

Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 13, 2024
Boardroom and Microsoft Teams

Trustees: Ralf Mesenbrink (Chair), Katherine Hauser (Vice Chair), Jen Edwards, Irene Hanenberg, Alethia O’Hara-Stephenson, Martha MacNeil, Lynn Topping, Laurie Whyte, Brooke Hartley (Student Trustee), Paige Knight (Student Trustee)

Absent: Robin Ross, 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 Blair, Donaldson, Hamilton, Heaslip, and Taha, Human Rights, Equity and Accessibility Commissioner Ralph, Manager of Planning Angrish, 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, February 13, 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

Student Trustee Brooke Hartley 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

Chair Mesenbrink added an item to the agenda. The School Year Calendar 2023-24 PA Day Date Adjustment report as new item 11.1 under other Business.

RESOLUTION #24-46:

Moved by: Trustee Topping
Seconded by: Trustee O’Hara-Stephenson

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the agenda of February 13, 2024 meeting, as amended.

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 January 30, 2024

RESOLUTION #24-47:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte
Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the minutes of the January 30, 2024 meeting of the board.

Carried

6. Delegation(s) - Nil

7. Response to Delegation(s)

8. Committee Reports

8.1 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 February 13, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 6:07PM and was held in closed session as per Section 207 (2) of the Education Act. All board members were present, save for Trustees Ross and Weiler who sent their regrets. There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

RESOLUTION #24-48:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil

Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the business of the Committee of the Whole - Closed Session of February 13, 2024.

Carried

8.2 Standing Committee

a) Finance and Facilities Committee – January 23, 2024

The Finance and Facilities Committee held a hybrid meeting on January 23, 2024. Chair Edwards presided the meeting and there were no conflicts of interest declared. The Primrose ES Boundary Review – Final Report was presented for consideration by the Finance and Facilities Committee. Items for monitoring included a Capital Projects update and information on electric vehicles for school buses and the school board's fleet of vehicles.

Chair Mesenbrink noted there has been significant interest from the public on the recommendations coming forward regarding the Primrose Elementary School boundary review. He asked to separate the recommendations into two parts - one to receive the Finance and Facilities report, and secondly, to approve the recommendations.

RESOLUTION #24-49:

Moved by: Trustee Topping
Seconded by: Trustee Whyte

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the Finance and Facilities Committee report of January 23, 2024.

Carried

Chair Mesenbrink read the following Finance and Facilities Committee recommendations for approval. Trustees asked questions of clarification.

RESOLUTION #24-50:

Moved by: Trustee Topping
Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Board approves an enrolment cap at Primrose ES of 23 classes starting the 2024-25 school year; and

THAT following the Elementary Staffing process each year, staff determine if the 23-classroom cap has been breached and send communication to the affected families when the student will need to be redirected to Centennial Hylands ES with transportation provided; and

THAT siblings of affected students be provided an option to either continue to attend Primrose ES or move to Centennial Hylands ES; and

THAT an acknowledgement form be provided to the families for all new students (JK to Gr 8) during registration to advise of the enrolment cap and potential redirection to Centennial Hylands ES; and

THAT staff monitor the enrolment projections at Primrose ES and Centennial Hylands on an annual basis through the Annual Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) Report. If required, Staff will bring forward an alternate interim solution report to Trustees to address the accommodation pressures; and

THAT staff continue efforts to improve the Primrose site to support the additional enrolment; and

THAT the school board continues the efforts to secure a new school site to support a long-term solution for enrolment pressure.

Carried

Chair Mesenbrink, on behalf of the Board of trustees, thanked the community for their input, the planning staff at Upper Grand DSB for all their work and creative problem solving throughout this process, and the Municipality planning staff for sharing information about planned developments.

8.3 Statutory Committee

a) Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) – January 29, 2024

The Parent Involvement Committee held a meeting on January 29, 2024. Trustee MacNeil presented the PIC Report on behalf of Co-Chairs Gillian Prieur and Barb White. Items shared from the meeting were a Board/Ministry report that included updates on the PRO Grant process, Ministry Funding for School Councils, the Why Survey, April 8th Solar Eclipse plans, and the Strength to Grow Project. A discussion took place regarding the collection of PIC board games stored at the TJRC, and a Trustee Report was shared.

RESOLUTION #24-51:

Moved by: Trustee O'Hara-Stephenson

Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the Parent Involvement Committee Report of January 29, 2024.

Carried

8.4 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Council (FNMIEC) – November 6, 2023

Trustee MacNeil noted an error on the report and clarified that the report is from the FNMIEC meeting that took place on December 4, 2023. Key items highlighted for monitoring were: an update on the Elora Centre for the Arts; discussion on next steps for proposing a future name change to the centre; a request for consideration from Council regarding painting feathers at a cross walk at the new school; and Board Action Plan priorities.

RESOLUTION #24-52:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte

Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Council Report of December 4, 2023.

Carried

8.5 External Appointment

a) Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) – February 13, 2024

Trustee MacNeil presented the OPSBA report. On January 25th and 26th Upper Grand DSB trustees attended the 2024 Public Education Symposium in Toronto. Trustee MacNeil shared information on keynote speakers as well as the numerous workshops attendees choose from. Upcoming important dates were also shared.

RESOLUTION #24-53:

Moved by: Trustee Topping

Seconded by: Trustee O'Hara-Stephenson

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the OPSBA Report of February 13, 2024.

Carried

9. Report from Chair

Chair Mesenbrink mentioned that it is the beginning of semester two, and he hoped that the secondary students have settled into their semester two courses. Family Day is on Monday February 19th, Chair Mesenbrink wished all Upper Grand staff, students, and families a safe and restful day.

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.

10. Report from Director

Director of Education Sovran deferred his report to the end of the month.

11. Other Business

11.1 School Year Calendar 2023-24 PA Day Date Adjustment

Director Sovran presented the school Year Calendar 2023-24 PA Day Date Adjustment report. The PA Day originally scheduled for Friday, April 19, 2024, will be rescheduled to Monday, April 8, 2024. This adjustment is being made due to the fact a solar eclipse is set to occur on April 8, 2024, coinciding with most school dismissal times, when students would not have full supervision and would be travelling home. Adjustments to the scheduling of PA Days within an approved school year calendar are operational and do not require additional approval.

RESOLUTION #24-54:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil
Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the report entitled "School Year Calendar 2023/2024 PA Day Date Adjustment" dated February 13, 2024.

12. Correspondence

12.1 Correspondence from the Township of Melancthon regarding the Primrose Boundary Review

RESOLUTION #24-55:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte
Seconded by: Trustee Topping

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the correspondence from the Township of Melancthon regarding the Primrose Boundary Review.

Carried

13. Information Items

14. Adjournment

RESOLUTION #24-56:

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

THAT the Upper Grand DSB adjourns at 7:41 p.m.

Carried

This document is available in alternative formats upon request.