Minutes
500 Victoria Road N
Guelph, ON N1E 6K2

Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Boardroom and Microsoft Teams

Trustees: Ralf Mesenbrink (Chair), Katherine Hauser (Vice Chair), Jen Edwards, Irene Hanenberg, Martha MacNeil, Kenn Manzerolle, Robin Ross, Lynn Topping, Luke Weiler, Laurie Whyte, Brooke Hartley (Student Trustee), Julia Elmslie (Student Trustee)

Administration: Director of Education Sovran, Executive Superintendent of School Operations and Support Services McDonald, Executive Superintendent of Business Operations and Support Services Regier, Executive Officer of Human Resources Pyke, Superintendents of Education Donaldson, Hamilton, Heaslip, McCutcheon, Taha, and Zen, Communications Manager Loney, Manager Trustee Secretariat Vorkapic

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Grand District School Board was held virtually and in person on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 7:00 p.m.

1. Meeting Called to Order

Board Chair Mesenbrink presided and called the meeting to order.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Trustee Hanenberg recognized that the Board is meeting on the ancestral, treaty and title lands of two Anishinaabek Ojibwe Nations: The Michi Saagig of the Credit and the Saugeen Ojibway Nation.

Equity and Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression Commitment Statement

Trustee MacNeil highlighted the Board's commitment to equity and anti-racism/anti-oppression.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Trustee Mesenbrink amended the agenda to remove item #12.1 - Request for Leave of Absence.

RESOLUTION #23-110:

Moved by: Trustee Hauser
Seconded by: Trustee Manzerolle

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the agenda of June 13, 2023 meeting, as amended.

Carried

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

5. Confirmation of Minutes of the Board

5.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting Held May 9, 2023

RESOLUTION #23-111:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte
Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the minutes of the May 9, 2023 meeting of the board.

Carried

6. Student and Staff Recognition

Director of Education Sovran shared there are two board meetings scheduled in the month of June, and this item will be deferred to the June 27th board meeting.

7. Delegation(s) - Nil

8. Response to Delegation(s) - Nil

9. Committee Reports

9.1 Committee of The Whole – Closed

Pursuant to Section 207(2) of the *Education Act* a meeting of a committee of a board, including a committee of the whole, may be closed to the public when the subject-matter under consideration involves matters set out in 207(2)(a)-(e) of the *Education Act*.

Trustee Hauser presented the Committee of the Whole (Closed Session) report held on June 13, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM and was held in closed session as per Section 207 (2) of the Education Act. All board members were present, with regrets from Trustee Ross, and there were no declarations of conflict of interest.

RESOLUTION #23-112:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil
Seconded by: Trustee Topping

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the business of the Committee of the Whole - Closed Session of June 13, 2023.

Carried

9.2 Standing Committees

a) Policy and Priorities Committee – May 2, 2023

Trustee Ross presented the Policy and Priorities report held on May 2, 2023. Acting Chair Whyte presided the meeting and all committee members were in attendance. There were no conflicts of interest declared. Changes or recission to several policies were reviewed. Executive Superintendent McDonald provided information regarding how suspensions and expulsions are trending in Upper Grand schools, and shared prevention and awareness updates.

RESOLUTION #23-113:

Moved by: Trustee Topping
Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the Policy and Priorities Committee Report of May 2, 2023, including the following recommendations:

1. THAT the Upper Grand DSB approve the Policy Review Plan for Policy 208 – Smoke and Vape-Free Environment as amended; and

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receive revised Policy 208 – Smoke and Vape-Free Environment as amended; and

THAT the Upper Grand DSB release for public consultation revised Policy 208 – Smoke and Vape-Free Environment; and

2. THAT the Upper Grand DSB approve the Policy Review Plan for Policy 213 – Code of Conduct; and

   THAT the Upper Grand DSB approve revised Policy 213 – Code of Conduct; and

3. THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves revised Policy 315 - Privacy Protection and Information Access; and

