

**Upper Grand District School Board**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 29, 2020**  
**Minutes**

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Grand District School Board was held virtually on Tuesday, September 29, 2020, starting at 7:00 p.m. All Trustees were present with the exception of Trustee Bedi. Student Trustees Taran Fournier and Kimberly Tran were also in attendance.

Trustee MacNeil read the protocol for virtual meetings.

**Opening Prayer/Reading – Trustee Bailey**

Trustee Bailey shared some inspirational words regarding stress management.

**Condolences – nil report**

**Good News**

Director of Education Rogers highlighted the Good News as follows:

Upper Grand DSB Retirees Donated to Food4Kids

Due to COVID-19 and the current limits on large gatherings, the Board was unable to hold the annual retirement celebration in June 2020. Given these continued restrictions, and the challenges that families in our community have faced during the pandemic, the Board decided to officially cancel the celebration. Instead, a donation was made on behalf of all 2019-2020 retirees to Food4Kids to help support the services they provide to students. Food4Kids provides food for children with limited or no access to food on weekends or during the summer months. Through this program, packages of healthy food are prepared by volunteers and delivered to schools weekly, or directly to homes during the summer months. Due to the pandemic, support is currently being provided in the form of bi-weekly grocery gift cards. Locally, this organization is working to support ninety families across 12 schools, aiding approximately 200 children between the ages of one to fourteen. The Upper Grand DSB donated \$6,720 on behalf of retirees. This donation will help cover food costs for more than two weeks.

Headwaters Health Care Centre Donated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to Upper Grand DSB

In a generous act of community, Headwaters Health Care Centre has made a reciprocal donation of PPE to the Board. In an effort to help combat COVID-19, earlier this year the Upper Grand DSB donated PPE to many organizations, including the Headwaters Health Care Centre. In August, Headwaters reached out to the Board with an offer to

return the favour. Headwaters Health Care Centre has donated a skid of PPE to Upper Grand DSB to help keep students and staff safe as they return back to school. Thank you for your generosity, Headwaters!

### Guelph Residents Make Cloth Masks and Donate to Students

A group of residents at 'The Village by the Arboretum' in Guelph have generously donated cloth face masks to Upper Grand DSB schools. When the pandemic lockdown first occurred, this group decided to work together to help healthcare workers by sewing cloth masks. They have since continued making masks for students whose families may not be able to afford multiple masks. This generous group has donated 500 masks for children ages 5 to 12 in the Upper Grand DSB. Thank you to all those involved in this amazing act of generosity.

### **Confirmation of the Agenda**

Trustee Foley 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 Meeting Held September 1, 2020**

Trustee Ross moved, seconded by Trustee Topping, that the minutes of the meeting held September 1, 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.**

Trustee Campbell, requested that the Outbreak Management Protocol from Dr. Tenenbaum, Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health be posted on the Board's website. Director of Education Rogers noted that the Board would seek permission to have Dr. Tenenbaum's information shared.

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

Trustee Foley 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.**

Director of Education Rogers advised that, earlier this evening, in the In Camera portion of the meeting, April King Vice-Principal from Erin DHS was appointed Acting

Principal at Erin DHS, and Ross Watson, Teacher at Erin DHS was appointed Temporary Vice-Principal at Erin DHS.

Due to COVID-19, the elementary remote school enrolment is approximately 3,900 students, and it requires additional school administration staff to support the school. At the In Camera portion of the Business Operations meeting of September 15, 2020, the following were transferred/appointed to ensure that the remote school administrative team is staffed appropriately.

Elementary Vice-Principal Transfer

<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
Blayne Primeau	Vice-Principal, Rickson Ridge PS	Vice-Principal, Elementary Remote School

Elementary Vice-Principal Appointment

<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
Sarah Sinkovits	Teacher, Rickson Ridge PS	Temporary Vice- Principal, Rickson Ridge PS

**Motion to Rise and Sit in Committee of the Whole**

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

**The motion carried.**

**Delegation**

Dr. Andria Jones-Bitton, DVM, PhD, University of Guelph, delegated the Board regarding concerns about safety and cleaning precautions due to COVID-19, to request a reduction in class size and bus cohorts, transparency to the community about classroom and bus conditions, accessibility and consistent communications to parents and the community.

She requested that:

1. The Upper Grand District School Board take every possible action to achieve optimal physical distancing on school buses and in classrooms.
2. The Board ensure that clear and accessible information about bus and classroom conditions is disseminated to all guardians of children attending Upper Grand DSB schools.

3. The Board petition the Province for the funds necessary to reduce bus occupancy and class sizes so that optimal, 2-meter, physical distancing can be achieved on buses and in classrooms.
4. The Board undertake any actions within its purview to reduce bus occupancy and class sizes while awaiting further leadership from the Province.
5. The Board streamline and standardize communication with parents and guardians about bus and classroom conditions.
6. The Board support school administration and staff to expediently distribute information to guardians. This information should be distributed and promoted widely across multiple platforms, and made available in various languages to accommodate guardians whose first language may not be English.

Trustees asked questions of clarification and expressed thanks for the delegation.

### **Staff Response to Delegation**

Director of Education Rogers advised that, on September 15, 2020 the Chair of the Board forwarded a letter to the Minister of Education Stephen Lecce which petitioned the province for increased funding to enhance safety protocols due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A copy of this letter was linked in the agenda and posted on the Board's website. She also reported that the Board is hiring another 165 long term occasional teachers to enable the reduction of class sizes. The availability of French teachers remains a challenge. In regards to the space issue in some of the schools, and the suggested use of other community facilities, there are concerns related to supervision, student safety, and cleaning and disinfectant issues, which makes it difficult to resolve on a practical level. Director of Education Rogers advised that the transportation consortium is doing its best to transport students, in as safe a manner as possible. Superintendents and staff commented on protocols and processes already put in place to provide the safest environment possible for both students and staff. Trustee Busuttill suggested that, for future meetings, "Response to Delegation" be included on the agenda to enable Trustees to provide comments.

