

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Presented to: Board of Trustees
Submitted on: November 28, 2023
Submitted by: Luke Weiler, Chair, Governance Committee
Committee Date: November 7, 2023
Report No.: GOV23-03

Members: Luke Weiler (Chair), Irene Hanenberg, Martha MacNeil, Ralph Mesenbrink

Regrets: Robin Ross

Trustees: Jen Edwards, Katherine Hauser, Lynn Topping

The Governance Committee held a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 5:00pm. Chair Weiler presided the meeting. Attendance was noted as above. There were no conflicts of interest declared.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. [Correspondence from the City of Guelph regarding Election Financial Filings and Privacy](#)

Trustee Mesenbrink outlined the context of the correspondence. Discussion was held regarding current election practices. Chair Weiler canvassed the group for feedback. Members supported removing the practice of posting personal addresses in the interest of privacy and safety. Trustee Mesenbrink highlighted the importance of feedback from voters.

The committee recommended:

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board endorse the proposal being advanced by Councilor O'Rourke regarding elections.

2. [Organizational Meeting – By-law No. 1](#)

Trustee Mesenbrink provided an overview of the requirements of holding an Organizational meeting in the *Education Act*. The committee compared how By-law No. 1 aligns with the legislative requirement. Discussion was also held regarding the timeline of committee assignments. Members reflected on allowing committee chairs to stay in their current positions until the new time. It was noted that this would allow the incoming Chair of the Board to review and present the roster in lieu of the outgoing Chair of the Board. The term 'initial meeting' will need to replace 'organizational meeting' throughout the By-Law.

The committee recommended:

- a) THAT the Upper Grand District School Board amend By-law No. 1 by replacing the requirement to hold the annual meeting during the first full week of December with the meeting on or after the anniversary of the term of office to read as follows:

4.1.2 Annual Organizational Meetings

The Annual Organizational Meetings of the Board for the second, third and fourth years of a Board's term of office shall be held **at the first board meeting on or after the anniversary date of the date the term of office began** during the first full week in each succeeding December at the Board's Head Office, unless the Board otherwise directs and notice to Members, Student Trustees and the public has been given.

At such meeting at the appointed time the Director of Education shall call the meeting to order.

- b) THAT the Upper Grand District School Board amend By-law No. 1 by replacing the requirements to complete committee assignments and election of chairs during the first full week of December and during the Annual Organizational meeting to read as follows:

4.1.6 Committee Assignments and Election of Standing Committee Chairs

In an Inaugural year the election for the Standing Committee Chairs (Section 4.8) shall occur **at a board meeting subsequent to the initial board meeting** ~~an Organizational meeting held during the first full week in each succeeding December~~ at the Board's Head Office, unless the Board otherwise Upper Grand District School Board, BY-LAW NO.1 June 2023 Page 7 of 29 directs and notice to Members, Student Trustees and the public has been given notice.

For the second, third and fourth years of a Board's term of office the election of Standing Committee Chairs shall occur **at a board meeting subsequent to the initial board meeting** ~~during the Annual Organizational Meeting following the election of Chair and Vice-Chair.~~

Prior to the **Initial Organizational Meeting**, Trustees may be asked to identify their committee assignment preferences. Based upon the Trustee preferences and balancing workload and interests, a proposed roster of committee assignments shall be presented to the Board for approval.

Once the roster of committee assignments has been approved, the election of Standing Committee Chairs shall be conducted.

Standing Committees may, at their discretion, recommend the election of a Vice-Chair of the Committee, at a subsequent Board meeting.

In the event of the Standing Committee Chair becoming vacant for any reason, a new Chair shall be elected in the same manner as before provided.

- c) THAT the Upper Grand District School Board amend By-law No. 1 by including members of standing committees to the term of office to read as follows:

4.1.7 Term of Office

The term of office for all Chair, Vice-Chair, **Members** and Standing Committee Chairs shall be for one (1) year, or until their successors are elected. There shall be no restrictions as to how many consecutive terms an individual Member may serve as an Elected Board Officer.

3. Delegations – By-law No. 1

Trustee Mesenbrink suggested striking an ad hoc committee to review the current delegation process. He noted the need to research other methods for obtaining information from the public and ensure it is an equitable process.

The committee recommended:

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board strike an Ad Hoc Committee to review the delegation process, research methods of obtaining input from the public, make recommendations on process and report back to the Governance Committee.