4. THAT the Upper Grand DSB rescinds Policy 506 – Physical Activities; and

5. THAT the Upper Grand DSB rescinds Policy 513 – Alcohol and Drugs; and

6. THAT the Upper Grand DSB rescinds Policy 514 – Appropriate Dress.

Carried

b) Finance and Facilities Committee – May 16, 2023

Trustee Edwards presented the Finance and Facilities report held on May 16, 2023. Chair Edwards presided the meeting and with the exception of Trustee Manzerolle, all committee members were in attendance. There were no conflicts of interest declared. Superintendent Regier recommended an additional Finance and Facilities Committee meeting on June 6, 2023, which would provide an opportunity for more 2023-24 budget information to be shared with trustees prior to the presentation of the Draft 2023-24 Budget. 2023-24 Budget Information was shared including Enrolment Projections and a comparison of 2022-23 Budget Funding and initial draft funding projections for 2023-24.

RESOLUTION #23-114:

Moved by: Trustee Manzerolle
Seconded by: Trustee Whyte

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the Finance and Facilities Committee Report of May 16, 2023 including the following recommendation:

1. THAT the recommendation for an additional Finance and Facilities Committee meeting on June 6, 2023 be approved.

Carried

c) Governance Committee – May 30, 2023

Trustee Weiler presented the Governance Committee report held on May 30, 2023. Chair Weiler presided the meeting and all committee members were in attendance. There were no conflicts of interest declared.

Trustee Mesenbrink observed as some of these recommendations include changes or amendments to Upper Grand's procedural By-law, the motion will require 2/3 majority of trustees present and voting to pass.

RESOLUTION #23-115:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil
Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the Governance Committee Report of May 30, 2023 including the following recommendations:

1. THAT language be added to Section 4.8 of By-law No. 1 to read as follows:

   No standing committee meeting shall continue in session more than 2 hours, without an approved motion to extend the length of the meeting for up to one (1) additional hour, with a two-thirds (2/3) majority of Trustees in attendance and eligible to vote. Such motion must take place for each additional one-hour extension. The Chair of the Committee may seek the approval of the Committee in re-ordering outstanding items on the agenda if it appears that urgent business may not be considered by the Committee within the time remaining.

2. THAT By-law No. 1 Section 4.8 be amended to read as follows:

   When these dates fall on a statutory holiday, days of particular significance, during a school vacation period for students, or abut a statutory or board holiday, these meetings may be rescheduled.

3. THAT the revised Order of Business – Closed Session be appended to the current Upper Grand DSB By-law No. 1.

4. THAT staff prepare a report for the next Governance Committee meeting regarding Student Trustee elections and policies including any suggestions for possible improvement.

5. THAT Section 5.3 of By-law No. 1 be amended to reflect the language used in meetings and minutes to read as follows:

The Board shall then consider the motion: “That the Upper Grand DSB approves the business of the Committee of the Whole – Closed Session of month date, year.” and, provided such motion is passed by a majority of the Board, the transactions of the Committee of the Whole - Closed shall form the properly recorded minutes.

Carried

d) Policy and Priorities Committee – May 30, 2023

Trustee Ross presented the Policy and Priorities Committee report held on May 30, 2023. Chair Ross presided the meeting All committee members were in attendance and there were no conflicts of interest declared.

Trustee Edwards requested that item #3 Policy 501 – Out of Area and Out of District Attendance be considered separately.

The recommendations were placed, except for #3.

RESOLUTION #23-116:

Moved by: Trustee Topping
Seconded by: Trustee Ross

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the Policy and Priorities Committee Report of May 30, 2023 including the following recommendations:

1. THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves revised Policy 215 – Public Concerns; and

2. THAT the Upper Grand DSB approve the Policy Development Plan for Recruitment and Selection; and

4. THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves revised Policy 704 – Advertising Expenditures.

Carried

Trustee Edwards will not be voting in favour of the revised Policy 501 – Out of Area and out of District Attendance because of the absolute no on the busing for out of area students. She mentioned it may be easier for those living in larger cities, but in the rural areas, it is extremely difficult and has become a hardship for her constituents who are asking for out of area busing.

