

Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 26, 2023
Boardroom and Microsoft Teams

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

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

3. Approval of the Agenda

RESOLUTION #23-175:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte

Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the agenda of September 26, 2023 meeting, 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 September 12, 2023

RESOLUTION #23-176:

Moved by: Trustee Topping

Seconded by: Trustee Whyte

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the minutes of the September 12, 2023 meeting of the board.

Carried

6. Student and Staff Recognition

Director of Education Sovran provided some highlights and good news items that took place across Upper Grand DSB since the last board meeting.

John F. Ross Teacher Wins 2023 Mike Elrick Environmental Leadership Award

Congratulations to Jenny McGregor, a teacher at John F. Ross CVI, for being named the 2023 recipient of the Mike Elrick Environmental Leadership Award. This award goes to staff and volunteers who have demonstrated environmental leadership within their school community and within the school board. Jenny McGregor spearheaded and participated in many green initiatives at John F. Ross CVI empowering students and staff with the responsibility to ensure a greener and more sustainable future in their school community.

Guelph CVI IB Student Graduates with Perfect Score

Congratulations to Emmy L. from Guelph CVI, who is the second Guelph CVI International Baccalaureate student to earn 45 points in the six years that Guelph CVI has been authorized by the IB World School. Emmy will be studying Humanities and Sciences at the National University of Singapore, where her tuition and housing will be paid through a scholarship, thanks to her perfect score in the IB Diploma.

Princess Margaret PS Students Donate to the Food Bank During 1st Week of School

Princess Margaret PS and their garden club have been busy at the beginning of the school year and their efforts in harvesting food for the Orangeville Food Bank. For seven years, Princess Margaret PS has been operating the Nurturing Hands Community Learning Garden, which has 12 garden beds. Three of the garden beds are grown for the school, one is grown for the Orangeville Food Bank and the remaining eight garden beds are grown by various community members who have children that attend the school. Another great example of giving back and participating as a community.

Upper Grand's Land Based and Indigenous Education Centre

Students at Island Lake PS made their first visit of the year to the Upper Grand's Land-Based and Indigenous Education Centre at Island Lake Conservation Area. This is an effort by many staff, and it has really begun to be utilized this fall. Students learn about local Indigenous culture and more information can be found on the Upper Grand DSB website.

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 September 26, 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 #23-177:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil

Seconded by: Trustee Weiler

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the business of the Committee of the Whole -Closed Session of September 26, 2023.

Carried

9.2 Statutory Committee

a) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) – September 13, 2023

The Special Education Advisory Committee held a hybrid meeting on September 15th. Chair Whyte presided the meeting and highlighted the following key items: Reports and information around the transition components and school supports that were offered over the summer; Updates on the Right to Read program and a new program called Project

SEARCH; and developing a data sharing approach in relation to special education interventions in the year ahead.

RESOLUTION #23-178:

Moved by: Trustee Topping

Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the Special Education Advisory Committee report of September 13, 2023.

Carried

9.3 Student Trustees

(a) Student Trustees and Student Senate Report – September 26, 2023

Student Trustees Paige Knight and Brooke Hartley introduced themselves and presented the Student Trustee and Student Senate Report. Highlights from the 2023 System Leaders Meeting at the Hockley Valley Resort in Mono were shared. They also learned about the new Upper Grand DSB logo as well as the new Innovation Lab in Orangeville. Both Student Trustees expressed they are excited to hear from the different schools across the board and what they have done to start the school year off right.

RESOLUTION #23-179:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil

Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the Student Trustees and Student Senate report of September 26, 2023.

Carried

10. Report from Chair

Chair Mesenbrink reiterated his message that Upper Grand DSB is committed to equity, evidenced by the board's MYP, grounded in legislation, and the Ontario Human Rights

Code. Every student and staff must feel welcome and safe, able to be their authentic self to reach their fullest potential. Thanks were expressed to all staff for keeping the students safe, feeling welcomed and valued.

Chair Mesenbrink shared two events he attended recently. The first event was the International Ploughing Match in Bowling Green, Dufferin County. This was a learning experience for all - learning about local history, where food and agricultural products come from, and career opportunities. He acknowledged Trustee Topping's involvement with the education committee of the IPM. The second event, Chair Mesenbrink attended the Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society's Any Which Way You Can-A-Thon in Waterloo Park. The joy, celebration and energy from children and parents were heartwarming to witness.

Chair Mesenbrink referenced his orange shirt and informed that this week Upper Grand DSB commemorated National Truth and Reconciliation Week. He expressed it is a time to reflect and learn more about the rich history, cultures, and languages of Canada's Indigenous nations, and the lasting multi-generational impact of residential schools and other policies.

11. Report from Director

Director of Education Sovran highlighted that through his school visits in the past few weeks, he witnessed the actions of staff, who ensured that each student felt welcomed and supported. Director Sovran highlighted the efforts of Upper Grand staff across the entire district, as they showed incredible support for the students. For creating spaces that are safe, supportive, and where everyone knows they belong and that they are welcomed for who they are and how they wish and choose to express themselves.

12. Other Business

12.1 Trustee Vacancy

The Upper Grand DSB, approved the resignation of Kenn Manzerolle effective September 12, 2023. The vacant office has a remaining term left until November 14, 2026, and the Chair of the Board has taken responsibility for the Town of Orangeville and its communities during the vacancy. Director of Education Sovran highlighted legislative requirements, timing, various process considerations, and financial implications to the Board.

