

## **Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 14, 2023**

### **Grant Evans Education Centre 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)
- 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 of Planning Ruchika, Senior Planner Imm, Manager - Trustee Secretariat Vorkapic

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Grand District School Board was held virtually and in person on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, in the Board Room at 40 Amelia Street, Orangeville, 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 Paige Knight 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 Hauser highlighted the Board's commitment to equity and anti-racism/anti-oppression.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

RESOLUTION #23-219:

Moved by: Trustee Topping

Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the agenda of November 14, 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 October 24, 2023

RESOLUTION #23-220:

Moved by: Trustee Edwards

Seconded by: Trustee Hanenberg

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the minutes of the October 24, 2023 meeting of the board.

**Carried**

**6. Student and Staff Recognition**

Director of Education Sovran acknowledged and congratulated Communications and Public Relations Manager Loney, who was awarded the Canadian Association of Communications and educations Award of excellence for the work that she led on the Upper Grand DSB's new brand identity.

**7. Delegations**

Primrose ES Boundary Review

(a) Beckie Connell

Represented a group of parents from Primrose ES who all agree that change must happen at Primrose ES regarding enrolment rates. Ms. Connell proposed

an alternate option to the boundary change for Primrose ES, which would have less of an impact on student's mental health.

- (b) **Jacqueline Clement**  
Represented a group of Primrose ES parents who understand that change must happen at Primrose ES but feel the proposed boundary changes to be premature that will result in transferring the issue from Primrose ES to Centennial Hylands ES.
- (c) **Christina Dodd**  
Parent of a Primrose ES student. Ms. Dodd proposed alternatives to splitting the boundaries. She expressed concerns regarding separating the current Primrose ES students from teachers and friends and suggested the best solution would be to hold off on the review, at least until the numbers come in from the amount of students that are projected to move into the area with the new subdivisions being built, and come up with a better solution.
- (d) **Annalea Kidd**  
Represented a group of parents from Primrose ES who all share concerns that the proposed changes do not accurately consider new enrollment or current capacity at Centennial Hylands ES, and that the changes do not offer a long-term solution to the population growth in the area. Ms. Kidd asked for a motion to temporarily delay the vote to commence the boundary review process, to consider other options, gather accurate up to date data, and to consult with the municipalities.

#### Central PS Boundary Review

- (a) **Janine Buisman Wilcox**  
Represented a group of parents from Central PS. Ms. Buisman Wilcox shared the solutions that were presented in the initial report regarding boundary reviews felt short sighted. She expressed this would negatively impact individual students, as well as the health of the school community as a whole and noted this change does not need to happen immediately for the students that are currently attending the school. She suggested a phased solution for new families moving into the neighborhood and entering the school.
- (b) **Matthew Mulhern**  
Represented a group of parents from Central PS, who are concerned of the potential consequences these boundary changes may have on their children's social and emotional wellbeing by being separated from their friends and trusted teachers. Mr. Mulhern also raised serious safety concerns regarding students crossing busy intersections that adds an additional worry for parents.

(c) Nick Walters

Parent of a current and future Central PS student. Mr. Walters expressed safety concerns with the boundary review regarding the requirement for students as young as JK to cross multiple railway lines and busy streets to walk to school.

Do to earlier technical difficulties, parts of Jacqueline Clements delegation were inaudible remotely, and a member of the public asked if she could redo her presentation.

RESOLUTION #23-221:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil

Seconded by: Trustee Whyte

THAT the Upper Grand DSB provide an opportunity to rehear Jacqueline Clements delegation.

**Carried**

**8. Response to Delegations**

Trustee Mesenbrink thanked the delegates and their dedication and concern for the students and their communities. He assured that trustees and staff would consider all input that was shared this evening, as they continue their work and prepare subsequent reports.

**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 November 14, 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 and there were no declarations of conflict of interest.

**RESOLUTION #23-222:**

Moved by: Trustee Ross

Seconded by: Trustee Whyte

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the business of the Committee of the Whole - Closed Session of November 14, 2023.

