

Upper Grand District School Board
Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 24, 2020
Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Grand District School Board was held on Tuesday, November 24, 2020, virtually and in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 7:30 p.m. All Trustees were present. Student Trustees Taran Fournier and Kim Tran were also in attendance.

Trustee MacNeil read the protocol for the virtual meetings.

Traditional Greeting – Trustee Edwards

Trustee Edwards shared a different version of a Traditional Greeting.

Opening Prayer or Reading

After hearing of the death of Ingrid Salt, a Child and Youth Worker from the Toronto DSB, Trustee Foley expressed thanks and appreciation to all educational workers at Upper Grand, front line staff working through the toughest times in education.

Condolences

Trustee MacNeil, Chair, reported that condolences were sent on behalf of the Board to the following: Kelly Wynne, Executive Assistant in the superintendent's office, on the loss of her father-in-law; Diane Klooster, Office Coordinator at Erin PS, on the loss of her husband; Sharon Styles, Head Caretaker at Parkinson Centennial PS, on the loss of her mother; Candice Harper, Caretaker at Montgomery Village PS, on the loss of her grandmother; Tracy Oldfield-Baker, Principal at J.D. Hogarth PS, on the loss of her father.

Good News

Director of Education Rogers highlighted the Good News as follows:

Centennial CVI

Due to COVID-19 limitations, Centennial CVI adapted its annual blood drive, as students and staff could not attend Canadian Blood Services in groups to donate blood. This year through a series of student led announcements, Centennial CVI educated the school and community about the importance of donating blood. Individuals were then able to make an appointment with Canadian Blood Services to donate based on their availability. Great job Centennial CVI.

Upper Grand DSB Graduate Entered Greatest Baker Competition

Upper Grand class of 2017 graduate Aaron MacPherson recently entered ‘The Greatest Baker’ competition and was selected as one of the contestants. The Greatest Baker competition sees bakers from all over the world compete in the world’s largest online baking competition. This year, the winner will receive world-wide recognition as The Greatest Baker, a year’s supply of Stuffed Puffs, will be featured in the “Bake from Scratch” magazine, and will take home \$10,000. Although not studying baking in his post-secondary education, Aaron said that his time spent with the College Heights Bake Shop is what taught him to love baking. As of last week, Aaron had placed fourth in his category. We wish Aaron the best of luck in this competition.

Wellington Heights SS

Wellington Heights SS received a generous \$6,000 donation on November 5th from Dufferin Mutual Insurance Company in Mount Forest. This donation will be directed to two programs that will support families in the Wellington Heights school community who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The programs at the school are the Warm Winter Wishes Program and the Food and Friends Program. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Wellington Heights SS was not able to host its Warm Winter Wishes fundraising program this year, which would mean less support for families in need. The goal of dividing this donation between the two programs, hopes to keep the spirit of Warm Winter Wishes alive this year and to continue to provide nutrition to students in need. Thank you Dufferin Mutual Insurance Company for this generous donation.

Upper Grand DSB Students Remember Veterans on Remembrance Day

On November 11, 2020, Upper Grand schools hosted adapted Remembrance Day ceremonies that complied with COVID-19 restrictions. Some of the ceremonies included virtual events, outdoor physically distanced events, ceremonies held over the PA system and more.

Rockwood Centennial PS

At Rockwood Centennial PS, students and staff found a way to recognize their Centenarian veteran neighbour, Mrs. Drijber. During her 20s, Drijber left her teaching job in Canada and travelled across the ocean to contribute to the allied Dutch forces during World War II. Now 100 years old, Drijber resides in the Rockwood Centennial PS neighbourhood. On November 11, three classes (all wore face masks due to COVID-19) lined the sidewalk near Drijber’s home where they presented her with letters they had written, wreaths they created and read “In Flanders Field” by John McCrae. Students and staff were happy to be able to safely visit her home and show their respect to her. Thank you to the students of Rockwood Centennial PS for this good deed.

Confirmation of the Agenda

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy 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 October 27, 2020

Trustee Ross moved, seconded by Trustee Campbell, that the minutes of the meeting held October 27, 2020, and the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held November 10, 2020, and the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meetings held immediately prior to the Board meetings, be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

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

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

The motion carried.

