

Upper Grand District School Board
Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 26, 2021
Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Grand District School Board was held virtually and in person on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 7:20 p.m. All Trustees were present. Student Trustees Kim Tran and Taran Fournier were also in attendance.

Traditional Greeting – Student Trustee Kim Tran

Opening Prayer / Reading – Trustee Ross

Trustee Ross expressed gratitude to all staff for struggling through the online learning platform and for a spectacular job done, with the restrictions imposed due to COVID-19. She expressed a special thanks to Mental Health and Addictions Lead Jenny Marino for all the mental health resources available to staff and students.

Condolences

Trustee MacNeil, Chair, reported that condolences were sent on behalf of the Board to the following: Kate Languedoc, Vice-Principal at Arbour Vista PS, on the loss of her father; Kelly Rockliffe, Kindergarten Teacher at Jean Little PS, on the loss of her father, and Brent Bloch, Principal at Wellington Heights SS, on the loss of his mother.

Good News

Centre Wellington DHS Students

Students at Centre Wellington DHS decided to spend their first week of remote learning during the most recent lockdown, highlighting how members of the community can support local, hard working kitchens and restaurants. With the help of their Chef instructor, Christopher Jess, the grade 12 Hospitality and Tourism class created an online resource to help locals order from restaurants and contribute to the industry. The website lists every working kitchen in the Centre Wellington community, details how to order, and encourages everyone to leave reviews. Great job Centre Wellington students for highlighting these local restaurants.

Students in the Norwell DSS LEAF Program Make the Most Out of Remote Learning

Students in the LEAF program at Norwell DSS had to shift to a virtual setting this year and although it is different, students continue to make the most out of the program. This year, although many aspects of daily learning could not be achieved virtually, students have been touring farms virtually and had interactive question and answer

sessions with local farmers. According to LEAF educator Paul Frayne, the students in the program this year have shown great resilience and have continued to maintain a positive attitude. He was glad to see that the pandemic hadn't dampened the spirit of LEAF students.

John F. Ross CVI Students Earned Certification in Networking

Specialist High Skills Major students at John F. Ross CVI recently completed their Networking certification. Earlier this month, the Career Education Council hosted a virtual Networking 101 workshop for students. Students reflected on possible connections they could make through their network. This is just one of several certifications students have had the chance to earn this year. Great job, John F. Ross CVI students.

Confirmation of the Agenda

Trustee Busuttil requested that item # 20 Board of Trustees Policy Development Report be considered prior to item # 15 Director Selection Committee, as it informs the direction of the Director Selection Search Plan.

Trustee MacNeil advised that the agenda needed to be amended to include a response to the delegation.

Trustee Topping 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 December 15, 2020

Trustee Bailey moved, seconded by Trustee Ross, that the minutes of the meeting held December 15, 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 Campbell, 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 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.

Delegation

Dr. Andrea Chittle

Dr. Chittle was in attendance to request that a letter be sent to the Ministry of Education to provide clear and timely communication and the implementation of concrete measures for safest and enduring school re-opening. She commented on how adversely families are impacted and that children were experiencing chaos, and that stable in-person learning is essential to youth.

Response to Delegation

Trustee Bailey supported the need to do some advocacy work and that the Chair of the Board should write a letter to the Ministry of Education, MPPs, public health officials, and include the main points Dr. Chittle has brought to the attention of the Board.

Trustee Bailey moved that the Chair of the Board be directed to write a letter to the Minister of Education, copied to MPPs, Public Health Officials, and OPSBA, to request concrete criteria for the reopening of schools, express specific concerns around the current school closures and the related increase in mental health problems, and stress the need for strict implementation of infection prevention and control measures, and communicate the confusion and chaos for students and parents related to the uncertainty for return to school timelines, and the need to provide parents, staff and students stability with regards to education.

Trustee Busuttil requested a recorded vote.

Yeah: Trustees Bailey, Bedi, Busuttil, Campbell, Edwards, Foley, Lustgarten Evoy, MacNeil, Ross, and Topping

Nay: none

Unanimously, the motion carried.

Program Committee

Trustee Topping moved that the minutes of the Program Committee held January 5, 2021 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 Trustee Community Building verbal report be received.
4. The First Nation Métis Inuit Updates verbal report be received.
5. The verbal Board Improvement Plan report be received.

The motion carried.