**Carried**

**9.2 Finance and Facilities Committee – October 17, 2023**

The Finance and Facilities Committee held a hybrid meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Chair Edwards presided the meeting and all members were present. There were no conflicts of interest declared. Discussion took place regarding the information presented in the Initial Report regarding the Primrose ES and Central PS Boundary Reviews. These initial reports included background information, enrolment trends and projections, goals/objectives/constraints, accommodation options and a timeline for the Boundary Review Process. In addition, the Ministry of Education Request for Capital Priorities 2023 Report was presented for consideration by the Finance and Facilities Committee, and a discussion took place regarding an update on the Guelph Board Office Renaming Committee.

**RESOLUTION #23-223:**

Moved by: Trustee Whyte

Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the Finance and Facilities Committee report of October 17, 2023.

**Carried**

To have discussion on each of the four recommendations individually, Trustee Mesenbrink separated the four recommendations.

Trustee Edwards noted the several requests by delegates this evening to delay this motion and asked what date that would be, if accommodated, as there is no date in the motion. Superintendent Regier confirmed the final report would be presented at the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting in January.

Trustee Hauser asked if the information heard this evening from the delegates would be considered for any future suggestions. Director Sovran informed that the initial report provided to trustees brings forward a recommendation to

consider a boundary review. The entire process of public consultations, engagement, and further analysis would be incorporated in the final report.

Trustee Ross asked a question of clarification regarding the boundary review process. Director Sovran confirmed that staff have brought forward a recommendation to initiate a boundary review process, in accordance with existing policy and procedures, which include options and an initial recommendation.

Trustee Weiler asked if there is any reason why the Board couldn't put a 12 month pause on this boundary review considering the concerns made by the public regarding the timing, ongoing suburban developments, and future incoming data. Director Sovran stated there is a current overcapacity situation at Primrose ES that would be further exasperated in the fall, and this is why staff have brought forward the recommendation for a need for a boundary review. The request this evening was not to delay to September but only for some months. The timeline that was put forward was because there are other decisions that need to be made when a boundary review decision is approved, such as staffing and collective agreements.

Trustee Topping summarized her understanding of the process for further clarification.

Trustee Whyte asked if there will be another opportunity for delegations at a future board meeting to gauge community response. Trustee Mesenbrink confirmed a delegation opportunity would be available at the February 13<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Trustee Weiler stressed for the public listening that if the motion is carried, it is only the beginning of a process and not the conclusion of a process. It is also not a commitment to a process with a predetermined outcome.

**RESOLUTION #23-224:**

Moved by: Trustee Edwards

Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

**Primrose ES Boundary Review - Initial Report**

1. THAT the Board approves the initiation of a boundary review process in accordance with the Board's School Boundary Review Policy 320 to review the accommodation options for Primrose ES for the 2024-25 school year.

**Carried**

Moved by: Trustee Whyte  
Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

2. THAT the Trustees adopt the schedule shown in Appendix A of report PLN: 23-19, as the proposed timeline for the Primrose ES Boundary Review process.

Trustee Whyte requested an amendment to the above motion to read as follows:

RESOLUTION #23-225:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte  
Seconded by: Trustee Ross

2. THAT the Trustees adopt the schedule shown in Appendix A of report PLN: 23-19, as the proposed timeline, **with the replacement of a Board Meeting in January for the January 23, 2023 Finance and Facilities Committee meeting as an option for delegations.**

**Carried**

RESOLUTION #23-226:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil  
Seconded by: Trustee Weiler

2. THAT the Trustees adopt the schedule shown in Appendix A of report PLN: 23-19, as the proposed timeline, with the replacement of a Board Meeting in January for the January 23, 2023 Finance and Facilities Committee meeting as an option for delegations.

**Amendment Carried**

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

Trustee Mesenbrink asked a question regarding the status of the portable at Central PS and staff clarified that the portable would remain on site.

Trustee Mesenbrink placed the following two motions to replace the motions in the report concerning Central PS. The April 16<sup>th</sup> Finance and Facilities meeting is the last meeting before June and the second last of the school year. This would allow a decision to come to board before the end of June and with the confirmation that the portable is in place.

Trustee Ross expressed the purpose of a boundary review process is to look at every single possibility and to receive more information. She shared that she does not see the benefit of delaying the boundary review and noted it could lead to greater problems later.

