

**Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, December 12, 2023**  
**Boardroom and Microsoft Teams**

- Trustees: Ralf Mesenbrink (Chair), Katherine Hauser (Vice Chair), Jen Edwards, Irene Hanenberg, Alethia O’Hara-Stephenson, 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, 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, December 12, 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 Hanenberg 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 #23-274:

Moved by: Trustee Topping

Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the agenda of December 12, 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 November 28, 2023

RESOLUTION #23-275:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil

Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the minutes of the November 28, 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.

Upper Grand Students Attend Interactive Agricultural Career Fair

AgScape, the Grand River Agricultural Society (GRAS), and the Upper Grand DSB collaborated to host a day-long career fair for more than 600 students. These students rotated between 12 stations where they met and spoke with agricultural industry representatives to learn about Ontario's agriculture and agri-food sector.

Representatives from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, 4-H Ontario, Conestoga

Meats, and many more were present to run the interactive stations and to help students make real-world connections.

### Centre Wellington DHS Student Wins Hockey Championship with Team Ontario

Congratulations to Grade 12 Centre Wellington DHS student Keira, who participated in the Canadian U18 National Hockey Championships in Dawson Creek, British Columbia. Keira's team marked their sixth-consecutive gold medal win as they were victorious over a team from Quebec.

### Centre Wellington DHS Starts Coding Program for Students

December 4<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> was Canada Learning Code Week and Centre Wellington DHS implemented the "Hacker Gal" program for students who identify as girls to learn about coding and the broader tech sector. Hackergal's mission is to change the face of computer science and pave the way for a technology industry that is diverse and inclusive of girls and underrepresented groups across Canada. This is the first year that Centre Wellington DHS has run the Hackergal program led by tech and math teacher Katy Lloyd, at the suggestion of one of the students in a Grade 9 class.

### Wellington Heights SS Champions Warm Winter Wishes Initiative for Another Year

For the past 22 years, the Grade 12 Business Leadership Class at Wellington Heights SS has championed our Warm Winter Wishes charity initiative. Students have raised money to support our local elementary and secondary students, and their families who are in need. This year, the school has coordinated a variety of fundraising initiatives. Wellington Heights SS has already sent out cheques for over \$1,000 each to seven local elementary schools, and the money will also be dedicated to students at local high schools. Each school will provide gift cards from local businesses to families in need, which ensures that the money raised stays within the community to benefit the local community.

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 December 12, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and was held in closed session as per Section 207 (2) of the Education Act. All board members were present with regrets sent by Trustee Ross. There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

**RESOLUTION #23-276:**

Moved by: Trustee Whyte

Seconded by: Trustee Topping

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

**Carried**

## **9.2 Standing Committee**

### **a) Policy and Priorities Committee – December 5, 2023**

The Policy and Priorities Committee held a hybrid meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Chair Ross presided the meeting and there were no conflicts of interest declared.

Trustee Mesenbrink separated the three motions to allow a fulsome discussion on each item.

**RESOLUTION #23-277:**

Moved by: Trustee Topping

Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Policy and Priorities Committee Report of December 5, 2023 be received.

**Carried**

**RESOLUTION #23-278:**

Moved by: Trustee Hauser

Seconded by: Trustee Topping

THAT the Reimagining Alternative Education in Upper Grand DSB report, dated December 5, 2023, be received.

**Carried**

**RESOLUTION #23-279:**

Moved by: Trustee Topping

Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Reimaging Alternative Education in Upper Grand DSB report, dated December 5, 2023, be approved for action.

Trustee Whyte requested a friendly amendment stating that staff report quarterly to the Board or Policy and Priorities Committee on all grade 9 students' progress and on supports in place for those who may be at risk of not being successful in the 2024-25 and for grade 9 and 10 students on 2025-26.

**THAT the Reimaging Alternative Education in the Upper Grand DSB report, dated December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, be approved for action and that staff report quarterly to the Board or to Policy and Priorities Committee on all Grade 9 students' progress and on supports in place for those who may be at risk of not being successful in 2024-25 and for Grade 9 and 10 students for the school year 2025-26.**

**Amendment Carried**

**9.3 Advisory Committee****a) Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) – November 20, 2023**

Trustee MacNeil presented the Parent Involvement Committee Report on behalf of Co-Chairs Gillian Prieur and Barb White. The committee met on November 20<sup>th</sup> with members participating both virtually and in person. Items shared from the meeting were: a Board/Ministry report detailing information related to Ministry Funding for School Councils, supports and resources for parents related to Bullying Awareness and Prevention week, information on the WHY survey and PRO Grant Funding; an update on mental health and wellbeing initiatives in the board; discussion on parent engagement; and a reminder about the policies that are currently posted for public consultation and where they can be found on the board website.