Business Operations Committee

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the minutes of the Business Operations Committee held January 12, 2021 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that:

1. The report entitled "Hyland Heights ES, 4 Classroom Addition – Concept Design Report" dated January 12th, 2021, CP:21-01, be received.
2. The Concept Design report for the Hyland Heights ES, 4 Classroom

Addition – Concept Design Report, including Appendix A of CP:21-01, be approved.

3. The construction model for the Hyland Heights ES, 4 Classroom Addition be Lump Sum Tender.
4. The verbal COVID-19 update be received.

The motion carried.

Special Education Advisory Committee

Trustee Edwards moved that the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee held January 13, 2021 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Audit Committee Minutes of January 6, 2021

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the minutes of the Audit Committee of January 6, 2021 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

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

Board of Trustees Policy Development Report

Trustee Busuttil noted that Policy 314 Duties and Responsibilities of the Director of Education had not been reviewed since 2013, and suggested that two additional policies be developed. Considering that Trustees are responsible for monitoring, evaluating and direction of the performance of the Director, it was suggested that a policy be developed for this purpose, instead of being embedded in a personal services contract. It was recommended that the Board of Trustees process for recommending a Salary Rate Increase be documented in a Policy. It was further recommended that the process for Executive Pay Envelope distribution be outlined in a senior staff procedure, culminating in a report and recommendation to the Board.

Trustee Busuttil moved that:

1. The report entitled “Board of Trustees Policy Development Report” dated January 21, 2021, be received.
2. The Board direct the Policy Management Committee to develop a Director Performance Policy and Procedure.

3. The Board direct the Policy Management Committee to develop an Executive Pay Envelope Policy and Procedure.

The motion carried.

Director Selection Committee

Trustee MacNeil moved that:

1. The Director of Education advertisement be approved.
2. The updated Terms of Reference be approved.

The motion carried.

Trustee MacNeil returned to the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

COVID-19 Update

Superintendent Slater provided a verbal COVID-19 update. He provided statistics on the number of COVID-19 cases in schools as of January 18, 2021. Also included in the report were statistics on the elementary and secondary projected and actual enrolments, the number of students enrolled in asynchronous and synchronous learning, and the number of full-time staff. Mr. Slater noted that students attending Developmentally Delayed classes continue to be transported. Superintendent Zen provided information regarding the additional screening required for staff and students. In order to address gaps in success and address inequity barriers, Trustee Busuttil requested additional information on elementary students, similar to that received for secondary students, as well as student success rates of vulnerable students during online learning due to COVID-19 restrictions. Superintendent Slater noted a new requirement for all staff and students to do self-screening before going to school or work.

Trustee Foley moved that the report entitled "Monthly COVID-19 Update", dated January 26, 2021 be received.

The motion carried.

Trustee Busuttil moved that staff be directed to provide a report analyzing student success.

The motion carried.

Staff Retirements and Resignations

Executive Officer of Human Resources Rose presented the Staff Retirements and Resignations report dated January 26, 2021. She noted that Manager of Plant

Operations John Veit has accepted an opportunity with the Waterloo DSB as comptroller and will be resigning as of February 19, 2021. An updated report to include this addition will replace the current report.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the Staff Retirements and Resignations amended report Appendix A and Appendix B dated January 26, 2021 be received.

The motion carried.

Board Correspondence

Trustee Foley moved that the Board Correspondence dated January 26, 2021, be received.

The motion carried.

OPSBA Update

Trustee Busuttill advised that there will not be a Central West regional meeting on Saturday January 28, 2021.

Trustee Edwards moved that the verbal OPSBA update be received.

The motion carried.

Trustee Questions and Reports – nil report

Dates of Future Meetings

Trustee Edwards moved that the February 2021 schedule for Board and Standing Committee Meetings be approved as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Program Committee | February 2, 2021 |
| Business Operations | February 9, 2021 |
| Board Meeting | February 23, 2021 |

The motion carried.

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

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Monday, February 1, 2021 | First Nation Métis Indigenous Council, 4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m., virtual |
|--------------------------|---|

Board Meeting, January 26, 2021

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 Special Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m. Board Room

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 New staff orientation, 4:15 p.m., virtual

Monday, February 22, 2021 Upper Grand Learning Foundation
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., virtual

Thursday, February 25, 2021 Cancellation of Environmental Education Management
Meeting

Trustee Edwards moved that the Dates of Future Meetings dated January 26, 2021 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 Bailey 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 Edwards moved, seconded by Trustee Foley that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 9:05 p.m.

The motion carried.

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