### **Business Operations Committee**

Trustee Ross moved that the minutes of the Business Operations Committee held September 15, 2020, be received and considered.

**The motion carried.**

Trustee Ross moved that:

1. The report entitled "Preliminary Review of 2020-2021 Enrolment" dated September 15, 2020 be received.
2. The verbal transportation update be received.
3. The verbal Health and Safety update be received.

**The motion carried.**

### **Special Education Advisory Committee**

Trustee Edwards moved that the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee held September 16, 2020 be received and considered.

**The motion carried.**

### **Audit Committee Minutes of September 15, 2020**

Trustee Topping moved that the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held September 15, 2020 be received and considered.

**The motion carried.**

### **Staff Retirements and Resignations**

Executive Officer of Human Resources Rose presented the Staff Retirements and Resignations report dated September 29, 2020.

Trustee Ross moved that the Staff Retirements and Resignations report Appendix A and Appendix B dated September 29, 2020 be received.

**The motion carried.**

### **Update on School Opening**

Superintendent Slater reported that the overall perspective in school opening was generally calm and orderly. He noted that students were adapting well to new routines, and a staggered entry. Students were happy to be back in school and were doing well with wearing masks and face coverings. He noted that schools continue to work on routines around distancing and hand sanitization and hand washing. As required, daily reports are now sent to the Ministry of Education regarding absences and particularly absences due to COVID-19. Last week, the Board reported the first positive COVID-19 case. The Board contacted Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) and is monitoring the case and adhering to protocols as set out by WDGPH, including community communication.

Superintendent Zen provided an update on the secondary remote school. He reported that it has an enrolment of 1,450 students, including self-contained classes and 65 international students. For this quadmester, there are 78 teachers, educational assistants and administrative staff to provide support to students. October 14 – 21 is dedicated for parents to contact teachers to see how their children are doing and determine if the child will continue or change from virtual to in person learning.

Superintendent McDonald reported that the enrolment for remote elementary students is just under 4,000 JK to grade 8 students. He is very pleased with the progress over the past few weeks. The students are supported by great school administration as well as office staff who provide support to both students and the community. The support includes 185 teachers, 4 educational assistants, 4 administrative team members, and 1 office coordinator, and .5 administrative office assistant. Similar to secondary, parents will be surveyed in October to determine if their child will continue virtual learning or switch to in-person learning. Changes may occur after progress reports are done, which is expected to be close to the end of November. Superintendent McDonald advised that a group of families have chosen home-schooling. Staff will reach out to these families to share with them all available options and encourage them to join the Board again, to obtain the best support for their child's education.

Superintendent Lindsey shared protocols and practices in place to address support for students with special needs. She noted that all itinerant staff including English as a Second Language teachers, curriculum, special education consultants, either meet virtually, or go into the school and meet with the students, rather than the students meeting them in resource rooms. If these students are virtual learners, they obtain their special resources through Google Meet. The students continue to get the resources they need, just different delivery of services.

Trustees asked questions of clarification and expressed thanks for the information, and all the hard work done for a safe transition to school for students and staff.

Superintendent Heaslip clarified the grouping of children in kindergarten and junior kindergarten, and how they try to keep distance between the children as much as possible while maintaining daily structure, normalcy and association with other classmates.

Trustee Ross moved that the verbal update on school opening be received.

**The motion carried.**

## **Safe, Equitable and Inclusive Schools Steering Committee – Terms of Reference**

Trustee Foley moved that:

1. The Safe, Equitable and Inclusive Schools Steering Committee Terms of Reference dated June 2020 be received.
2. The community membership applications representing marginalized and racialized individuals and agencies throughout the geographic area of the Board for the Safe, Equitable And Inclusive Schools Steering Committee be received.

**The motion carried.**

## **Board Correspondence**

Trustee Foley moved that the Board Correspondence dated September 29, 2020, be received.

**The motion carried.**

## **Trustee Questions and Reports**

Trustee Campbell raised a concern about the practice of a prayer or reading at the beginning of each Board meeting. She suggested that the word “prayer” be removed. A debate resulted and various comments and concerns were raised.

Trustee Campbell moved that, On the Board agenda, under “Prayer or Reading” the word “Prayer” be removed.

Trustee Topping moved that the motion “on the Board agenda, under “Prayer or Reading” the word “Prayer” be removed” be deferred to the October 6, 2020 Program Committee.

**The motion of deferral, taking precedence, carried.**

## **Dates of Future Meetings**

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

Program Committee	October 6, 2020
Business Operations	October 13, 2020
Board Meeting	October 27, 2020

**The motion carried.**

Board Meeting, September 29, 2020

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

Tuesday, October 6, 2020	CANCELLED Policy Management Meeting
Monday, October 5, 2020	Upper Grand Learning Foundation, 5:45 p.m. – 6:45 p.m., virtual <b>only</b>
Wednesday, October 7, 2020	Accessibility Committee, Room 9, as well as virtual 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 20, 2020	Chairs Committee, time to be determined

Trustee Topping moved that the Dates of Future Meetings dated September 29, 2020 be received, with the above noted additions.

**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 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 Edwards moved, seconded by Trustee Topping that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 9:22 p.m.

**The motion carried.**

**This document is available in alternative formats upon request.**