

Upper Grand District School Board
Final Meeting of the 2019/2020 Board
Minutes

December 1, 2020

The Final meeting of The Upper Grand District School Board for the period December 1, 2019 to November 30, 2020 was held virtually as well as in person on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 6:35 p.m.

The Chair, Trustee MacNeil, presided. All members were present. Student Trustees Kim Tran and Taran Fournier were also in attendance.

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 declarations of conflict of interest.

Motion to Rise and Sit in Committee of the Whole

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

The motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting Held November 24, 2020

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey that the minutes of the Board meeting held November 24, 2020 and the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held immediately prior to the Board meeting be approved.

The motion carried.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy took the Chair for consideration of the following item.

Chairs' Committee Meeting Minutes, November 25, 2020

Trustee MacNeil reported that the Search Plan for the new Director was a preliminary plan and it may need to be changed. Once the consultant is hired, any recommendations and changes to the plan would be brought to the Board for approval.

Trustee Busuttil, requested that items 2 and 3 be considered separately.

Trustee MacNeil moved, seconded by Trustee Topping that the Chairs' Committee Meeting Minutes of November 25, 2020 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Busuttil noted that the timelines for the Director's Search Committee Plan dated November 25, 2020 needed to be adjusted, as a new Director needs to be in place by August 2021. She requested that the Terms of Reference be changed for more clarity regarding the role of staff, and that the committee report directly to the Board, not the Chairs' committee. Trustee Busuttil suggested that this item be sent back to the committee to make the necessary changes.

Trustee Busuttil moved that the following two items be deferred to the December 15, 2020 Board meeting.

1. The Director Search Committee Terms of Reference be approved.
2. The Director Search Committee Search Plan dated November 25, 2020 be approved.

The motion of deferral taking precedence was considered first and defeated.

Trustee MacNeil moved that:

1. The Director Search Committee Terms of Reference be approved.
2. The Director Search Committee Search Plan dated November 25, 2020 be approved.

The motion carried.

Expressions of Appreciation of the Board

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved, seconded by Trustee Bedi that the Official

Appreciation of this Board be expressed to the representatives of the media for coverage of educational matters during the past year; and that sincere appreciation be expressed to the various radio stations for their co-operation and help in broadcasting school bus information on the inclement weather days which occur during the school year.

The motion carried.

Trustee Foley moved, seconded by Trustee Busuttill that the Official Appreciation of this Board be expressed to Martha Rogers, Director of Education, for her co-operation and assistance during the past year, and to all staff members for their loyalty and dedication, and that the Board's best wishes be extended to all staff for the coming year.

The motion carried.

Trustee Campbell moved, seconded by Trustee Bedi that the Official Appreciation of this Board be expressed to Trustee MacNeill, Chair of the Board, for her leadership and guidance in the past year, and to all Committee Chairs and members for their services and dedication.

The motion carried.

Trustee Questions or Reports – nil report

Chair, Trustee MacNeil's Closing Remarks for the 2019/2020 School Year

Trustee MacNeil's remarks were as follows:

2020 has been a year for the history books in so many respects. It has been a year of change, resilience, and "pivoting" as well as deep learning for all. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank all members of our Upper Grand educational community who have gone far above and beyond this year as we have encountered numerous challenges, the most significant being the COVID-19 pandemic and its wide-ranging effect on the entire system.

From the very beginning, people from every aspect of our Board have stepped up to contribute to our efforts and to do their very best to create a safe learning environment for our students as well as supporting our broader community. We have seen this in the 3D printing of face shields, delivering of technology to thousands of families, rapidly adapting to teaching in a completely new manner, and so many other ways, too numerous to name. Even our bus drivers joined in by delivering paper copies of materials to students across the district. Fortunately, COVID-19 wasn't the only story in 2020 and our staff, students, and families have shown time and again how they live our motto of "Learn, Lead, and Inspire...Together" every day in everything that they do.

A particular note of thanks needs to be given to our Director, Martha Rogers and the Senior Administration team. Under Dr. Rogers' leadership, the team has done exceptional work to guide the system through this past year and have given so much to ensure the success of all our efforts.

Thank you to my fellow Trustees for your hard work this year to learn a completely new way of doing our jobs and for everything that you have done to lead and support the system through these challenging times.

The culmination of the work of the Trustees for this year resulted in a motion that was supported unanimously which reads: "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."

All of the above point to the extraordinary level of excellence of everyone in our system, and the inclusive and caring culture that is the hallmark of the Upper Grand DSB. I am so proud to have been the Chair of the Board during this time and, on behalf of the Board of Trustees I would like to express our profound gratitude to all of you, for everything that you do.

Adjournment and Closure

Trustee Foley moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey, that having now officially completed its business, Upper Grand District School Board close this meeting at 6:58 p.m. and that the Board as constituted for the period December 1, 2018 to November 30, 2019 be now dissolved.

The motion carried.

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