

Upper Grand District School Board

Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Grand District School Board was held virtually and in person on Tuesday, March 23, 2021, in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 7:00 p.m. All Trustees were present. Student Trustees Kim Tran and Taran Fournier were also in attendance.

Traditional Greeting – Trustee Edwards

Opening Prayer / Reading – Trustee Bailey

Trustee Bailey read an inspirational quote regarding positive attitudes and positive outlooks on life.

Condolences

Trustee MacNeil, Chair, reported that condolences were sent on behalf of the Board to the following: April King, Vice Principal at Erin DHS, on the loss of her partner.

Good News

Director of Education Rogers highlighted the Good News as follows:

Hyland Heights ES

Grade 7 and 8 students at Hyland Heights ES recently embarked on a class project to raise awareness for four causes they hold close to their hearts. After each student in Teacher Palmer's class completed a brief presentation about a cause, the class voted on four of the topics to promote through the school and community. The topics that were chosen to be the subject of this awareness project were epilepsy research, adoption awareness, farmers in India, and reducing waste through the use of reusable water bottles. To raise awareness and start conversations about these topics, the class is selling water bottles. Students planned for and designed reusable water bottles, with the goal of selling 100 water bottles. It is their hope that people in the school and community will continue learning about these important causes.

Orangeville DSS

Two groups of students at Orangeville DSS recently participated in the Canada-wide Coldest Night of the Year event, which was held on February 20, 2021. This event sees thousands of Canadians come together in their communities to walk through the cold at night in an effort to raise awareness for those who are experiencing homelessness.

The Orangeville DSS students who participated in this year's event were in the grade 12 Leadership class and the grade 10 Civics class. After exceeding their original fundraising goal, the grade 12 Leadership class raised more than \$8,000, and the grade 10 Civics classes raised more than \$3,700. The grade 12 Leadership class placed first out of all the participating teams in Orangeville and the donations from the school placed them second out of all schools in Canada. At the end of the fundraiser, Orangeville DSS had raised a combined total of \$11,930 for the Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser. Great job to all those involved!

Centre Wellington DHS

Two students at Centre Wellington DHS were recently named recipients of the NCWIT Aspirations in Computing award. This award honours students in grades 9 to 12 for their computing-related achievements, who identify as women, gender-queer or non-binary. At Centre Wellington DHS, students Louise and Emily were recently announced as winners of this award. Emily and Louise are not the only winners of computing awards at the school; their teacher Tim King is also being recognized as a recipient of the NCWIT Educator Award. This award is given to educators who have a strong commitment to diversity in Computer Science education. Congratulations Tim, Emily and Louise!

Eramosa PS

Grade 6 students at Eramosa PS recently took a class initiative and turned it into a school-wide event. In an effort to spread kindness throughout the school, students in Nicole Lenselink-Crawford's grade 6 class have been spending the year calling attention to the acts of kindness they see in their classroom. The students created announcements and posters to share with each classroom. Each classroom was given a "Shout-Out" box supplied with tickets. Students wrote down the random acts of kindness they saw throughout the week and put them in the box. At the end of the week, the tickets were read and celebrated in each classroom, and then posted in the hallway for all students to see. According to the teacher, "The goal of this activity was to create a safe school community event that recognizes some of the great things our students are doing each week." There is a lot of kindness to celebrate at Eramosa PS.

Norwell DSS

More than a year ago, students in the Kalan Life Skills class at Norwell DSS began a fun art project involving designing and printing their own set of linocut greeting cards. Unfortunately, as a result of last year's COVID-19 school closures, this project was never completed. However, one year later, teacher Karen Huban (who began this project) visited this art class to see what they were working on this school year and to her surprise, one student pulled out his completed linocut block from and asked if they could print his picture. Perseverance and patience allowed Norwell DSS student John to

complete this piece even though it took a year to finish. Great job, John. Thankfully, the pandemic didn't stop John from finishing the art project.

Confirmation of the Agenda

Trustee Foley moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey, 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 February 23, 2021

Trustee Topping moved, seconded by Trustee Lustgarten Evoy that the minutes of the meeting held February 23, 2021, 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 Lustgarten Evoy, 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 Ross 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

Trustee Topping moved that the minutes of the Program Committee held March 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 Continuing Education presentation be received.
4. The Grade 9 De-Streamed Math presentation be received.
5. The report PLN: 21-02 “2021/22 JK FI On-Time Application Overview” be received for information.

