

**Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 16, 2024**  
**Boardroom and Microsoft Teams**

Trustees: Ralf Mesenbrink (Chair), Katherine Hauser (Vice Chair), Jen Edwards, Irene Hanenberg, Alethia O’Hara-Stephenson, 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, and Taha, 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, January 16, 2024, 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 MacNeil 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 Whyte highlighted the Board’s commitment to equity and anti-racism/anti-oppression.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

RESOLUTION #24-09:

Moved by: Trustee Hauser  
Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the agenda of January 16, 2024 meeting as printed.

**Carried**

**4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest.

**5. Swearing in of Trustee – Town of Orangeville**

Director Sovran restated the swearing in of Alethia O’Hara-Stephenson as Trustee, Town of Orangeville.

**6. Confirmation of Minutes of the Board**

**6.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting Held December 5, 2023**

RESOLUTION #24-10:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil  
Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the minutes of the December 5, 2023 meeting of the board.

**6.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting Held December 12, 2023**

RESOLUTION #24-11:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte  
Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

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

**Carried**

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*.

Vice Chair Hauser presented the Committee of the Whole (Closed Session) report held on January 16, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 6:04PM 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 #24-12:

Moved by: Trustee Edwards

Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the business of the Committee of the Whole - Closed Session of January 16, 2024.

**Carried**

Chair Mesenbrink advised that the Director's Performance Appraisal 2022-23 was approved in Committee of the Whole - Closed Session. Chair Mesenbrink shared several highlights of Director Sovran's leadership in the past year.

- 9.2 **Standing Committee**

- a) **Governance Committee – January 9, 2024**

The Governance Committee held a hybrid meeting on January 9. Chair Weiler presided the meeting, and all members were present. There were no conflicts of interest declared and there were no items for recommendation or monitoring.

**RESOLUTION #24-13:**

Moved by: Trustee Hauser

Seconded by: Trustee Hanenberg

THAT the Governance Committee report of January 9, 2024 be received.

**Carried**

**9.3 Advisory Committee****a) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) – December 13, 2023**

The Special Education Advisory Committee held a hybrid meeting on December 13, 2023. Chair Whyte presided the meeting and highlighted the following key items: a Safe School Data Update; a presentation on Youth Options and Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) program; summer Mental Health programs; a 10 week SERT Intervention program; College Heights SS plan; and alternative instructional approaches being used in the board.

**RESOLUTION #24-14:**

Moved by: Trustee Ross

Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee report of December 13, 2023 be received.

**Carried**

**10. Report from Chair**

Chair Mesenbrink noted that this was the Board's first meeting of 2024 and hopes that this year brings exciting things for the system as well as students, staff, and their families. He expressed many families and students are looking at the next school year, the next steps in their lives with excitement and trepidation and wished everyone the best as they make choices and decisions throughout this year.

Chair Mesenbrink recognized that secondary school students are heading into exam time and realizes it can be a stressful time. He acknowledged that Student Senate and Trustees have advocated in the past for support around exam time and reminded students that supports are available to access if needed.

Chair 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 of Education Sovran echoed Chair Mesenbrink's comments regarding secondary students who are approaching semester one final exams, and reinforced that supports are available. Director Sovran thanked Trustees for their earlier comments regarding the Director's Performance Appraisal and highlighted that it was the leadership and effort of an entire team.

Trustee Hauser took the Chair for the next agenda item.

## 12. Other Business

### 12.1 Trustee Committee Membership 2023-24

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

Chair Mesenbrink proposed one amendment, that Trustee Weiler be appointed to the Delegation Process Ad Hoc Committee struck on November 28, 2023.

#### RESOLUTION #24-15:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte

Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Trustee Committee Membership 2023-24 Report be received; and

THAT the proposed amended Roster of Committee Assignments be approved;  
and

THAT election of committee chairs and selection of external appointments follows the approval of the Proposed Roster.

**Carried**

Trustee Mesenbrink returned to the Chair.

Chair Mesenbrink led the election of Standing Committee Chairs as follows:

### **Finance and Facilities Committee**

The Board proceeded to the election of the Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee. The Chair called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee for the year January 16, 2024 to the next selection of chairs and members or until a successor is elected.

#### **RESOLUTION #24-16:**

Moved by: Trustee Hauser

Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

THAT Trustee Edwards be nominated as Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee.

**Carried**

Trustee Edwards agreed to stand and was acclaimed as Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee.

#### **RESOLUTION #24-17:**

Moved by: Trustee Hauser

Seconded by: Trustee O'Hara-Stephenson

THAT the nominations for the Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee be closed.

