

Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 24, 2023
Boardroom and Microsoft Teams

- Trustees: Ralf Mesenbrink (Chair), Katherine Hauser (Vice Chair), Jen Edwards, Irene Hanenberg, Martha MacNeil, Robin Ross, Lynn Topping, Laurie Whyte, Brooke Hartley (Student Trustee), Paige Knight (Student Trustee)
- Absent: Luke Weiler
- 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 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, October 24, 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

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

3. Approval of the AgendaRESOLUTION #23-200:

Moved by: Trustee Topping

Seconded by: Trustee Whyte

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the agenda of October 24, 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 26, 2023**RESOLUTION #23-201:

Moved by: Trustee Hauser

Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the minutes of the September 26, 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.

Upper Grand DSB Teacher Receives Earth Steward Teacher Award

On September 28, 2023, Upper Grand teacher Cathy Dykstra was honoured by Learning for a Sustainable Future as one of the 2023 runners up of the Susan Langley's Earth Steward Teacher Award. Each year the award is presented to teachers for their contributions to sustainability in Canadian schools. Cathy Dykstra has been a dedicated teacher, currently a grade 5 teacher at Kortright Hills PS, and she is passionately teaching her students about the environment and future of our planet.

Upper Grand DSB Students Soar to New Heights with SSEP Participation

The Upper Grand DSB is making waves in the world of education by participating in the renowned Student Spaceflight Experiments Program. This year, approximately 300 students from Rickson Ridge PS, Guelph Lake PS, Maryborough PS, and Alma PS, have eagerly embraced this incredible opportunity to conduct experiments destined for outer space. The students have been working at great lengths to create experiment proposals that will engage astronauts aboard the International Space Station. These experiments cover a wide range of scientific disciplines including biology, physics, chemistry, environmental science, and microgravity conditions.

SHSM Students Participate in Wilderness Survival Course

Students in the Specialist High Skills Major program at Guelph CVI learned new survival skills and then put them to the test with a variety of outdoor activities that highlighted the importance of nature, land acknowledgement, and wilderness survival. For the day, these students attended the Barber Scout Camp in Collaboration with the Community Environment Leadership Program (CELP). By the end of the program the students were presented with a Wilderness Survival Certificate.

Upper Grand Students Participate in Regional Cross Country Meet

Congratulations to all the students who participated at the regional cross country meet at Centre Wellington DHS. Students as young as 6 participated in a variety of races, with grades 1 & 2 running 1 km, grades 3 & 4 running 1.5 km, and grades 5 & 6 running 2 km. A special thanks to all staff and volunteers for making this event possible.

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 October 24, 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. Trustee

Weiler sent his regrets, and all remaining board members were present. There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

RESOLUTION #23-202:

Moved by: Trustee Topping

Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the business of the Committee of the Whole -Closed Session of October 24, 2023.

Carried

9.2 Standing Committees

a) Finance and Facilities Committee – September 19, 2023

The Finance and Facilities Committee held a hybrid meeting on September 19. Chair Edwards presided the meeting and all members were present. There were no conflicts of interest. The Capital Priorities report was presented for consideration and discussion took place regarding the process for school boards to submit business cases to the Ministry of Education requesting funds for additions and/or new schools. A transportation update was also provided.

RESOLUTION #23-203:

Moved by: Trustee Topping

Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the Finance and Facilities Committee report of September 19, 2023, including the following recommendation:

THAT Staff be directed to prepare and submit business case(s) under the Capital Priorities Program.

Carried

b) Policy and Priorities Committee – October 3, 2023

The Policy and Priorities Committee held a hybrid meeting on October. Chair Ross presided the meeting and all members were in attendance. There were no conflicts of interest declared.

RESOLUTION #23-204:

Moved by: Trustee Hauser

Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the Policy and Priorities Committee report of October 3, 2023, including the following recommendations:

1. THAT the Upper Grand District School Board approve the Policy Review Plan for Policy 200 – Community Use of Schools;

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board receive Policy 200 – Community Use of Schools; and

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board release for public consultation Policy 200 – Community Use of Schools.

2. THAT the Upper Grand District School Board approve Policy 208 – Smoke and Vape-Free Environment.

3. THAT the Upper Grand District School Board approve the Policy Review Plan for Policy 317 – Fees for Learning Materials and Activities;

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board receive Policy 317 – Student Fees; and

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board release for public consultation Policy 317 – Student Fees.

4. THAT the Upper Grand District School Board receive Policy 420 – Recruitment and Selection; and

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board release for public consultation Policy 420 – Recruitment and Selection.

5. THAT the Upper Grand District School Board approve the Policy Review Plan for Policy 519 – Indigenous Education (First Nation, Métis, Inuit);

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board receive Policy 519 – First Nation, Métis, Inuit Self-Identification and Education; and

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board release for public consultation Policy 519 – First Nation, Métis, Inuit Self-Identification and Education.

