

Upper Grand District School Board
Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 27, 2020
Minutes

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy expressed thanks and appreciation to the Senior Administration Team for being great leaders, and for all the work they do, in particular in the past year with the additional challenges due to COVID-19.

Trustee MacNeil read the protocol for virtual meetings.

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Grand District School Board was held on Tuesday, September 1, 2020, in the Board Room, as well as virtual, at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 7:23 p.m. All Trustees were present. Student Trustees Taran Fournier and Kimberly Tan were also in attendance.

Traditional Greeting – Trustee Campbell

Opening Prayer or Reading – Trustee Edwards

Trustee Edwards read the lyrics of “Only When It Rains” by Frank Walker and Astrid S, with a message that “rain” can mean different things to different people and the message is not always negative.

Condolences

Trustee MacNeil, Chair, reported that condolences were sent on behalf of the Board to the family of Kelly Bowman, Education Assistant at Willow Road PS.

Good News

Director of Education Rogers highlighted the good news as follows:

John F. Ross CVI Students

Students from John F. Ross CVI recently had the opportunity to have their work featured in the Guelph Mercury Tribune. Students in Meaghan Mazurek’s Writer’s Craft class were invited to submit pieces of creative writing to the newspaper about their school experiences. Out of 21 pieces produced by the class, Mazurek selected the top 6, and the class voted on the ones to submit to the Mercury Tribune. The Mercury Tribune originally intended to publish one or two stories but decided to run a three-story series because of the strength of the writing. Congratulations to the students who had their stories published.

Elementary Remote School (ERS) Otters

The Elementary Remote School Otters Team showed school spirit during a Terry Fox fundraiser. In an effort to create community and raise school spirit, grade 6 Otters' teacher Melissa Roth created a crowd-sourced video of Elementary Remote School staff and students, which challenged the school community to support the Terry Fox Foundation. As a further incentive to the Otters' community, each member of the Otters Administrative Team decided to do something to honour the spirit of Terry Fox; a challenge to raise \$4,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation. Students rose to the challenge and raised more than \$6,200. In recognition of a job well done, the remote schools administrators showed their appreciation by special activities; Mike Anderson spent a day dressed as an Otter, Jen Apgar shaved her head and got a temporary Otter tattoo on her scalp, Blayne Primeau ran a half marathon, and Alan Gouk took a chilly dip in the Grand River. Great job Otters, you have created a great sense of community through this time of virtual learning.

Centre Wellington DHS, Walk a Mile in Her Shoes Movement

On September 27, ten men from Centre Wellington DHS marched in high heels to protest rape, sexual assault and gender-based violence as part of the international Walk a Mile in Her Shoes movement. This walk seeks to involve men and boys as active allies to prevent and combat gender-based violence. While this event could not take place with full participation this year, organizers and participants created a short video to highlight the event. Funds raised during the event were directed to the White Ribbon Campaign and to Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis.

Wellington Heights SS

Students in the Life Skills class at Wellington Heights SS crafted a message of gratitude and appreciation to frontline workers. Wooden letters were cut and painted by the students with the assistance of their teachers and educational assistants. In the spirit of equity and inclusive education, some of the letters were painted in rainbow colours to show respect for the LGBTQ community, while others were painted black to show support for the Black Lives Matter movement. The message reads, "Thank You Frontline Workers. Be Safe." Students and staff at the school were grateful for the work and dedication of frontline workers, and wanted to show appreciation and gratitude. Great job Wellington Heights SS Life Skills students!

Confirmation of the Agenda

Trustee Busuttil requested that the agenda be amended to include an OPSBA Verbal Report.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved, seconded by Trustee Topping, 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 September 29, 2020

Trustee Foley moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey, that the minutes of the meeting held September 29, 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 Foley moved, seconded by Trustee Ross, that the business transacted by the Committee of the Whole In Camera be now ratified by the Board.

The motion carried.