The motion carried.

Business Operations Committee

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the minutes of the Business Operations Committee held March 9, 2021 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Busuttil requested that item # 2 be considered separately.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that:

1. The minutes of the Trustee Climate Emergency Committee be received and considered.
3. The report entitled “Elementary Remote School Mobility” dated March 9, 2021 be received.
4. The verbal report entitled “Targeted COVID-19 Testing in Schools” dated March 9, 2021 be received.
5. Report FIN 0321-01 entitled “2021/2022 Budget Process” dated March 9, 2021 be received.
6. The report entitled “Retirement and Resignations” dated March 9, 2021 be received.

The motion carried.

In response to Trustee Busuttil’s question, it was noted that the overview of the environmental programs would be presented at a Program Committee meeting.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that a request be made to have an overview done for all Trustees of CELP, and the other environmental programs provided at Upper Grand, as well as an update on the 5 ECO portables.

The motion carried.

Special Education Advisory Committee

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

The motion carried.

Trustee Topping took the Chair for consideration of the next item.

Policy Management Committee

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

The motion carried.

Trustee Busuttil requested that item # 4 be considered separately.

Trustee MacNeil moved that:

1. Policy 519 Indigenous Education (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit) be received and released for public consultation.
2. The report "Policy Public Consultation Plan for 519 – Indigenous Education (First Nations, Métis, Inuit)" dated March 02, 2021 be received.
3. The report "Policy Public Consultation Plan for 519 – Indigenous Education (First Nations, Métis, Inuit)" dated March 02, 2021 be approved.

The motion carried.

Trustee Busuttil questioned the involvement of the community regarding Policy 314 Duties and Responsibilities of the Director of Education. In response, Trustee MacNeil advised that the work done through the search process to develop the candidate profile, and consultation done with the education community and broader community was incorporated into the work done to review and update policy 314.

Trustee MacNeil moved that:

4. Policy 314 Duties and Responsibilities of the Director of Education be approved.

The motion carried.

Trustee MacNeil returned to the Chair.

Motion of Reconsideration (motion passed from January 26, 2021 Board meeting)

Trustee MacNeil advised that the Board motion that directed the Chair to write a letter regarding criteria around school opening, was no longer applicable as schools had already opened. She requested that the motion be defeated, and noted that a motion had already been placed and carried to direct the Chair to forward an alternate letter.

Trustee Busuttil moved that the motion from January 26, 2021 be reconsidered.

The motion to reconsider carried.

Trustee Busuttil moved the motion of reconsideration that:

“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 Busuttil, Edwards, Foley, Lustgarten Evoy, MacNeil, Ross, and Topping

Nay: Nil

Absent: Nil

Unable to vote due to technical difficulties : Trustees Bailey, Bedi and Campbell

The motion of reconsideration was defeated.

Trustee Liaison for Remote Elementary and Secondary Schools

In regards to the notice of motion from February 23, 2021 Board meeting, Trustee Busuttil suggested that it would be better to have 5 Trustees represented, not two as was originally suggested, and requested that Trustees defeat the motion.

Trustee Busuttil moved that the Board appoint 2 Trustees as school liaisons, one for remote elementary school and the other for remote secondary school.

The motion was defeated.

Trustee Busuttill moved that:

1. The report entitled "Trustee Liaison Report " dated March 17, 2021, be received.
2. The Board establish three (3) Elementary Remote School Trustee Liaisons, one for Wellington, one for Dufferin and one for Guelph.
3. The Board establish two (2) Secondary Remote School Trustee Liaisons, one for Wellington-Dufferin and one for Guelph.

The motion carried.

Police Presence in Schools Task Force Report

Superintendent Van Ooteghem offered sincere thanks and respect to all involved in the work of the Police Task Force Committee. Superintendent Van Ooteghem, together with Manager of Equity and Inclusion and Diversity Joy Sammy, and Consultant Marva Wisdom provided a very detailed presentation.

The week prior to the meeting, a 151 page report entitled Police Presence in Schools Task Force Report dated March 18, 2021 was distributed to all Trustees and Senior Administration. The document included:

1. Executive summary
2. Introduction
3. Provincial overview of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program
4. Approach to research and results

Feedback from Professional groups:

- ✓ Upper Grand DSB Secondary School Administrators
 - ✓ Summary of Secondary School Administration Interviews
 - ✓ Upper Grand DSB staff presentations
 - ✓ Police Services
5. Community Consultations
 - ✓ Contextual data
 - ✓ Community Town Hall and survey
 - ✓ Student survey
 - ✓ Additional feedback received
 - ✓ Discussion of the research
 6. Summary statements from the task force committee members
 7. Recommendations from the Police Presence in Schools Task Force Committee
 8. Concluding statement
 9. Appendices, tables, charts and figures, glossary, and bibliography.