Trustee MacNeil asked for clarification on whether staff have the ability to provide busing for out of area students in extenuating circumstances.

Director Sovran confirmed that it is within the policies and procedures that staff can adjust and provide adequate resources for students or families in extenuating circumstances. He shared that the policy as stated is simply that a student who is granted access, who is out of area or out of district, does not qualify for transportation. The same would be true for a student who lives within the distance requirements for transportation, they would not qualify for transportation.

RESOLUTION #23-117:

Moved by: Trustee Ross
Seconded by: Trustee Topping

3. THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves revised Policy 501 – Out of Area and Out of District Attendance.

Carried

9.3 Statutory Committee

a) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) – May 10, 2023

Trustee Whyte presented the SEAC Committee report held on May 10, 2023. Chair Whyte presided the meeting and several items were highlighted:

- Blayne Primeau, Student Achievement Data Analyst, who explained the two main goals of the student census that was completed in the fall of 2022.
- Supervisor of Psychology & BCBA presented on equitable access to psycho-educational assessments.
- Mandi McCreary, Kerry's Place Autism Services shared the history and mission of the association and detailed the many services available throughout much of Ontario.
- Draft Special Education Plan 2023-2024 has been finalized. Staffing allocations will be revised for final approval in June.
- Carrie Conrad, Principal of Program-Literacy scheduled for June SEAC meeting to provide overview of literacy interventions in place in the Upper Grand DSB following the Right to Read report.

RESOLUTION #23-118:

Moved by: Trustee Manzerolle
Seconded by: Trustee Ross

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the Special Education Advisory Committee report of May 10, 2023.

Carried

9.4 Advisory Committee

a) First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Council (FNMIEC) – May 1, 2023

Trustee MacNeil presented the FNMIEC report held on May 1, 2023. Items highlighted for monitoring included:

- Presentation by Dr. Ruth Beatty on the Indigenous Knowledge and Mathematics Education projects within the board.
- Indigenous Funding changes for 2023-2024 were outlined.
- Indigenous Education Policy and Self-Identification Policy proposed to be amalgamated and a first draft will be provided for review shortly.
- Formation of two subcommittees from the Council were discussed: Island Lake Learning Centre naming and programming, and Centre Indigenous Well-Being (formerly Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Healing).
- FNMI Board Action Plan – reviewed and requesting input into what is working, and what needs to be changed.
- FNMI Staff outlined initiatives as well as future events that have been organized.

Trustee Whyte had the honour and pleasure of participating in one of the math projects, in a grade 1 classroom at John Galt PS, and expressed how inspiring it was. She encouraged other trustees to take part or observe one of these incredible programs and that Upper Grand should be very proud of this incredible program.

RESOLUTION #23-119:

Moved by: Trustee Hauser
Seconded by: Trustee Weiler

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Council (FNMIEC) Report of May 1, 2023.

Carried

9.5 External Appointments

a) Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee MacNeil presented the OPSBA report. Items highlighted were the OPSBA AGM which was held at Blue Mountain in Collingwood from June 8-10. It included the June Board of Directors meeting, as well as the Annual Organizational meeting. More details will be shared in the June 27th OPSBA report. Also, as part of the AGM event

there was the Central West Regional meeting that took place on June 10th which held elections for various regional positions.

RESOLUTION #23-120:

Moved by: Trustee Edwards
Seconded by: Trustee Whyte

THAT the OPSBA report of June 13, 2023 be received.

Carried

10. Report from Chair

Chair Mesenbrink noted that June is a busy time of year for all in the Upper Grand DSB and many are working hard to prepare for summer learning opportunities and the next school year.