Announcements

Trustee MacNeil reported that, earlier this evening Trustees received a report on the Director's Performance Review. As in years past, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and Trustees expressed gratitude for Director of Education Rogers' exceptional work over the past year. Trustees commended Director of Education Rogers for her strong, kind, positive, wise, and calm leadership. This has been a particularly challenging year for many reasons and Director of Education Roger's leadership through these challenging times has been phenomenal. We are very grateful for Director of Education Rogers and the work she has done for staff students and family in the 2019 2020 school year.

Also earlier in the evening, Trustees received a report on the Achievements of the Senior Administration. Trustee MacNeil expressed thanks and appreciation for the accomplishments this year, and for a great team leading the way. She stated: "On behalf of the Board, I would like to express our gratitude to the Senior Administration for

their tremendous accomplishments this past year and the way they rose to the challenges of 2020 time and again, tirelessly and without fail. We are so very lucky to have such an exceptional team leading the way and we thank you for all that you do.”

At the In Camera session earlier this evening, Trustees received a report where Damon Ealey and Chris Fiddes were added to the Secondary Vice-Principal Eligibility List, 2020.

A secondary Vice-Principal Transfer and Appointment report was received with Joe Burns transferred from Vice-Principal at John F. Ross CVI to Vice-Principal, Secondary Remote School and Damon Ealey appointed as Vice-Principal at John F. Ross CVI.

Motion to Rise and Sit in Committee of the Whole

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

The motion carried.

Program Committee

Trustee Topping moved that the minutes of the Program Committee held October 6, 2020 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Topping moved that:

1. The verbal update from Student Trustees be received, with thanks.
2. The verbal update on Mental Health be received, with thanks.
3. The verbal update on Summer Learning Program, Camp Discovery and Indigenous Program be received.
4. The verbal report on the Summer and Fall Mental Health and High-Risk Transition Supports be received, with thanks.

The motion carried.

Business Operations Committee

Trustee Campbell moved that the minutes of the Business Operations Committee held October 13, 2020 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Campbell moved that:

1. The report entitled “Addition to Hyland Heights ES Building Project Report” dated October 13th, 2020, CP:20-04, be received.
2. A 4-classroom addition at Hyland Heights ES be constructed to open as soon as possible, subject to Ministry approval to proceed.
3. The “Addition to Hyland Heights ES Building Project Report” attached as Appendix B, dated October 13th, 2020, CP:20-04, be approved.
4. The Building Committee required by Policy 309 not be established for the 4-classroom replacement project at Hyland Heights ES.
5. The report entitled “Financial Reporting Update” dated October 13, 2020, be received.

The motion carried.

Special Education Advisory Committee

Trustee Edwards moved that the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee held October 14, 2020 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Safe Equitable Inclusive Schools Steering Committee (SEISSC) Minutes of October 21, 2020

Trustee Busuttil moved that the minutes of the SEISSC meeting of October 21, 2020 be deferred to the November 24, 2020 Board meeting.

The motion to defer carried.

Staff Retirements and Resignations

Executive Officer of Human Resources Rose presented the Staff Retirements and Resignations report dated October 27, 2020.

Trustee Busuttil moved that the Staff Retirements and Resignations report Appendix A and Appendix B dated October 27, 2020 be received.

The motion carried.

International Student Program Update and Attestation of Readiness to Receive International Students per Federal and Provincial Requirements

Superintendent Morrell advised that the purpose of the report was to provide updates related to the Upper Grand DSB International Student Program (ISP) and to seek support for the Upper Grand DSB Attestation To Receive International Students Form, per Federal and Provincial requirements, as well as a Board resolution endorsing the ongoing operation of the ISP and commitment to upholding the requirements outlined. This report demonstrated the readiness of the Upper Grand DSB and the ISP to safely welcome international students into our schools and local communities. Requirements of the Federal Public Health and the Ontario Ministry of Education were clarified. The plans and protocols supporting the safe arrival of international students were explained.