Superintendent Van Ooteghem reported that, in 2020, following the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, and the resulting worldwide protests against racism and racial injustice, the Board passed a motion which directed the Board to establish a Task Force to review police presence in Upper Grand District School Board schools.

When the Task Force began in July 2020, five police services worked within the boundaries of the Board, with three now operating within the jurisdiction of the Board; Guelph Police Service, Wellington OPP, and Dufferin OPP detachments.

Invitations to represent the community on the task force were sent to community partners and posted in local newspapers and on social media, which resulted in the receipt of 30 applications. In the selection of members, every effort was made to ensure that each member had knowledge and/or lived experience of Police in schools and that the Board's geographical diversity was equitably represented. Membership was composed of three staff, two Trustees, one student Trustee and eight community members chosen to represent community organizations and agencies from across the school district. The work of the committee was facilitated by co-chairs Superintendent of Education Van Ooteghem and consultant Marva Wisdom.

Research was required to understand Police in schools, the SRO program, and the impacts Police had and are currently having on the school community. The committee engaged in both qualitative and quantitative data collection, including presentations and discussions, meetings with police, interviews, community consultation in the form of events and surveys, and a review of relevant research. The research was representative of the racial identities and geographies of the Board.

The Task Force used an equity and human rights based approach when analyzing the data, rather than a populous approach. Equity is about focusing on the experience of marginalized communities despite the fact that their experiences are not those of the majority. Disaggregated data highlighted the identities that are often invisible, marginalized, and dismissed, and brings to light discrimination that may be hidden within a broader data set. In an equity approach to analyzing data experiences of those most impacted by a program or policy, even when those communities represent a smaller percentage of the overall population, they are centered or highlighted. This is one way in which systemic racism is identified and dismantled. In contrast, a populous approach would be based on majority, with many voices unheard or not considered. Data confirmed that police play an important role within the Board. Police provide curriculum-based presentations to both elementary and secondary students. As many of the programs had not changed over the years, it was noted that the programs needed to be reviewed. SROs should not be in schools to enforce school rules, or police the halls, although that is what the broader community perceived. Further research transpired to understand the role of police in schools, the SRO program and the impact police had/have on the school community.

After the work of the Police Presence in Schools Task Force was completed, seven recommendations were presented which provided police with some opportunities to work in schools to build relationships and foster community. Furthermore, the recommendations offered police services the opportunity to work alongside those in the education sector to eliminate practices that support bias, oppression and racism in a fully transparent and accountable and ongoing manner for all Upper Grand students, staff, families, and stakeholders. Trustees expressed thanks for the great deal of work that went into the report, the detailed presentation, and asked questions of clarification.

Trustee Busuttil advised that she intended to place a motion to defer recommendations 2 to 8 as printed on the agenda to the April 27, 2021 Board meeting, in order to gather voices from community stakeholders. In response to a question raised by Trustee Busuttil, Marva Wisdom noted that the task force was struck to focus primarily on Black, Indigenous, and other persons of colour whose populations were most impacted by inequity, and systemic racism and did not focus on special needs or gender inequalities. Superintendent Van Ooteghem clarified that the development of the vision statement and creation of a plan for the next steps were not part of the scope of work required of the task force and that once the recommendations as presented in the report were approved, next steps and future plans could be determined.

Trustee Busuttil requested that item # 1 be considered separately.

Trustee Busuttil moved that the Police Presence in Schools Task Force Report dated March 18, 2021 be received.

The motion carried.

Trustee Busuttil moved that the following motions (items 2 to 8 as printed on the agenda) be deferred to the April 27, 2021 Board Meeting.

2. The UGDSB and police services continue to deliver all foot safety patrol training (including street, driveway, and parking lot patrols) and bus patrol training.
3. As per the Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Community Protocol, the presence of police at all UGDSB schools continue when a Violent Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) is activated.
4. All police presentations be vetted using the Presentations in Schools Guidelines (updated in 2019) developed by the Student Support and Program Services department of the UGDSB.
5. All students and parents be notified in advance of all police presentations at school.
6. Staff collect feedback from students and staff on all police classroom/school presentations.