Program Committee

The Program Committee Minutes of November 3, 2020, item # 2 under the title 2020-21 Annual French Review Background Report needed to be amended as follows:

The JK FI on-time application window will open at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 and close at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January **22**, 2021.

Trustee Topping moved that the minutes of the Program Committee held November 3, 2020 be received and considered as amended.

The motion carried.

Trustee Topping moved that:

1. The verbal update from Student Trustees be received, with thanks.
2. Memo PLN:20-15 entitled “2020/21 Annual French Review Background Report” dated November 3, 2020 be received.
3. The JK FI on-time application window will open at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 and close at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January **22**, 2021.
4. No new FI programs be established in 2021/22.
5. The JK FI enrolment caps not be adjusted.
6. The Mental Health verbal report be received.
7. The Curriculum Department Support for the 2020/21 Math Curriculum presentation be received.
8. The Curriculum Supports for Teachers presentation be received.
9. The Annual Accessibility Report for 2019-2020 dated November 3, 2020 be received.
10. The verbal OPSBA report be received.

The motion carried.

Business Operations Committee

Trustee Ross moved that the minutes of the Business Operations Committee held November 10, 2020 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Ross moved that:

1. The memo entitled PLN: 20-16 “2021/22 Development Area School Assignments” dated November 10, 2020 be received.
2. The Development Area School Assignments as outlined in Appendix A to memo PLN: 20-16 “2021/22 Development Area School Assignments” be approved for the 2021/22 school year.
3. The report FIN 1120-01 entitled “2020/2021 Budget Assumptions Update” dated November 10, 2020 be received.

4. The report entitled “Renewal Projects (2020/20210)”, CP:20-03, dated November 10th, 2020, be received.
5. The report entitled “2020/21 Energy Team Action Plan”, CP:20-05, dated November 10th, 2020, be received.
6. The report FIN 1120-02 entitled “Trustee Honoraria”, be received.
7. The report Staff Retirements and Resignations dated November 10, 2020 be received.
8. The verbal update on the Director of Education’s retirement date of August 2021 be received.

The motion carried.

Special Education Advisory Committee

Trustee Ross moved that the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee held November 11, 2020 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Ross moved that the following representative of an association be appointed to the Special Education Advisory Committee effective December 1, 2020 to November 30, 2021.

Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County; Renná Bruce Paonne

The motion carried.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy took the Chair for consideration of the next two items.

Policy Management Committee

Trustee MacNeil advised of a change in legislation regarding the ability to exclude a student. In rare circumstances, a student may pose such a significant risk to the physical and/or mental well-being of themselves or other students that, as a last resort, the student must be excluded from attending as the only means possible to ensure student safety. The authority to exclude a student is outlined at Section 265(1)(m) of the *Education Act*, which states that it is the duty of a school principal: “subject to an appeal to the Board, to refuse to admit to the school or classroom a person whose presence in the school or classroom would in the Principal’s judgment be detrimental to the physical or mental well-being of the pupils”. Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) 145 “Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour” directs that exclusion of a student is not to be used as a disciplinary measure. The Board limits the use of an exclusion to circumstances where a Principal deems it necessary to ensure the safety of students, and an exclusion will only remain in effect for as long as needed to reasonably provide for the physical and mental well-being of students. Policy 503

Safe Schools – Exclusion Procedures Manual 503-C outlines the process for considering and implementing an exclusion of a student from the classroom and/or school. Trustee MacNeil noted that an exclusion appeal is heard by the whole Board of Trustees, and presided over by the Board Chair. This appeal is not heard by the Student Discipline Committee. Trustees asked questions of clarification.

Trustee MacNeil moved that the minutes of the Policy Management Committee meeting November 3, 2020 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee MacNeil moved that:

1. Policy 303 Naming of Schools and Board Facilities be approved.
2. Policy 503 Safe Schools be approved.
3. Policy 503 Safe Schools be released for public consultation.
4. The report "Policy Public Consultation Plan for 503 – Safe Schools" dated November 03, 2020 be received.
5. the report "Policy Public Consultation Plan for 503 – Safe Schools" dated November 03, 2020 be approved.
6. Procedures Manual 604-A Safety in Science and Technological Education be received.