Carried

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

9.3 Statutory Committees

a) Audit Committee – September 19, 2023

The Audit Committee held a hybrid meeting on September 19. Chair Mesenbrink presided the meeting and all members were in attendance, with the exception of Debbie Speight. Speight who sent regrets. A verbal update on ongoing work from external auditor KPMG was provided, the Regional Internal Audit team provided a status report, and year to date Financial Position as of August 31, 2023 was presented. The next update is to take place at the November 21, 2023 Audit Committee meeting with the presentation of the year-end financial statements.

RESOLUTION #23-205:

Moved by: Trustee Topping

Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the Audit Committee report of September 19, 2023 be received.

Carried

Trustee Mesenbrink returned to the Chair.

b) Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) – September 18, 2023

Trustee MacNeil presented the Parent Involvement Committee report on behalf of Co-Chairs Gillian Prieur and Barb White. The Committee met on September 18 and it was the first meeting of the year. Items highlighted were: Director's Update on progress towards Vision 2026; a presentation highlighting The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act 2023, including the requirement for school boards to share their Math Action Plan; committee membership sign up and elections, PIC Fall Event; future presentation topics, trustee activities for the new school year, and the search for a trustee to fill the vacancy in Orangeville.

RESOLUTION #23-206:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte

Seconded by: Trustee Topping

THAT the Parent Involvement Committee report of September 18, 2023 be received.

Carried

c) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) – October 11, 2023

The Special Education Advisory Committee held a hybrid meeting and met on October 11. Chair Whyte presided the meeting and highlighted the following key items: Academic Achievement Data Analyst Primeau presented the suspension, expulsion and exclusion data from 2022-23 school year through the Special Education lens; presentation on the Wellness Works and the focus on mentally healthy return to school; an update was shared on the Literacy Intervention Program; discussions regarding changes in areas of the Special Education Plan 2023-24 and recommendations to review Alternative and Augmentative Communication strategies and matrix.

RESOLUTION #23-207:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil

Seconded by: Trustee Topping

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee report of October 11, 2023 be received.

Carried

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

Student Trustees Paige Knight and Brooke Hartley presented the Student Trustees and Student Senate report. Highlights from the first Student Senate meeting, which took place on September 26th were shared. The Student Senate is looking forward to the next meeting where Mental Health and Addictions Lead Marino will be presenting mental health resources and methods for Student Senators to share back with their schools. An update on Board Policy 317 – Fees for Learning Materials and Activities, has been requested by the Student Senators.

RESOLUTION #23-208:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte

Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

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

Carried

9.5 Ad Hoc Committee

a) Trustee Vacancy Ad Hoc Committee – October 16, 2023

The Trustee Vacancy Ad Hoc Committee held a virtual meeting on October 16th and 17. Chair Topping presided the meeting, all committee members were in attendance, and there were no conflicts of interest declared. Discussion was held regarding the application process and the application process was examined at other school boards within Ontario. It was noted that the board should take efforts to use non-traditional ways of advertising to the community to reach individuals who may not already be connected to the board. The cost of advertising was taken into consideration. Trustee Ross highlighted the importance of ensuring that submissions be received in a variety of formats to accommodate all. Trustee Topping shared a timeline for the application process.

RESOLUTION #23-209:

Moved by: Trustee Hauser

Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the Trustee Vacancy Ad Hoc Committee report of October 16, 2023, including the following recommendations:

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the trustee application process; and

THAT staff be directed to implement the trustee application process for the Town of Orangeville.

Carried

9.6 External Appointment

a) Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee MacNeil presented the OPSBA report. The Ontario Public School Boards Association Board of directors held a meeting in Toronto on September 22nd and 23rd. Highlights included: a special presentation from Jon Procter of the Ontario e-learning Consortium for an information session; recognition for trustees who had recently passed; discussion of Bill 98, the Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act of 2023; upcoming consultation opportunities; OPSBA Brand Refresh; OPSBA Advocacy Day 2023; Central West Regional Meeting on November 4; and OPSBA Leaders Academy Workshops.

RESOLUTION #23-210:

Moved by: Trustee Topping

Seconded by: Trustee Whyte

THAT the OPSBA report of October 24, 2023 be received.

Carried

10. Report from Chair

Trustee Mesenbrink thanked his colleagues for the hard work and thought, that led to the approval this evening of the Trustee Vacancy Report. He encouraged public school supporters who are interested in public education, and working on the board's implementation of the MYP, especially those in the Orangeville area, to consider completing an application.

Trustee Mesenbrink attended several events on behalf of the board. On October 1, he attended an event organized by Parks Canada in Fergus. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada unveiled a plaque commemorating the contributions to the Fergus area of Richard Pierpoint, an early leader in Canada's Black community who was designated as a national historic person.