**RESOLUTION #23-280:**

Moved by: Trustee Whyte

Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the Parent Involvement Committee Report of November 20, 2023 be received.

**Carried**

## 9.4 External Appointment

### a) Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee MacNeil presented the OPSBA report. The OPSBA Board of Directors held a meeting in Toronto on November 26, 2023. Trustee MacNeil shared highlights of the meeting which included: Labour Relations and Collective Bargaining, OPSBA Brand Refresh, Student Transportation Funding for 2024-25, GSN Consultation, Indigenous Trustees' Council (ITC), Black Trustees' Caucus (BTC), Proposed Accelerated Apprenticeships Pathway, Canadian School Boards' Association (CSBA) Congress and National Gathering on Indigenous Education, Annual Advocacy Day, and Upcoming Important Dates.

#### RESOLUTION #23-281:

Moved by: Trustee Edwards

Seconded by: Trustee Whyte

THAT the OPSBA Report of December 12, 2023 be received.

**Carried**

## 9.5 Student Trustees

### b) Student Trustees and Student Senate Report – November 28, 2023

Student Trustees Paige Knight and Brooke Hartley presented the Student Trustees and Student Senate report and highlights from the November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting were shared. Director Sovran presented updates on the Multi-Year Plan and the proposed renaming of the Guelph Board Office. Mental Health Addiction Lead Marino shared a Mental Health Moment about gratitude and discussion took place regarding the Mental Health and Me website. The Student Trustees reported that many students had positive comments about the Upper Grand DSB hoodie. Upper Grand DSB released four policies for public consultation, and this was included in the minutes that were sent out to Senators on December 1<sup>st</sup>. A Student Senate feedback section concluded the meeting.

#### RESOLUTION #23-282:

Moved by: Trustee Hauser

Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Student Trustees and Student Senate Report of November 28, 2023 be received.

**Carried**

**10. Report from Chair**

Chair Mesenbrink welcomed newly appointed Trustee Alethia O'Hara-Stephenson representing the Town of Orangeville.

Trustee Mesenbrink acknowledged that tonight is the last board meeting before the winter break and wished everyone a safe and restful holiday and all the best in the New Year.

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

**11. Report from Director**

Director Sovran presented the Director's Annual Report which reflects on the work and accomplishments as a school board for the previous school year. In keeping with Upper Grand's Multi-Year Plan, strategic priority in leading through sustainability, the Director's Annual Report is produced in digital format and can be accessed through the Upper Grand DSB website. Director Sovran acknowledged and expressed gratitude to Manager of Communications and Public Relations Loney, for her leadership in preparing the annual report.

**RESOLUTION #23-283:**

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil

Seconded by: Trustee Topping

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receive the Director's Annual Report 2022-2023.

**Carried**

Director of Education Sovran extended a warm welcome to Trustee O'Hara-Stephenson on her recent appointment.

Congratulations to Superintendent Carlo Zen who is retiring at the end of the month. Director Sovran, on behalf of the Executive Committee, staff, and students of Upper Grand DSB, expressed gratitude and thanks for his many years of service and leadership.

Director Sovran wished the Board of Trustees all the best for the holiday season and indicated that a donation will be made to the Upper Grand Learning Foundation-Equity Fund in honour of the Board of Trustees from members of executive Committee.

**12. Other Business - Nil**

**13. Correspondence**

**13.1 Correspondence from the Lambton Kent DSB regarding the recruitment and retention of staff**

**13.2 Correspondence from the Minister of Education regarding the board's request for amendments to the Education Act regarding Student Trustees**

RESOLUTION #23-284:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil

Seconded by: Trustee Topping

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives all correspondence.

**Carried**

**14. Information Items**

Trustee Edwards reminded everyone, in this season of giving, about the Upper Grand Learning Foundation which is a registered charity organization dedicated to improving educational opportunities for students within the Upper Grand DSB. Trustee Edwards outlined the many ways one can donate to the UGLF and shared that all proceeds go to help the students.

**15. Adjournment**

RESOLUTION #23-285:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil

Seconded by: Trustee Whyte

THAT the Upper Grand DSB adjourns at 7:43 p.m.

**Carried**

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