Motion carried

Chairs' Committee Minutes of November 17, 2020

Trustee Busuttil requested that items 1 and 2 be considered separately.

In reference to the minutes which stated that “due to Trustee Busuttil’s resignation from the Director’s Selection Committee, there remained a vacancy on the committee and a replacement was required,” Trustee Busuttil felt insulted and offended that she was named in the minutes.

In reference to the motion, Trustee Busuttil felt insulted and offended that she was named in a public document in the motion “to replace Trustee Busuttil due to her resignation”.

Trustee MacNeil apologized to Trustee Busuttil that she was offended, and noted that in the original motion, Trustees were named, and for continuity, Trustee Busuttil’s name was included. Trustee MacNeil did not intend to offend or insult Trustee Busuttil.

Trustee MacNeil moved that:

1. The minutes of the Chairs' Committee Meeting of November 17, 2020 be received and considered.
2. Effective November 24, 2020, Trustee Ross fill the vacancy on the Director's Selection Committee, to replace Trustee Busuttil due to her resignation.

The motion carried.

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

Item deferred from the October 27, 2020 Board meeting to the November 24, 2020 Board meeting.

Trustee MacNeil moved that:

The minutes of the SEISSC meeting October 21, 2020 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Superintendent Van Ooteghem advised that Jennifer Parkinson, Grand River Métis Council, Aimee Copping, Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition (GNSC), and Indu Arora, West Village Community Cooperative Development were added to the SEISSC.

Trustee MacNeil moved that:

1. The minutes of the SEISSC meeting November 18, 2020 be received and considered.
2. The three community names representing marginalized and racialized individuals and agencies throughout the geographic area of the Board for the Safe, Equitable & Inclusive Schools Steering Committee be received.

The motion carried.

Trustee MacNeil took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Audit Committee Minutes of November 10, 2020

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the minutes of the Audit Committee of November 10, 2020 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

2019/2020 Audited Financial Statements

Superintendent Regier presented an overview of the Audited Financial Statements for the Board and the 2019 2020 Audited Financial Statements for the Upper Grand District School Board Trust Funds. He expressed thanks to staff in the Finance department, KPMG, Trustees, the Director of Education, Senior Administration, and to all budget holders. Mr. Thomas Mennill, together with Stacey Stahlman from KPMG were in attendance (virtually) to report on the Audit Findings for the year ending August 31, 2020. Mr. Mennill reported that the Board had a good set of accounts, there is a strong finance team, and there were no significant changes to accounting practices and policies. Superintendent Regier highlighted key points and provided an in-depth overview of the Audit Financial Statements for the year ending August 31, 2020. Trustees asked questions of clarification.

Trustee Busuttil moved that:

1. The Report: "2019 2020 Audited Financial Statements" dated November 24, 2020, be received.
2. The Audit Findings Report to the Board, as prepared by KPMG, for the year ended August 31, 2020, be received.
3. The 2019 2020 Audited Financial Statements for the Upper Grand District School Board and the 2019 2020 Audited Financial Statements of the Upper Grand District School Board Trust Funds be approved.

The motion carried.

Name Change for First Nation Métis Inuit Advisory Committee

Trustee Busuttil requested that the minutes of First Nation Métis Inuit Education Council be placed on the Trustee portal, and the minutes be formally brought to the Board, as part of the regular process.

Trustee Campbell moved that:

1. The report entitled "Name Change for First Nation Métis Inuit Advisory Committee dated November 24, 2020 be received.
2. The First Nation Métis Inuit Education Advisory Committee name be changed to First Nation Métis Inuit Education Council.

The motion carried.

Monthly COVID-19 Update

As requested by Trustees, a written report on the monthly COVID-19 update was presented by Superintendent Slater. The report included key data, updates and changes in practice and the impact on school communities. The report included COVID-19 cases in schools, remote school data for both elementary and secondary students, updates on funding and transportation, and a Ministry of Labour visit. Trustees expressed thanks for the written report, and the monthly updates. Trustee Busuttil requested that future reports include projected enrolment for all learning formats. Questions of clarification were answered. Thanks were expressed to everyone who is constantly adapting to rules and changes.

