning disability and mild intellect and disability classes, will continue to receive specialized programming in classrooms, and no more than 50 direct or indirect contacts will be maintained. Superintendents Slater, Zen, and Regier provided updates on elementary, secondary and transportation, back to school safety plans. These plans included signage, self-assessment, floor markings, hand sanitation and wipes, recess and lunch protocols, physical distancing, masks, public health nurses assigned to groups of schools, staggered entry, staggered recess and lunch times, staffing, class sizes, and closure of common spaces and cafeterias. For transportation, plans included assigned seating on buses, drivers will have extra masks for students without masks, non-compliance from students will be reported to administration, restricted availability of number of drivers and number of buses, additional runs planned, elimination of student transfers where possible, and, where possible, balanced rider loads. It was suggested that parents visit individual school websites for specific school plans and information. Director of Education Rogers advised that there were no job losses this year, and that the Board was hiring more teachers to address health and safety requirements by lowering class sizes. Trustees expressed thanks for all the work done over the past few months for plans put in place for a safe return to school.

Trustee Busuttil moved that:

1. The verbal staff report be received with sincere thanks for all the work done in preparation of a safe return to school, and for the update to the Board.

The motion carried.

2. A reopening of schools' update be added to each Board agenda going forward until the Board deems it is no longer required.

The motion carried.

2019/2020 Renewal Projects Update

Operations Officer Scinocca expressed thanks to the members of Operations Team who stepped up to get things done over the past few months. He explained the impact that COVID-19 had with respect to disruption of construction, supply chain issues, scheduling uncertainty, cancelled work, and contractors' inability to commit. On the positive side, it was beneficial to work while students were not in the schools. Additional funding was received from the Ministry of Education for some projects, including ventilation. Projects done this year included general renovations, mechanical and electrical, asphalt paving, roofing replacements and repairs, energy projects, learning commons upgrade, and ventilation system improvements. Trustees asked questions of clarification and expressed thanks for all the work done in the schools.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the verbal 2019/2020 Renewal Projects Update be received.

The motion carried.

Staff Retirements and Resignations

Executive Officer of Human Resources Rose presented the Staff Retirements and Resignations report dated September 1, 2020.

Trustee Busuttil moved that the Staff Retirements and Resignations report Appendix A and Appendix B dated September 1, 2020 be received.

The motion carried.

Police Presence in Schools Task Force Review Membership Report

In May 2020, Trustees and Board staff received many questions from community leaders and individuals across the Board about the role of policing in the Upper Grand DSB. Specific concerns about High School Resource Officers in secondary schools were expressed. Some members of the public indicated police in elementary

schools were not needed. The Board of Trustees directed that a Police Presence in Schools Task Force Review be formed to respond to these inquiries. On June 1st, 2020, the Board issued the following statement: “As an educational community we have a responsibility to identify and describe racism and oppression and then work to dismantle it. The Upper Grand DSB is committed to disrupting systemic racism and oppression in all of its forms. We will implement ongoing mandatory anti-racism and anti-oppression training for all staff, review our protocols and policies, including our hiring practices, and be fully transparent and accountable to all Upper Grand students, staff, families, and stakeholders in an ongoing manner. Superintendent of Education Van Ooteghem reported that, in June 2020, Trustees directed staff to establish a Police Presence in Schools Task Force Review. The Task Force was to: develop a Terms of Reference which includes membership from the community, and make every effort to ensure that the Board's geographical diversity was equitably represented when selecting members. Superintendent Van Ooteghem presented the Terms of Reference created by the Police Presence in Schools Task Force Review, and presented Trustees with the names, affiliation and geographic location of the community representatives chosen for the Police Presence in Schools Task Force Review.

Membership will include the following:

Staff Representation

Name	Affiliation	Geographic Area
Mike Foley	Trustee	Guelph
Robin Ross	Trustee	North Wellington
Taran Fournier	Student Trustee	Erin
Carla Anderson	Black Canadian, parent, Principal	Guelph
Geer Harvey	Black Canadian, school social worker, parent	Shelburne
Marva Wisdom	Black Canadian Consultant	
Cheryl Van Ooteghem	Superintendent of Education Equity and Inclusion Portfolio	Upper Grand DSB

Community Representation

Name	Affiliation	Geographic Area
Joy Sammy	Indo Caribbean - Canadian (White Settler) mix Board Member of the Guelph Black Heritage Society	Guelph
Iman Aziz	Third Year University of Guelph Student Muslim POC - Youth	Guelph
Mackenzie Main	Grade 12 Graduate 2019—2020, First Nations	Guelph

Monica Peirson	Homelessness, Addictions Correctional Services Employment Counselling Mental Health and Education	Guelph
Susan Buchanan Elder	Métis Nation & First Nation	Mother Earth
Melissa Williamson	Parent	Orangeville
Nkese Charles	Black Canadian, Educator	Shelburne

Trustees raised questions regarding police representation on the task force review, posting of the minutes of the task force review meetings, qualifications of members, and the mandate of the committee.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that:

1. The Terms of Reference established by the Police Presence in Schools Task Force Review dated July 2020 be received.
2. The names of the Community Representatives chosen for the Police Presence in School Task Force Review dated August 2020 be received.