7. The School Resource Officer program in the UGDSB be discontinued.
8. Administrators collect data on all incidents that police respond to at UGDSB schools.

The motion to defer carried.

Trustee Busuttill moved that staff bring a report to the May 2021 Business Operations meeting with some thinking about the process and thinking for the next steps regarding Police Presence in schools.

The motion carried.

Monthly COVID 19 Update

Superintendent of Education Slater advised that from February to March, the COVID-19 numbers dropped and the district Provincial classification has dropped from red to orange, a step in the right direction. He reported that there were 4 outbreaks, some in the same school and some not related. Outbreak was defined as a positive case transmitted from one person to at least one other person at the site. He noted that the hub testing centres started and that the data can be found on the Ministry of Education's website. Trustees expressed thanks for the update.

Trustee Foley moved that the report entitled "Monthly COVID-19 Update" dated March 23, 2021 be received.

The motion carried.

Board Correspondence

Trustee Bailey moved that the Board Correspondence dated March 23, 2021, be received.

The motion carried.

OPSBA Update- nil report

Trustee Questions and Reports

Trustee Liaison for Remote Elementary and Secondary Schools

Further to the following motions passed earlier this evening:

"That the Board establish three (3) Elementary Remote School Trustee Liaisons, one for Wellington, one for Dufferin and one for Guelph, and that the Board establish two (2) Secondary Remote School Trustee Liaisons, one for Wellington-Dufferin and one for Guelph, Trustees volunteered as follows:

Trustee Ross volunteered as the Trustee Liaison for the Elementary Remote School for Wellington.

Trustee Topping volunteered as the Trustee Liaison for the Elementary Remote School for Dufferin.

Trustee MacNeil volunteered as the Trustee Liaison for the Elementary Remote School for Guelph.

Trustees Lustgarten Evoy and Edwards volunteered as the Trustee Liaison for the Secondary Remote School for Wellington-Dufferin. Trustee Edwards declined.

Trustee Busuttill volunteered as the Trustee liaison for the Secondary Remote School for Guelph.

Trustee Busuttill moved that:

1. Trustee Ross be named as the Trustee Liaison for the Elementary Remote School for Wellington.
2. Trustee Topping be named as the Trustee Liaison for the Elementary Remote School for Dufferin.
3. Trustee MacNeil be named as the Trustee Liaison for the Elementary Remote School for Guelph.
4. Trustee Lustgarten Evoy be named as the Trustee Liaison for the Secondary Remote School for Wellington-Dufferin.
5. Trustee Busuttill be named as the Trustee liaison for the Secondary remote school for Guelph.

The motion carried.

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) – Field Test Online

Trustee Busuttill questioned whether or not Upper Grand DSB agreed to participate in the online field test for the OSSLT. Director of Education Rogers responded that the Board did not agree to participate in the field OSSLT, because students in the remote school can not participate in the OSSLT field test. There is some uncertainty about how school opening in September will be; remote, in person, or combination, or an adapted model. Superintendent of Education Zen advised that participation would put additional stress on students and staff and suggested it was not a good time for a field test.

Dates of Future Meetings

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

Program Meeting

April 6, 2021

Business Operations
Board Meeting

April 20, 2021
April 27, 2021

The motion carried.

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

Wednesday, March 24, 2021	SAL, North Wellington, cancelled
Friday, March 26, 2021	Secondary Vice-Principal interviews, 9 a.m., Board Room
Monday, March 29, 2021	Upper Grand Learning Foundation, 5:30 p.m., virtual
Wednesday, March 31, 2021	Elementary Vice-Principal Interviews, changed to Thursday, April 1, 2021, 8:30 a.m., Board Room
Wednesday, March 31, 2021	Elementary Principal Interviews, 8:30 a.m., Board Room
Thursday, April 8, 2021	PIC event, 6:30 p.m., Boardroom, or virtual
Monday, April 19, 2021	Dufferin Joint Council Meeting, Virtual, 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 21, 2021	Safe Equitable Inclusive Schools Steering Committee 7:00 p.m., virtual
Tuesday, April 5, 2021	Negotiations Steering Committee, 5:00 p.m., virtual

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

The motion carried.

Motion to Rise and Report to the Board

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

The motion carried.

Ratification of Business

Trustee Bedi 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 Foley moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 10:04 p.m.

The motion carried.

This document is available in alternative formats upon request.