International Students

In response to a question raised, Superintendent Morrell announced that, as of today, the Ministry of Education allowed the Upper Grand DSB to enroll new International Students. Director of Education Rogers noted that because of the excellent work on the attestation report done by Superintendent Morrell, immediate approval was granted.

Trustee Busuttil moved that the report entitled “Monthly COVID-19 Update” dated November 24, 2020 be received.

The motion carried.

Police Presence in Schools Review Extension

Superintendent Van Ooteghem advised that The Police Presence in Schools Task Force Review has met regularly since July 2020. The committee has gathered information from all five Police Services in the Upper Grand DSB, researchers, other school boards, past and current administrators, Black, Indigenous, People of Colour (BIPOC) and equity seeking groups, as well as Board staff and community members. On October 20th, 2020 a virtual Town Hall Meeting was held to collect data from all stakeholders. Between October 20th and October 26th questions mirroring those presented at the Town Hall meeting were also available to all stakeholders. Despite these efforts, student voice has found to be lacking from the data gathered. The committee requires additional time to survey all secondary students and analyze all data and information gathered in order to present recommendations to the Board of Trustees. Trustees expressed thanks for all the work done and for consideration of the extended timeline.

Trustee Foley moved that the Board, agree to extend the deadline for the Police Presence in Schools Task Force Review Report (with recommendations) until March 31st, 2021.

The motion carried.

Staff Retirements and Resignations

Executive Officer of Human Resources Rose presented the Staff Retirements and Resignations report dated November 24, 2020.

Trustee Busuttill moved that the Staff Retirements and Resignations report Appendix A and Appendix B dated November 24, 2020 be received. With thanks.

The motion carried.

OPSBA Report

Trustee Busuttill presented a verbal report as follows.

Ontario Teacher Pension Plan

OTPP announced temporary measures allowing retirees who meet certain criteria to work for an education employer for 95 days in each school year without impacting pensions. This is in place until the end of the current school year June 30, 2021 with conditions to be met, for example must be employed by a school board, could be in person or remote, and a requirement to have a teaching certificate for the role.

Single Supply Chain, Supply Ontario

The government recently announced that there would be a centralized single supply chain organization called Supply Ontario, for Ontario Public Service (OPS), broader public sector (BPS) and health sector. Supporting Legislation and Regulations have been introduced. OPSBA will follow up with the Ministry of Education about how school boards will be working with Supply Ontario for items such as PPE, portable air purifiers and general school and custodial supplies.

TVO/TFO Consultation

OPSBA attended a consultation with the government regarding the move to expand the mandate for TVO and have the agency take on a central leadership role in supporting online learning in the publicly-funded education system.

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

The motion carried.

Board Correspondence

Trustee Topping moved that the Board Correspondence dated November 24, 2020, be received.

The motion carried.

Trustee Questions and Reports

Trustee Busuttil reported that she attended a 3-day People for Education symposium, at no cost, with a number of excellent speakers across Canada.

The motion carried.

Dates of Future Meetings

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

Program Committee	No Meeting
Final/Inaugural Board	December 1, 2020
Business Operations	December 8, 2020
Board Meeting	December 15, 2020

That the Dates of Future Meetings dated November 24, 2020 be received.

The motion carried.

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

Monday, November 30, 2020	PIC, Room 9 and virtual
Monday, December 7, 2020	FNMI Education Council, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. , virtual
Monday, December 14, 2020	Dufferin Joint School Council, virtual, hosted by Primrose ES, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Trustee Bailey moved that the Dates of Future Meetings dated November 24, 2020 be received, with the above noted additions.

The motion carried.

Motion to Rise and Report to the Board

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

The motion carried.

Ratification of Business

Trustee Foley moved, seconded by Trustee Edwards 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 Foley that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 9:50 p.m.

The motion carried.

This document is available in alternative formats upon request.