The following statistics were shared:

Each Board in the province is required to develop a plan that indicates its readiness to accept international students. The plan will include overall requirements, pre-arrival requirements for institutions, 14 day quarantine requirements, and post quarantine requirements. School boards must work within provincial and local health guidelines and protocols for businesses and other organizations consistent with the Government of Ontario's plan for re-opening the province.

An Attestation Form must be completed by the Board and attest that the Upper Grand DSB will comply with the implementation of the plan and ensure that all precautions are taken and followed, and then be approved. Superintendent Morrell advised that as of October 21, 2020, 5 provinces were approved for international students. Ontario was not. Staff have been working diligently to build up the international student program, and are concerned about delays due to COVID-19 restrictions. Superintendent Morrell requested that the Director of Education attest that the requirements set out in the Attestation Form have been complied with, and that the Attestation Form be signed by the Director of Education and be forwarded to the Ministry of Education and the Federal Government. Trustee Busutil requested that, at a later date, Superintendent Morrell come back to Trustees with an overview of the cost and funding and sustainability of the international student program. Superintendent Regier noted that the international student program is an important program for our board, and will continue to monitor the financial implications, and will continue to update Trustees.

Trustee Busutil moved that:

1. The report International Student Program Upgrade And Attestation of Readiness to Receive International Students per Federal and Provincial Requirements be received.
2. The Upper Grand DSB maintain its commitment to continuing its International Student Program in compliance with the guidelines for

accepting international students that have been established by the Ontario Ministry of Education and the Canadian Federal Government.

3. The Director of Education attest that the requirements set out in the Attestation Form have been complied with.
4. The Attestation Form be signed by the Director of Education on behalf of the Upper Grand DSB.

The motion carried.

Update on School Opening

Superintendents Slater, McDonald, and Regier provided an update on the opening of schools this year.

Superintendent Slater advised that, as of last Friday, there were no new reported COVID-19 cases, and that in the past few days, there were 13 schools with a COVID-19 situation. Superintendent Slater clarified that it is not the role of Public Health nurses in schools to work directly with the public except with the COVID-19 cases they are working with. Also, it is not their role to be a liaison with parents. They work directly with administrators and are a liaison between schools and public health, provide guidance regarding COVID-19, provide guidance regarding return to school, and provide direct contact with students or staff regarding positive COVID-19 results. They are also responsible for contact tracing, determining high or low risk of COVID-19 exposure, and making determination on closures, as required. Trustees asked questions of clarification.

Superintendent MacDonald provided an update on the re-entry process and remote survey for parents which closed last week. He noted that 221 students moved from remote learning to bricks and mortar schools. Staff were working on recapturing students who started in home schools and then withdrew, and staff ran a campaign to reach out to these students to register them with the Board and advised of the supports available to students registered with the Board. Trustee Busutil requested that the statistics on home schooling, remote, and transfers would be very helpful if it was in a chart form for future updates.

Superintendent Zen reported that 565 secondary students moved to the remote school with an overall enrolment of 1900 students in remote school, like elementary, the largest school in the Board. As a result, additional staff will be hired to support the high enrolment. Quadmester 1 ends November 11, November 12 and 13 are turn around days, and November 16 is the start of quadmester 2. Report cards will be sent out on November 23rd. This year, parent teacher interviews were not possible, however, parents were contacted via social media or phone if the student experienced difficulties.

Superintendent Regier advised that in the transportation consortium, the driver situation continues to be holding. Staff are continuing to review seating plans and prepare for next quadmester. He noted that the consortium will continue to pause courtesy transportation, as they are trying to maintain lower rider levels.

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

The motion carried.

Update on Naloxone In Schools

Superintendent of Education Slater advised that Naloxone in schools and board offices was approved but was not implemented due to the imposed COVID-19 restrictions. Training will be available in November in an on-line format to enable staff to train at a time that suits individual schedules. Once the training is complete, Naloxone kits will be delivered to every location that currently houses automated external defibrillators (AED) and will be installed beside the AED. The overdose protocol is scheduled to be reviewed by the Policy Management Committee in December.

