

**Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 26, 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, Luke Weiler, Brooke Hartley (Student Trustee), Paige Knight (Student Trustee)

Absent: Lynn Topping, Laurie Whyte

Administration: 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, 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, March 26, 2024, in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 7:00 p.m.

As per section 208(10) of the Education Act, Director Sovran has appointed Executive Superintendent McDonald as a Director Designate and Secretary for this meeting.

**1. Meeting Called to Order**

Board Chair Mesenbrink presided and called the meeting to order.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

Trustee Hauser 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 Ross highlighted the Board’s commitment to equity and anti-racism/anti-oppression.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Chair Mesenbrink requested the following amendment to the agenda:

Move Item #8.6 - OPSBA Report to new Item #8.3 (to follow item #8.2 - Parent Involvement Committee Report).

RESOLUTION #24-90:

Moved by: Trustee Hauser  
Seconded by: Trustee Ross

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the agenda of March 26, 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 February 27, 2024**

RESOLUTION #24-91:

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

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the minutes of the February 27, 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 March 26, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 6:01PM and was held in closed session as per Section 207 (2) of the Education Act. All board members were present, with regrets sent by Trustees Topping and Whyte. There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

##### RESOLUTION #24-92:

Moved by: Trustee Edwards

Seconded by: Trustee O'Hara-Stephenson

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the business of the Committee of the Whole -Closed Session of March 26, 2024.

Vice Chair Hauser announced that in the Committee of the Whole closed session the local terms of the collective agreements for five groups were ratified by the Board. Thanks were expressed to the bargaining units and the management team for their hard work over the past months.

**Carried**

#### 8.2 **Parent Involvement Committee – February 26, 2024**

The PIC Committee held a hybrid meeting on February 26 and Trustee MacNeil presented the report on behalf of Co-Chairs Gillian Prier and Barb White. Items highlighted from the meeting were: a Ministry Report from Executive Superintendent McDonald; distribution of the PRO Grant funds to various schools; a current Budget Report was presented to the Committee; a Chairs' Report on the PIC games bin organizing and the work done with the Terry James Resource Centre; and a Trustee Report was shared.

RESOLUTION #24-93:

Moved by: Trustee Hanenberg

Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the Parent Involvement Committee report of February 26, 2024.

**Carried**

**8.3 Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) – March 2024**

Trustee MacNeil presented the OPSBA report. The OPSBA Board of Directors held a meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, and Trustee MacNeil shared some highlights from the meeting, as well as important upcoming dates.

RESOLUTION #24-94:

Moved by: Trustee O'Hara-Stephenson

Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the OPSBA Report of March 26, 2024.

**Carried**

**8.4 Governance Committee – March 5, 2024**

The Governance Committee held a hybrid meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Chair Weiler presided the meeting and there were no conflicts of interest declared. Martha MacNeil, Chair of the Delegation Ad Hoc Committee provided a background of the committee's mandate to review the delegation process, research methods of obtaining input from the public, and make recommendations on process.

RESOLUTION #24-95:

Moved by: Trustee Ross

Seconded by: Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the Governance Committee report of March 5, 2024, including the following recommendations:

THAT the Delegation Ad Hoc Committee continue to meet to consider and develop alternative methods for the public to address the Board and bring a report to the May Governance Committee meeting; and

THAT the Delegation Ad Hoc Committee examine the number of delegations permitted per meeting and consider a requirement of linking delegations to items on a board agenda; and

THAT staff be directed to create an accessible and user-friendly delegation application form; and

THAT Section 4.5 (Delegations to the Board) of By-Law No. 1 be amended to read as follows:

#### 4.5 Delegations to the Board

The Upper Grand District School Board provides many opportunities for groups and individuals to provide advice or commentary to the Board. One option to address the full Board is through delegations.

Individuals or groups who ~~wish to~~ **are seeking to** delegate to the Board should contact the Manager of the Trustee Secretariat, to request a delegation, on or before 12 noon of the ~~Wednesday~~ **Friday** prior to the meeting.

The Manager of the Trustee Secretariat will ensure that all potential delegates will be made aware of the procedures to be followed when appearing before the Board.

~~Written information supporting the delegation's position may be presented with the letter of application or at the Board meeting (Appendix B – DELEGATIONS TO THE BOARD APPLICATION FORM).~~

The length of ~~the~~ **each** presentation shall be limited to five (5) minutes and may be followed by Trustee questions of clarification.

