

Upper Grand District School Board
Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 23, 2021
Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Grand District School Board was held virtually and in person on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 7:28 p.m. All Trustees were present with the exception of Trustee Lustgarten Evoy. Student Trustee Kim Tran was also in attendance.

Traditional Greeting – Student Trustee Kim Tran (on behalf of Taran Fournier)

Opening Prayer / Reading – Trustee Topping

Trustee Topping read an inspirational piece on diversity, love, compassion and sharing, and beginning to re-build bridges.

Condolences

Trustee MacNeil, Chair, reported that condolences were sent on behalf of the Board to the following: Michelle Quinton, Administrative Office Assistant at Orangeville DSS and Assistant to the Superintendent and Coordinator-International Student Program, on the loss of her husband.

Good News

Director of Education Rogers highlighted the Good News as follows:

Centre Dufferin DHS

Centre Dufferin DHS students expressed love for themselves through the Hair Love Video. Students in the Black Chapter student group at Centre Dufferin DHS recently released a video as part of Black Heritage, Black Brilliance and Black Futures month. Completely student-led, Hair Love featured interviews with several students about loving yourself and the hair you were born with. As a group, the Black Chapter felt it was important to address Hair Love because of the challenges hair can present, as Black women are often stigmatized and discriminated against because of their hair. The goal of this video is to help spread awareness and knowledge and to help fight back against Hair Oppression and racism. This video is just one example of the work that the students in Centre Dufferin's Black Chapter have been sharing with the Board during Black Heritage, Black Brilliance and Black Futures Month.

Upper Grand DSB Introduced Period Equity Program To Schools

The Upper Grand DSB Equity Department expanded the Period Equity program. The goal of this program is to ensure that all people who menstruate are able to access period products free of charge and with dignity. This program was introduced to secondary schools in January and has now expanded to include elementary schools with grades 7 and 8 students. As part of this program, free dispensing machines are being installed in the For Use By All washroom in each of these schools. In making these products free of charge in the washroom that can be used by anyone, the Board is taking steps to disrupt oppression. The next step of this program is to introduce dispensing machines into remaining K-6 schools. Thanks were expressed to the Upper Grand Learning Foundation for help making this program possible.

Black History Month Digital Exhibition

Student work was featured in a Black History Month digital exhibition. Students from across the country were invited to submit original artwork and photographs to be included in the Black History Month digital exhibition; "Solidarity in my Community." As part of this, the Museum of Dufferin and the Dufferin County Canadian Black Association invited artists to submit their work for consideration. This exhibition showcased student art and photography from across the country, including submissions from Upper Grand DSB students. Congratulations were expressed to those chosen to exhibit their work.

Confirmation of the Agenda

Trustee Topping moved, seconded by Trustee Edwards, 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 Board Meeting Held January 26, 2021, and the Special Board Meeting Held February 2, 2021

Trustee Bailey moved, seconded by Trustee Foley, that the minutes of the Board meeting held January 26, 2021, and the Special Board meeting held February 2, 2021 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

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

Trustee Campbell 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 Edwards moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey, 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 February 2, 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 Teaching Reading in the Upper Grand DSB presentation be received.
4. The verbal OPSBA update be received.

The motion carried.

Business Operations Committee

Trustee Campbell moved that the minutes of the Business Operations Committee held February 9, 2021 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Campbell moved that:

1. The minutes of the Trustee Climate Change Committee meeting of January 19, 2021 be received.
2. The name of the Trustee Climate Change Committee be changed to Trustee Climate Emergency Committee to reflect the fact that the Board

declared a climate change emergency and that the work of the committee is in response to that declaration.

3. The report entitled “PLN:21-01 Development Application Review Annual Report” dated February 9, 2021, be received.
4. The report entitled “FIN0221-1 Federal Safe Return to Class Funding Update” dated February 9, 2021 be received.
5. The report entitled Retirement and Resignations dated February 9, 2021 be received.

The motion carried.

Trustee Topping took the chair for Consideration of the next item.

Chairs' Committee

Trustee MacNeil moved that the minutes of the Chairs' Committee of February 9, 2021 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee MacNeil moved that the Disaster Recovery Plan for Board and Standing Committee meetings be received.

The motion carried.

Trustee MacNeil returned to the Chair.

Special Education Advisory Committee

Trustee Edwards moved that the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee held February 10, 2021 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Topping took the Chair for consideration of the next two items.