Chair Mesenbrink along with several other trustees, attended the System Leaders Day and expressed how impressed he was with the displays of student achievement and performances. He also had an opportunity to share concerns about Bill 98 with Guelph MPP Mike Schreiner.

Chair Mesenbrink attended the Emergency Preparedness event at the West End Community Centre in Guelph and spoke to many emergency responders as well as students attending the event and learned about emergency response and possible careers. He also attended the College Heights SS Spring sale and purchased some student produced items, and the Special Olympics at St. James Catholic SS to celebrate with athletes from across both Upper Grand DSB and Wellington Catholic DSB.

Chair Mesenbrink joined Principal Gayfer, Executive Superintendent McDonald, and Trustees Hanenberg, Edwards, Manzerolle, and MacNeil as they toured Youth Options and New Way sites and learned more about these important sites and spoke to the students.

Chair Mesenbrink accompanied Principal Cook, Director of Education Sovran, Superintendent Heaslip, Deputy Minister of Education Naylor, and incoming Student Trustee Knight for a walkthrough of Orangeville District SS, followed by a Pride flag raising where they were joined by Trustees MacNeil and Topping, and Superintendent Taha.

Chair Mesenbrink noted other events he attended over the last month: the Career Education Council Breakfast with an opportunity to speak with educators and employers; the Waterloo Wellington Children's Groundwater festival with a chance to speak with local mayors; the Guelph Multicultural Festival and an opportunity to connect with various cultural groups; Cynthia Appiah's (Team Canada Bobsledder) powerful message of perseverance at Centre Wellington DHS.

All trustees attended several school events, performances, celebrations, school council meetings, and family fun nights as there is always an opportunity to see the wonderful

accomplishments of Upper Grand students and the product of hard work by both students and staff.

Chair Mesenbrink shared a card sent to him from a student and expressed that it is a wonderful reminder of the impact actions have on the wellbeing of Upper Grand students.

> "Thank you for taking the time to visit our school. It was great to see so many important people visit. Thank you for helping make student voice heard. Students need to feel like our voice is being heard and that we can create change in our school and the board. Thank you for showing up at the Pride flag raising, it helped to show us that we are all being seen at a board level."

Chair Mesenbrink asked that everyone take a silent moment to reflect with compassion and send strength to all those who have suffered loss in their personal lives, across all Upper Grand schools, and in the community.

11. Report from Director

Director of Education Sovran addressed the rise that is being seen in intolerant and hate-related encounters that Upper Grand students and staff have experienced, as they uphold Upper Grand's commitment as a publicly funded school board to human rights, inclusion, and anti-oppression work. There were two months when these encounters increased in volume and escalated in intensity; February and June. Upper Grand DSB celebrates Black Heritage, Black Brilliance and Black Futures Month in February and June is when Pride Month is celebrated. The encounters with staff included phone calls, emails, letters, social media, and face-to-face. Director Sovran restated Upper Grand's collective responsibility to identify and describe racism and oppression, and then work to dismantle it. This work includes celebrating and supporting Upper Grand's diverse students, staff, and communities and pushing back against intolerant and hateful acts, both overt and veiled ones. Director Sovran expressed that Upper Grand DSB remains dedicated to building understanding, safety, inclusion, and joy of 2SLGBTQIA+ identity into all Upper Grand's school and work communities as part of the board's commitment to disrupting systemic oppression and hate in all its forms. He thanked the thousands of full-time, part-time, and occasional staff, for their care and support.

12. Other Business – Nil

13. Correspondence – Nil

14. Information

Trustee Edwards expressed how grateful she is for all Upper Grand facilities to have HEPA filters in every learning space as air quality will continue to be important as climate change continues.

Trustee Edwards shared how glad she was to have met the people working at Youth Options and to see the outstanding care they provided to the students.

15. Adjournment

RESOLUTION #23-121:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil
Seconded by: Trustee Whyte

THAT the Upper Grand DSB adjourns at 7:40 p.m.

Carried

This document is available in alternative formats upon request.