On October 5, Trustee Mesenbrink and Human Rights Advisor Ralph met with members of the Muslim Society of Guelph to continue dialogue about human rights and equity across the Upper Grand DSB.

On October 16 he joined Director Sovran at the Frank Hasenfratz Centre for Excellence in Manufacturing to celebrate 12 exceptional women in STEM, at the See it Be it STEM it Event.

Trustee Mesenbrink shared he attended a number of fund-raising events, at his own cost, where he had the opportunity to talk to residents and politicians about the Upper Grand DSB, and to advocate for public education.

Trustee Mesenbrink closed by acknowledging the recent world events in the middle east, which impacts students and families across Upper Grand. He reminded parents and students that several support resources have been posted on the board's website. Upper Grand continues to support safe and welcoming environments across Upper Grand DSB, and he ensured that students and staff well being remains a core priority.

11. Report from Director

Director of Education Sovran highlighted two items this evening. Director Sovran expressed that we all have a responsibility to speak up when we hear harmful language or discriminatory practices when they are used in educational settings. The board's equity and communications team have been collaborating on developing a resource that

will be distributed into Upper Grand schools and across the system, which will explain what harmful language and gestures look like, sound like, and how we can all contribute to stopping them and reporting them.

Earlier this month, results from the provinces 2022-23 EQAO assessment were released. Director Sovran noted that the performance results for Upper Grand DSB students in grades 3, 6, and 9 are posted on the Upper Grand website along with the results for their peers across the province. Results show that at the grade 6 level, many Upper Grand students performed at or above the provincial level. The results also confirmed the board's data, which indicated a need to continue to focus on improving skills and literacy in the early years, as well as math overall. The board's math action plan will complement the efforts started last year in reading, leveraging the multi-year investments approved in the June budget, that dedicate additional focused resources for student learning.

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

12. Other Business

12.1 Organizational Meeting

Trustee Mesenbrink shared that the *Education Act*, section 208(4) requires that a Chair be elected at the first meeting on or after the anniversary date of the date the term of office began. This current term of office began on November 15 of last year. As a regular board meeting is scheduled for November 28, the election of a Chair should or must occur at that meeting. It was also recommended that the Vice-Chair be elected at the same meeting.

Trustee Mesenbrink noted that a motion was passed this evening to approve a process to appoint a trustee to fill the vacancy in Orangeville. To allow this yet to be appointed trustee some time to become familiar with the board and to consider committee appointments, Trustee Mesenbrink recommend that the presentation of the suggested committee roster and election of committee chairs be deferred to the January 16, 2024, regular board meeting.

The Board's procedural By-law No. 1 allows committee assignments and committee chairs to continue in their roles until successors are elected.

For the timing of the Organizational meeting as described in the procedural bylaw to better comply with the *Education Act*, it was also recommended that the Governance Committee review the Act and the By-law and make recommendations to the Board.

RESOLUTION #23-211:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil

Seconded by: Trustee Hanenberg

THAT the Organizational Meeting Report be received;

THAT the Organizational Meeting for the Upper Grand District School Board be held on November 28, 2023, a regular board meeting date, and consist of the election of Board Chair and Vice-Chair;

THAT the presentation of a suggested committee roster and election of committee chairs be deferred to the January 16, 2024 Board meeting, and that the current committee membership and committee chairs positions remain unchanged until that time; and

THAT the timing and description of the Organizational Meeting, as incorporated in our current By-law No.1, be referred to the Governance Committee for recommendations to better align with the *Education Act*.

Carried

Trustee Mesenbrink returned to the Chair.

13. Correspondence

13.1 Correspondence from the City of Guelph regarding Election Financial Filings and Privacy

13.2 Correspondence from Durham DSB regarding Funding Request for the West Whitby Area and Concerns over Capital Priority Approval Process

RESOLUTION #23-212:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte

Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

THAT the correspondence be received.

Carried

Trustee Hauser asked if the correspondence from the City of Guelph regarding election financial filings and privacy could go to the Governance Committee for further discussion.

RESOLUTION #23-213:

Moved by: Trustee Hauser

Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the Upper Grand DSB refer Item 13.1 - Correspondence from the City of Guelph regarding Election Financial Filings and Privacy to the Governance Committee.

Carried

14. Information

Trustee Mesenbrink reiterated from the Ad Hoc Committee report, that the next Board meeting on November 14 will take place at Grant Evans Education Centre in Orangeville. This would create an opportunity for those individuals interested in applying for the trustee vacancy to chat with trustees and learn more about the role of a trustee. Trustee Mesenbrink also mentioned that several requests for delegation regarding a formal Boundary Review Process for Primrose for Primrose PS and Central PS will be on the agenda.

15. Adjournment

RESOLUTION #23-:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil

Seconded by: Trustee Whyte

THAT the Upper Grand DSB adjourns at 7:47 p.m.

Carried

This document is available in alternative formats upon request.