Policy Management Committee

Trustee MacNeil moved that the minutes of the Policy Management Committee held February 2, 2021 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee MacNeil moved that:

1. P15 Overdose Protocol be received.

2. Policy 503 Safe Schools be approved.

The motion carried.

Safe, Equitable, Inclusive Schools Steering Committee (SEISSC)

Trustee MacNeil moved that the Safe, Equitable, Inclusive Schools Steering Committee (SEISSC) Minutes of February 2, 2021 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

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

First Nations Métis Inuit Education Council

Trustee Campbell moved that the minutes of the First Nations Métis Inuit Education Council Minutes of February 1, 2021 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Monthly COVID-19 Update

Superintendent Slater presented the monthly COVID-19 update. He noted that there was a significant decrease in the number of cases since the last report. There was a recent announcement from the Ministry of Education noting that targeted asymptomatic testing of students will be required, and community members will be included in the testing process. This work will be done by a Ministry provided vendor. Testing will be voluntary, will be held outside of the school day, and will be held at designated testing sites (hubs). Further details will be shared once available. Self-screening guidelines from the Ministry have been updated, with a directive that students must stay home if they experience one COVID-19 symptom, similar to the initial directives. Students may attend school if the symptom is caused by other issues, unrelated to COVID-19 issues, such as seasonal allergies.

Superintendent Regier advised that, on February 16th, the Board received official approval from the Ministry of Education to use the Board's Accumulated Surplus to offset the 2020-21 projected in-year deficit, and that funding was not negatively impacted by enrolment. Trustees asked questions of clarification, regarding variants, PPE requirements, bus driver capacity, staffing, class sizes, social protocols, and plans in place to pivot to remote delivery of education as required. Thanks were expressed for the report.

Trustee Bailey moved that the monthly COVID-19 update be received.

The motion carried.

Staff Retirements and Resignations

Executive Officer of Human Resources Rose presented the Staff Retirements and Resignations report dated February 23, 2021.

Trustee Foley moved that the Staff Retirements and Resignations report Appendix A and Appendix B dated February 23, 2021 be received.

The motion carried.

Board Correspondence

After a lengthy debate, Trustee Busuttil placed a notice of motion of reconsideration in regards to the following motion that was placed at the January 26, 2021 Board meeting.

“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 Bailey moved that the Board direct the Chair of the Board to write a letter to the Minister of Education to respectfully request that they share the governments’ plan for addressing the progression of the pandemic, specifically class size and upgraded PPE for the emerging variants.

The motion carried.

Trustee Foley moved that the Board Correspondence dated February 23, 2021, be received.

The motion carried.

OPSBA Update

Trustee Busuttil advised that Trustees were sent information on the Ministry’s initiative to de-stream math, starting September 2021.

Trustee Bailey moved that the verbal OPSBA update be received.

The motion carried.

Trustee Questions and Reports

Trustee Busuttill noted that there are no Trustee Liaisons identified for remote elementary and remote secondary schools. She placed a notice of motion that the Board appoint 2 Trustees as school liaisons, one for remote elementary school and the other for remote secondary school. Trustee MacNeil advised that this motion would be discussed at the March 2021 Board meeting.

Trustee Edwards expressed appreciation for the Student Trustees and for the importance of their voice at the table.

The motion carried.

Dates of Future Meetings

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

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|---------------------------|---|
| Monday, March 1, 2021 | 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Dufferin Joint School Council meeting |
| Thursday March 4, 2021 | 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. 2 nd PIC event
Topic is parenting for student success during a pandemic.
Registration is through the board website, or contacting
Superintendent of Education McDonald. |
| Friday, March 26, 2021 | 9:00 a.m. Secondary Principal and Vice-Principal interviews,
room 5, or virtual |
| Wednesday, March 31, 2021 | 8:30 a.m. Elementary Principal interviews,
room 9 and virtual |
| Wednesday, March 31, 2021 | 8:30 a.m. Elementary Vice-Principal interviews
room 3 and virtual |
| Tuesday, March 30, 2021 | 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Special Board Meeting |

Trustee Topping moved that the Dates of Future Meetings dated February 23, 2021 be received, with the above noted additions.

The motion carried.

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

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

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 Foley moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey that the business transacted by the Committee of the Whole be now ratified by the Board.

The motion carried.

Adjournment

Trustee Campbell moved, seconded by Trustee Foley that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 9:17 p.m.

The motion carried.

This document is available in alternative formats upon request.