**All delegates and guests must adhere to the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC) and the Upper Grand District School Board Code of Conduct.**

At no time will trustees or staff engage in discussion with the spokesperson or any member of the delegation except to clarify, through the chairperson, a point made in the presentation.

Consideration of requests by delegations may be ~~responded to~~ **addressed** during the Board meeting or referred to a committee, or to a future Board meeting. ~~The Board's response, when requested, will be made through the Secretary in writing at a later date, after the trustees have had the opportunity to discuss the matter and arrive at a decision.~~

**Carried**

Chair Mesenbrink indicated that as per the Board's Procedural By-law No. 1 – General Provisions, any change to the by-law requires a two-thirds majority vote of the Trustees present and eligible to vote. Chair Mesenbrink called the question to those in favour, as one of the above recommendations did recommend an amendment or change to the by-law. The motion carried with a 2/3 majority.

#### **8.5 Policy and Priorities Committee – March 5, 2024**

The Policy and Priorities Committee held a hybrid meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Chair Ross presided the meeting and there were no conflicts of interest declared. Policy Development Officer de Boer provided an outline of how and what external research in schools involving the board's staff and/or students is carried out and introduced the proposed new policy regarding admission and registration of students. Director Sovran provided a background of a new regulation on provincial priorities in student achievement. Superintendents Heaslip and Hamilton shared an update on the Program Services – Literacy and Math Action Plan.

##### RESOLUTION #24-96:

Moved by: Trustee Hanenberg

Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the Policy and Priorities Committee report of March 5, 2024, including the following recommendations:

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board approve the Policy Review Plan for Policy 204 – Conducting Research in Schools; and

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board receive Policy 204 – External Research Projects; and

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board release for consultation Policy 204 – External Research Projects; and

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board approve the Policy Development Plan for Admission and Registration.

**Carried**

## 8.6 Special Education Advisory Committee – March 6, 2024

Trustee O'Hara-Stephenson presented the SEAC report on behalf of SEAC Chair Whyte. The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) held a hybrid meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup> and Chair Whyte presided the meeting. Suggested edits and updates were shared by staff regarding the Special Education Plan 2023-24 and the revised Special Education Plan will be presented at the April SEAC meeting for consultation and in May for SEAC's approval before being presented at the June Board meeting. A Mental Health Literacy Update was provided, and details of Project Search and the Ministry of Education funding pilot project, specifically for secondary students with disabilities to earn credits, was shared. Items for monitoring included: the scheduling of LRC 8 and LRC 16 classes and collaborative approaches to support students with intellectual disabilities and safety in relation to concerns of Human Sex Trafficking.

### RESOLUTION #24-97:

Moved by: Trustee Weiler

Seconded by: Trustee Hanenberg

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the Special Education Advisory Committee report of March 6, 2024.

**Carried**

## 9. Report from Chair

Chair Mesenbrink listed and highlighted a few significant religious and cultural events, as this is a busy time of year not just in the school system but also in the community.

Chair Mesenbrink shared that Upper Grand staff will begin preparation of the Board's 2024-25 school year budget which is due to the Ministry after Board approval by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Mesenbrink reminded everyone that the upcoming April PD Day has been moved to the 8<sup>th</sup> to coincide with the solar eclipse. He mentioned that parents can find listings of Upper Grand staff PD Day learning topics on Upper Grand's website.

Thanks were expressed to the Labour Bargaining Units and the management for their hard work and dedication to the students, that allowed ratification of five local collective agreements.

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 Sovran will present his next report from the Director at the April 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

**11. Other Business - Nil**

**12. Correspondence**

- 12.1 Correspondence from Rainy River District School Board regarding Northern Boards Funding
- 12.2 Correspondence from Ontario Easter Seals regarding the SEAC Nomination for Alternate Member Representative
- 12.3 Correspondence from Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County regarding the SEAC Nomination for Member Representative

RESOLUTION #24-98:

Moved by: Trustee Hauser  
Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives all correspondence.

**Carried**

RESOLUTION #24-99:

Moved by: Trustee Edwards  
Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Upper Grand DSB appoints Jennifer Tremaine of Easter Seals Ontario as an alternate member representative to the Upper Grand DSB Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for the remainder of the 2022-2026 term.

**Carried**



RESOLUTION #24-100:

Moved by: Trustee Edwards

Seconded by: Trustee Ross

THAT the Upper Grand DSB appoints John McNamara of Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County as a member representative to the Upper Grand DSB Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for the remainder of the 2022-2026 term.

**Carried**

**13. Information Items - Nil**

**14. Adjournment**

RESOLUTION #24-101:

Moved by: Trustee Weiler

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.**