Trustee Weiler asked clarification regarding the timing of a by-election. Director Sovran confirmed the by-election would need to occur between December 11, 2023 - January 10, 2024, as per discussions with the Town Clerk.

Trustee Hauser commented that the months of December and January would not be good timing for an election. She mentioned voter turnout has been declining over the years, engagement would be limited, and noted the high cost of a by-election.

RESOLUTION #23-180:

Moved by: Trustee Edwards

Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approve the trustee vacancy for the Town of Orangeville be filled by the appointment process.

Trustee MacNeil asked if the motion could be amended to indicate which appointment process to follow.

Moved by: Trustee Edwards

Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Upper Grand DSB amend the previous motion to include the use of an application process for the trustee appointment to read as follows:

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approve the trustee vacancy for the Town of Orangeville be filled by the appointment process **with applications**.

Carried

Trustee Topping asked if this would be advertised for the public of Orangeville. Trustee Mesenbrink indicated it would be part of the next steps.

Trustee Hanenberg inquired about the timing as the Organizational meeting is in November and members would be appointed to committees. Trustee Mesenbrink

noted several meetings would be held before then, and there will be time to work out the details around the process.

Trustee Weiler expressed his initial instinct is to support an election but realizes that there are several circumstances such as cost, timing, and low voter turnout, not to choose that option in this instance.

RESOLUTION #23-181:

Moved by: Trustee Edwards
Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approve the trustee vacancy for the Town of Orangeville be filled by the appointment process with applications.

Carried as Amended

RESOLUTION #23-182:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte
Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Upper Grand DSB use our committee appointment process outlined in our By-law as a guide;

THAT an Ad Hoc Committee of three to five trustees be struck to develop a detailed appointment process with timelines to fill the vacancy of trustee to represent the Town of Orangeville; and

THAT a report be brought with recommendations to the Board at the October 24th board meeting.

Trustee Hanenberg asked whether five trustees would be too many since that would be more than half of the current trustees. An amendment to the motion was placed.

Moved by: Trustee Hanenberg
Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the previous motion be amended by changing the membership of the Ad Hoc Committee to three to four trustees, to read as follows:

THAT Upper Grand DSB use our committee appointment process outlined in our By-laws as a guide, and that an Ad Hoc Committee of three to ~~five~~ **four** trustees be struck to develop a detailed appointment process with timelines to fill the vacancy of trustee to represent the Town of Orangeville and that a report be brought with recommendations to the Board at the October 24th board meeting.

Carried

RESOLUTION #23-183:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte
Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Upper Grand DSB use our committee appointment process outlined in our By-laws as a guide, and that an Ad Hoc Committee of three to four trustees be struck to develop a detailed appointment process with timelines to fill the trustee vacancy to represent the Town of Orangeville and that a report be brought with recommendations to the Board at the October 24th board meeting.

Carried as Amended

Trustee Mesenbrink indicated that volunteers were needed for the Trustee Vacancy Ad Hoc Committee. This committee would meet once or twice in order to have a report ready for the October 24th board meeting. He reminded the public that all trustees can attend and ask questions at this committee meeting and that the Chair is an ex-officio member of all committees.

Trustees Topping, Hauser, Edwards, and MacNeil volunteered for this Ad Hoc committee.

RESOLUTION #23-184:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte
Seconded by: Trustee Topping

THAT the Upper Grand DSB close nominations for the Ad Hoc Committee.

Carried

RESOLUTION #23-185:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte
Seconded by: Trustee Hanenberg

THAT the Upper Grand DSB appoint Trustees Topping, Hauser, Edwards, and MacNeil to an Ad Hoc Committee and to present a report at the October 24th board meeting.

Carried

The Board proceeded to the election of the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee. Chair Mesenbrink called for nominations for the position of Chair.

Trustee MacNeil nominated Trustee Topping as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee. Trustee Topping agreed to stand as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee.

RESOLUTION #23-186:

Moved by: Trustee Hauser
Seconded by: Trustee Whyte

THAT the Upper Grand DSB close nominations for the Ad Hoc Committee.

Carried

RESOLUTION #23-187:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil
Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Upper Grand DSB appoint Trustee Topping as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Carried

12.2 SEAC Nomination Letter- Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society

RESOLUTION #23-188:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte
Seconded by: Trustee Topping

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves Amber Barens as the representative for Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society to the Special Education Advisory Committee.

Carried

12.3 SEAC Nomination Letter- Inclusion Action Ontario

RESOLUTION #23-189:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte
Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves Melody Dekorte as the representative for Inclusion Action in Ontario to the Special Education Advisory Committee.

Carried

13. Correspondence

13.1 Correspondence from the Thames Valley DSB-GSN Insufficiencies

13.2 Correspondence from the Thames Valley DSB–Special Education Shortfalls

RESOLUTION #23-190:

Moved by: Trustee Hanenberg

Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives all correspondences.

Carried

RESOLUTION #23-191:

Moved by: Trustee Weiler

Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Upper Grand DSB endorse the Toronto Youth Cabinet’s letters received at the September 12, 2023 board meeting, specifically the joint statements regarding rising food insecurity and student mental health crisis, and request that the Chair communicate this endorsement to the Toronto Youth Cabinet.

Carried

14. Information – Nil

15. Adjournment

RESOLUTION #23-192:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil

Seconded by: Trustee Whyte

THAT the Upper Grand DSB adjourns at 7:46 p.m.

Carried

This document is available in alternative formats upon request.