The motion carried.

Elementary and Secondary Principal and Vice-Principal Transfers and Appointments

Director of Education Rogers advised that, at the In Camera session earlier this evening, the following Principal/Vice-Principal transfers and appointments were received.

Elementary Principal Transfer

Name	From	To
Mike Anderson	Principal, Brant Ave	Principal, Remote School

Elementary Principal Appointment

Name	From	To
Gerard Walker	Vice-Principal, Westwood	Principal, Brant Ave

Elementary Vice-Principal Transfers

Name	From	To
Alan Gouk	Vice-Principal, Taylor Evans	Vice-Principal, Remote School
Hayley Holm	Vice-Principal, Orangeville DSS	Vice-Principal, Taylor Evans

Elementary Vice-Principal Appointments

Name	From	To
Rylan Pranger	Program – Curriculum Leader	Temporary Vice-Principal, Westwood
Jen Apgar	Program – EITC Tech Coach	Temporary Vice-Principal, Elementary Remote School

Secondary Principal Appointment

Name	From	To
Steve Wynen	Vice-Principal, Orangeville DSS	Acting Principal, Secondary Remote School

Secondary Vice-Principal Transfers

Name	From	To
Janine Grin	Vice-Principal, Centre Wellington DHS	Vice-Principal, Orangeville DSS
Lynne Vink	Vice-Principal, Erin DHS	Vice-Principal, Centre Wellington DHS
April King	Vice-Principal, Norwell DSS	Vice-Principal, Erin DHS

Secondary Vice-Principal Appointments

Name	From	To
Jane Godbold	Teacher, Centre Dufferin DHS	Temporary Vice-Principal, Orangeville DSS
Adam Martin	Teacher, Norwell DSS	Temporary Vice-Principal, Norwell DSS
Amie Willoughby	Teacher, GCVI	Vice-Principal, GCVI
Melissa McDowall	Program - Student Success Lead	Temporary Vice-Principal, Secondary Remote School

Board Correspondence

Trustee Busuttil moved that:

1. The Board Correspondence dated September 1, 2020, be received.
2. The Board renew the OPSBA membership for 2020-2021 in the amount of \$80,284.24.

The motion carried.

Trustee Questions and Reports

Trustees raised questions regarding class sizes for remote learning, enrolment numbers, update on number of international students, and COVID-19 related restrictions for international students.

Trustee Foley raised a question regarding the sharing of buses with other school boards through the consortium, and was concerned about the safety of students. Superintendent Regier advised that all Boards in the consortium passed similar motions regarding students wearing masks.

Trustee Foley moved that the Board hire trained bus monitors to ride all school buses to ensure that students use hand sanitizer and wear masks.

Trustee Bailey placed the following friendly amendment to Trustee Foley's motion.

Trustee Bailey moved that, by the 20th of September, 2020, staff prepare a report for the Board on supporting student COVID-19 safety behaviours on buses.

The motion was lost.

A debate followed with concerns raised about logistics, funding restrictions, timing, 500 bus routes to address, sharing of buses with other boards through the consortium, bus monitors not a sustainable option, the use of students as bus monitors, and the use of greeters as monitors.

Trustee Foley moved that Superintendent Regier approach the consortia to secure their endorsement and advocate with other school boards to ensure masks be worn by students on the buses.

The motion carried.

Dates of Future Meetings

Trustee Topping moved that the September 2020 schedule for Board and Standing Committee Meetings be approved as follows:

Program Committee	No meeting
Business Operations	September 15, 2020
Board Meeting	September 29, 2020

The motion carried.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the Dates of Future Meetings dated September 1, 2020 be received.

The motion carried.

Motion to Rise and Report to the Board

Trustee Ross 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 Ross that the business transacted by the Committee of the Whole be now ratified by the Board.

The motion carried.

Adjournment

Trustee Bailey moved, seconded by Trustee Topping that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 12:33 a.m.

The motion carried.

This document is available in alternative formats upon request.