



Minutes
500 Victoria Road N
Guelph, ON
N1E 6K2

Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 12, 2023 • 7:00 p.m.

Boardroom and Microsoft Teams

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

Absent: Kenn Manzerolle

Administration: Director of Education Sovran, Executive Superintendent of School Services McDonald, Executive Superintendent of Business Services Regier, Superintendent of People, Leadership and Culture Pyke, Superintendents of Education Blair, Donaldson, Hamilton, Heaslip, McCutcheon, Taha, and Zen, Human Rights and Equity Advisor Ralph, Communications and Public Relations 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, September 12, 2023, in the Boardroom 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

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

3. Approval of the Agenda

RESOLUTION #23-159:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte
Seconded by: Trustee Ross

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the agenda of September 12, 2023, as printed.

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 June 27, 2023

RESOLUTION #23-160:

Moved by: Trustee Hanenberg
Seconded by: Trustee Topping

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board approves the minutes of the June 27, 2023 meeting of the board.

Carried

6. Delegation(s) - Nil

7. Response to Delegation(s) -Nil

8. Committee Reports

8.1 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 September 12, 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 Manzerolle, and there were no declarations of conflict of interest.

RESOLUTION #23-161:

Moved by: Trustee Edwards
Seconded by: Trustee Ross

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the business of the Committee of the Whole – Closed Session of September 12, 2023.

Carried

Trustee Hauser shared one item from the Committee of the Whole - Closed Session to bring forward to the Board as a separate motion. Trustee Manzerolle who represents the town of Orangeville had submitted a letter of resignation.

RESOLUTION #23-162:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte
Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the resignation of Trustee Manzerolle effective September 12, 2023.

Carried

Director Sovran thanked Trustee Manzerolle for his service to the students, staff, and communities representing the town of Orangeville and Upper Grand DSB. Manager - Trustee Secretariat Vorkapic outlined that the Education Act states that the Board shall appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy within 90 days after the office becomes vacant, or a by-election

shall be held. The Board will need to make that decision of which direction they will take to fill the vacancy. Staff also recommended that the Chair of the Board be available to the constituents of the town of Orangeville during this vacancy.

RESOLUTION #23-163:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil
Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Secretary of the Board prepare a report for the September 26, 2023 Board Meeting, to provide information including what methods both the Upper Grand DSB and other boards have historically used to fill vacancies; information on the by-election process including potential cost; voter turnout in Orangeville in the past three municipal elections; voter turnout in recent by elections for other school boards; information on appointment processes used to fill vacancies at Upper Grand DSB and other boards; and the legislative, policy, and other considerations including timelines for each process.

Carried

9. Report from Chair

Chair Mesenbrink hoped the start of the school year has gone well for all. He welcomed new Student Trustee Paige Knight and returning Student Trustee Brooke Hartley and extended a warm welcome to all new staff across the board, and to the new students and their families.

Chair Mesenbrink thanked the Shelburne Town Council for the invitations to trustees and staff to present the Draft LTAP. He attended several community events including the Muslim Society of Guelph's event and joined Trustees MacNeil and Whyte at the FASD Awareness Day event in Guelph.

Chair Mesenbrink shared that at every Upper Grand board meeting begins with a land acknowledgement and an equity statement. He expressed these are not empty words, but are the Board's commitments, as well as a reminder for everyone to reflect on individual roles in supporting equity and sovereignty.

Chair Mesenbrink acknowledged the UGDSB Board of Trustees have spent much energy and time developing the MYP with input from communities to ensure that it is reflective of their diverse needs. He informed the MYP was approved by the previous board and a key component of that plan is equity, equity of outcomes and opportunities, and that this is an overriding consideration during the development and review of all Upper Grand policies and procedures. The MYP and the board's

policies are grounded in legislation, in the Ontario Human Rights Code, and most importantly grounded in right action to support all Upper Grand students.

Chair Mesenbrink wished all the families, students, and staff a productive, safe, and engaging learning experience this school year. He thanked Trustee Manzerolle for his work with Upper Grand DSB and for the residents of Orangeville, and for his teamwork, contributions, and valuable insights to discussions.

10. Report from Director

Director of Education Sovran welcomed and introduced two new members of the Executive Committee, Superintendent Peggy Blair, and Human Rights and Equity Advisor Alicia Ralph to the Board of Trustees.

Director Sovran welcomed and wished everyone a terrific 2023-2024 school year. Thanks were expressed to Upper Grand custodial and maintenance staff and their efforts, particularly during the summer months, to prepare all Upper Grand schools for the new school year.

Trustee Hauser took the Chair for the consideration of the next agenda item.

11. Other Business

11.1 Ontario Public School Boards' Association 2023-24 Membership Fees

Trustee Mesenbrink presented the OPSBA 2023-24 Membership Fees report. OPSBA collects fees from English public school boards, and school authorities. These funds allow OPSBA to serve those member boards through advocacy for public education, research, professional development, networking, and negotiating and supporting collective agreements.

RESOLUTION #23-164:

Moved by: Trustee Hanenberg
Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) 2023-2024 membership fees of \$72,984.00 (plus HST).

Carried

Trustee Mesenbrink returned to the Chair.

12. Correspondence

12.1 Correspondence from the Waterloo DSB regarding Special Incidence Portion Claim Funding

RESOLUTION #23-165:

Moved by: Trustee Ross

Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the correspondence from Waterloo DSB regarding Special Incidence Portion Claim Funding dated May 11, 2023.

Carried

12.2 Correspondence from the Simcoe County DSB regarding Special Incidence Portion Claim Funding

RESOLUTION #23-166:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte

Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the correspondences from Simcoe County DSB regarding Special Incidence Portion Claim Funding dated June 26, 2023.

Carried

12.3 Correspondence from the Toronto Youth Cabinet regarding Rising Food Insecurity

RESOLUTION #23-167:

Moved by: Trustee Hauser

Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the correspondences from Toronto Youth Cabinet regarding Rising Food Insecurity dated May 24, 2023.

Carried

12.4 Correspondence from the Toronto Youth Cabinet regarding Student Mental Health Crisis

RESOLUTION #23-168:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil

Seconded by: Trustee Whyte

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the correspondences from Toronto Youth Cabinet regarding Student Mental Health Crisis dated April 24, 2023.

Carried

13. Information

14. Adjournment

RESOLUTION #23-169:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil

Seconded by: Trustee Whyte

THAT the Upper Grand DSB adjourns at 7:23 p.m.

Carried

This document is available in alternative formats upon request.