Board Correspondence

Trustee Campbell referenced correspondence sent from Halton DSB regarding in-person attendance at Board meetings. She questioned whether the Ministry of Education was planning to change the criteria for in-person attendance, due to COVID-19 restrictions. In response, Trustee MacNeil advised that this was a work in progress, and that she was expecting a response in the near future.

Trustee Bedi moved that the Board Correspondence dated October 27, 2020, be received.

The motion carried.

Trustee Questions and Reports

OPSBA Update

Trustee Busuttill provided an update from OPSBA with the following highlights:

Hiring Reg 274

Hiring Reg 274 has been repealed. An Interim Hiring Policy has been provided by the Ministry of Education until a PPM is issued in November.

Bill 197

Bill 197 Omnibus Bill received Royal ascent in July 2020. During the summer OPSBA Policy and Program Work Teams provided OPSBA's response to the Bill. There was

very limited time for consultation on the Bill. The government indicated that there would be stakeholder discussions regarding the amendments to broaden the mandates of both TVO and TFO. OPSBA staff are participating in an engagement with the Ministry of Education and TVO on the topic of online learning. This is a very important item to monitor for the direction that public education takes. Online learning came up during negotiations and the government's requirement for online learning credits for graduation diplomas. Updates will be shared with member boards.

November 15th Provincial Budget

OPSBA is preparing a consultation document.

OPSBA Regional Meeting

Central West OPSBA Regional Meeting will take place virtually on November 7th from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the verbal OPSBA update be received.

The motion carried.

Inclusive Culture of Collaboration and Respect for All

Trustee Bedi proposed a Board motion to instill inclusive culture of collaboration and respect for all. She stated that everyone was stunned to hear about the hatred and assaults in Guelph at the end of September. Hatred in any form and toward anyone is not acceptable. After the incidents, members of Guelph community expressed their support and posted statements on social media, left notes of support at the Muslim Society of Guelph, and started a petition. This is a call to organize a commitment to show care for one another. She expressed thanks to Trustee Foley for sharing the community petition, thanks to Trustee Busuttill for talking about the petition and reaching out to Trustees, school and Board staff, and also thanks to Sara Sayyed for sharing the community petition. She also expressed recognition to staff and colleagues for all the work done in our communities, which they continue to do. As the first person of colour elected to the Upper Grand DSB, Trustee Bedi wanted to take this opportunity to express how important it is to stand in solidarity, with people of all backgrounds to denounce acts of hatred. It is even more important to strive, not for tolerance, but to really value people of various backgrounds, and perspectives to build relationships, understanding, and community with one another. We can do more reflection, outreach, and partnerships to bring a vision of a caring and safe community where everyone truly belongs now and for the future. Trustee Bedi hoped that these words resonate with everyone and that the motion to show support will carry. Trustees expressed thanks to Trustee Bedi for her passion and contributions in this issue, and asked that the motion be shared through the Boards website, as well as with the community.

Trustee Bedi moved that the Upper Grand DSB is committed to an inclusive culture of collaboration and respect for all members of our community. We will not tolerate any expression of hatred. We stand up for and support all members of our diverse community. As a public sector organization and employer, we are committed to breaking the cycle of systemic racism in our own operations, and the broader community.

Unanimously, the motion carried.

Dates of Future Meetings

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the November 2020 schedule for Board and Standing Committee Meetings be approved as follows:

Program Committee	November 3, 2020
Business Operations	November 10, 2020
Board Meeting	November 24, 2020

The motion carried.

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

Monday, November 16, 2020	Dufferin Joint Parent Council Meeting Virtually hosted at Island Lake PS, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, November 18, 2020	Safe, Equitable and Inclusive Schools Steering Committee, virtual, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the Dates of Future Meetings dated October 27, 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 Edwards 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 Bedi moved, seconded by Trustee Edwards that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 9:58 p.m.

The motion carried.

This document is available in alternative formats upon request.