Trustee Mesenbrink agrees that changes need to be made at Central PS, but with confirmation that the existing permitted portable will stay, he does not see the urgency of making a move for fall 2024 based on the enrollment projections. Director Sovran shared there is a need to better understand the enrollment patterns which is different than a boundary review. This would involve time to look at various options, investigations, and collaborations with the municipality, public, and families to get a better understanding of the enrollment pressure, which has not occurred in the past at this school.

RESOLUTION #23-227:

Moved by: Trustee Mesenbrink

Seconded by: Trustee Whyte

Central PS Boundary Review - Initial Report

- ~~3. THAT the Board approves the initiation of a boundary review process in accordance with the Board's School Boundary Review Policy 320 to review the accommodation options for Central PS for the 2024-25 school year.~~
3. THAT the Upper Grand District School Board continue community consultations and information gathering but keep the status quo for school year 2024-25 and have no movement of Central PS students for the 24-25 school year, with a report to come back to the Finance and Facilities Committee no later than April 16, 2024, with recommendations for next steps.

**Carried**

RESOLUTION #23-228:

Moved by: Trustee Mesenbrink

Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

- ~~4. THAT the Trustees adopt the schedule shown in Appendix A of report PLN: 23-20, as the timeline for the Central PS Boundary Review process.~~
4. THAT a schedule of community consultation be shared with the Central PS community and involve multiple opportunities for input, using the proposed



timeline as a start to ensure the November 30 public meeting is held as a first step.

**Carried**

Trustee Mesenbrink returned to the Chair.

### **9.3 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Council (FNMIEC) – October 2, 2023**

Trustee Hanenberg presented the FNMIEC report. The First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Council held its first meeting of the school year on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. New staff members, community members, and students for the Indigenous Education Department were introduced. Highlights of the meeting included: Guest speaker Blayne Primeau presented the student census report and sought committee feedback; the Indigenous Education Policy 519 was reviewed; suggestions for renaming the Outdoor Education Centre were discussed as well as the renaming process.

#### RESOLUTION #23-229:

Moved by: Trustee Topping  
Seconded by: Trustee Ross

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Council report of October 2, 2023.

**Carried**

## **10. Report from Chair**

Trustee Mesenbrink mentioned that tonight is the final meeting of the current term, and a new Chair and Vice-Chair would be selected at the next board meeting on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Mesenbrink reflected on the many accomplishments made this past year, and work that still needs to be done. He thanked the student trustees for their leadership, for bringing student voice to the table, and for sharing reports of student leadership and concerns.

Trustee Mesenbrink shared the following highlights: a Human Rights and Equity Advisor was hired, supports provided for early literacy and mathematics beyond what the Ministry funded, and a new visual identity was adopted.

Trustee Mesenbrink listed some the challenges ahead as well as some exciting future capital projects such as the Fergus Elementary School and the South Guelph High School.

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

#### **11. Report from Director**

On behalf of staff, Director of Education Sovran thanked the trustees for their collaboration, guidance, and direction they provided during the first term of the Board of Trustees, and for putting students first when making decisions.

#### **12. Other Business**

#### **13. Correspondence**

##### **13.1 Correspondence from Township of Melancthon regarding the Primrose Elementary School Boundary Review**

##### **13.2 Correspondence from the Township of Puslinch regarding School Bus Safety**

##### RESOLUTION #23-230:

Moved by: Trustee Hauser

Seconded by: Trustee Topping

THAT the correspondence be received.

**Carried**

#### **14. Information**

Trustee Mesenbrink announced that holding the board meeting in Orangeville tonight enabled the trustees to host an open house/information session for those interested in applying to the trustee vacancy representing the town of Orangeville. He thanked those who attended and added that the application process is open until Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup> and encouraged any interested eligible persons to consider applying.

Trustee Mesenbrink thanked staff for the opportunity to tour the Grant Evans Education Centre, including the Innovation Lab, and for their work to ensure the board meeting proceeded smoothly.

**15. Adjournment**

RESOLUTION #23-231:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil

Seconded by: Trustee Whyte

THAT the Upper Grand DSB adjourns at 8:56 p.m.

**Carried**

**This document is available in alternative formats upon request.**