**Carried**

With nominations closed and Trustee Edwards as the sole trustee nominated, Trustee Edwards was acclaimed as Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee for a one year term from January 16, 2024 to the next selection of chairs and members or until a successor is elected.

### **Governance Committee**

The Board proceeded to the election of the Chair of the Governance Committee. The Chair called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Governance Committee for the year January 16, 2024 to the next selection of chairs and members or until a successor is elected.

RESOLUTION #24-18:

Moved by: Trustee Hauser  
Seconded by: Trustee Hanenberg

THAT Trustee Weiler be nominated as Chair of the Governance Committee.

**Carried**

Trustee Weiler agreed to stand and was acclaimed as Chair of the Governance Committee.

RESOLUTION #24-19:

Moved by: Trustee Hauser  
Seconded by Trustee Whyte

THAT the nominations for the Chair of the Governance Committee be closed.

**Carried**

With nominations closed and Trustee Weiler as the sole trustee nominated, Trustee Weiler was acclaimed as Chair of the Governance Committee for a one year term from January 16, 2024 until the next selection of chairs and members or until a successor is elected.

**Policy and Priorities Committee**

The Board proceeded to the election of the Chair of the Policy and Priorities Committee. The Chair called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Policy and Priorities Committee for the year January 16, 2024 until the next selection of chairs and members or until a successor is elected.

RESOLUTION #24-20:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil  
Seconded by: Trustee O'Hara-Stephenson

THAT Trustee Ross be nominated as Chair of the Policy and Priorities Committee.

**Carried**

Trustee Ross agreed to stand and was acclaimed as Chair of the Policy and Priorities Committee.

RESOLUTION #24-21:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte  
Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the nominations for the Chair of the Policy and Priorities Committee be closed.

**Carried**

With nominations closed and Trustee Ross as the sole trustee nominated, Trustee Ross was acclaimed as Chair of the Policy and Priorities Committee for one year term from January 16, 2024 to the next selection of committee chairs and members or until a successor is elected.

Trustee MacNeil proposed an amendment to the proposed Roster of Committee Assignments. Trustee O'Hara-Stephenson was asked and willing to switch with Trustee MacNeil from the MYP-Sustainability Advisory Committee to the MYP-Equity and Access of Outcomes Advisory Committee.

RESOLUTION #24-22:

Moved by: Trustee Hauser  
Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the Upper Grand DSB appoints Trustee O'Hara-Stephenson to the Equity and Access of Outcomes MYP Advisory Committee, and Trustee MacNeil be appointed to the Sustainability MYP Advisory Committee.

**Carried**

**External Appointments**

**OPSBA**

Trustee MacNeil volunteered for the Director and Voting Delegate for OPSBA appointment.

RESOLUTION #24-23:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil  
Seconded by: Trustee O'Hara-Stephenson

THAT Trustee MacNeil be nominated for the Director and Voting Delegate for OPSBA.

**Carried**



Trustee MacNeil agreed to stand for the Director and Voting Delegate for OPSBA.

RESOLUTION #24-24:

Moved by: Trustee Hauser

Seconded by: Trustee O'Hara-Stephenson

THAT the nominations for the Director and Voting Delegate for OPSBA appointment be closed.

**Carried**

Trustee MacNeil was appointed as Director and Voting Delegate to represent the Board at OPSBA meetings for a one-year term from January 16, 2024 to the next selection of committee chairs and members or until a successor is elected.

Trustee MacNeil nominated Trustee O'Hara-Stephenson for the Alternate Delegate for the OPSBA appointment. Trustee O'Hara-Stephenson declined the nomination.

Trustee Edwards volunteered for the Alternate Delegate for the OPSBA appointment.

RESOLUTION #24-25:

Moved by: Trustee Edwards

Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT Trustee Edwards be nominated as Alternate Delegate for the OPSBA appointment.

**Carried**

RESOLUTION #24-26:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte

Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

THAT the nominations for the Alternate Delegate for the OPSBA appointment be closed.

**Carried**

**Upper Grand Learning Foundation**

Trustees Edwards and Ross volunteered for the Upper Grand Learning Foundation appointments.

RESOLUTION #24-27:

Moved by: Trustee Hauser  
Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

THAT the nominations for the Upper Grand Learning Foundation appointments be closed.

**Carried**

RESOLUTION #24-28:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte  
Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Upper Grand DSB appoints Trustee MacNeil as the OPSBA Delegate, Trustee Edwards as the OPSBA Alternate Delegate; and

THAT Trustees Edwards and Ross to the Upper Grand Learning Foundation for a one-year term or until a successor is elected.

**Carried**

**13. Information Items - Nil**

**14. Adjournment**

RESOLUTION #24-29:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte  
Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Upper Grand DSB adjourns at 7:44 p.m.

**Carried**

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