

Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 9, 2024
Boardroom and Microsoft Teams

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

Absent: Martha MacNeil, 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, 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, April 9, 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 Whyte 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 Hanenberg highlighted the Board’s commitment to equity and anti-racism/anti-oppression.

3. Approval of the Agenda

RESOLUTION #24-108:

Moved by: Trustee Edwards
Seconded by: Trustee Whyte

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the agenda of April 9, 2024 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 March 26, 2024

RESOLUTION #24-109:

Moved by: Trustee Hauser
Seconded by: Trustee Topping

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the minutes of the March 26, 2024 meeting of the board.

Carried

6. Student and Staff Recognition

Director of Education Sovran highlighted some accomplishments and experiences and that took place across Upper Grand DSB.

Upper Grand Students and Staff Celebrate Special Olympics Bocce

In March, the Marden Athletic Centre was buzzing with energy as student athletes from the Upper Grand and Catholic board gathered for Special Olympics Bocce tournament. A total of 180 students from eight Upper Grand schools, showcased their skills alongside several athletes from Wellington Catholic. The event was a testament to inclusivity, fair play and integrity, highlighting the spirit of unity and camaraderie among the participants.

Upper Grand Students Win at DramaFest Competition

Students from the Upper Grand DSB showcased their talent and creativity at DramaFest, a platform designed to foster empathy, community, and self-expression. Among the highlights were Centre Wellington DHS's play "Jump Station," which earned accolades for Ailish O's outstanding work in playwriting, directing, and producing, alongside Milica G's excellence in stage management. Meanwhile, John F Ross impressed with their production "renAIssance," securing awards for outstanding technical elements and an overall outstanding performance, propelling them to compete at Regionals in Gravenhurst. Applauding the efforts of all students and staff involved, DramaFest exemplified the power of theater to inspire and unite young minds.

John F. Ross Hosts Global Awareness Symposium for Student Action

At John F. Ross CVI's Global Awareness Symposium, students discovered the power of individual action in tackling societal issues. Through engaging sessions led by local social justice groups and inspiring keynote speakers like Carla Beharry, students delved into topics ranging from racial justice to community activism. Led by passionate students Cynthia V and Raha K, the event empowered attendees to recognize their ability to effect change, emphasizing the importance of taking action, no matter how small, in shaping a better world.

Drayton Heights PS Students Form Wild Girlz Art Club

At Drayton Heights PS, a group of junior girls united to form the Wild Girlz Art Club, together with their teacher, an artist herself. Their dedication was evident as they chose to spend their recess time creating art in the school library, soaking up their teacher's guidance on techniques and displaying art. Their efforts culminated in an art show that debuted last month, coinciding with International Women's Day.

7. **Delegation(s)** - Nil
8. **Response to Delegation(s)**

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 April 9, 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, with regrets sent by Trustees MacNeil, Ross, and Weiler. There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

RESOLUTION #24-110:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte

Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

THAT the Upper Grand DSB approves the business of the Committee of the Whole -Closed Session of April 9, 2024.

Carried

Trustee Hauser took the Chair for the consideration of the next item.

9.2 Audit Committee – March 19, 2024

The Audit Committee held a hybrid meeting on March 19th. Chair Mesenbrink presided the meeting and all members were in attendance. Discussion took place regarding the development of a Risk Management Policy for Upper Grand DSB, and the Year-to-date Financial Position as of February 29, 2024 was presented.

RESOLUTION #24-111:

Moved by: Trustee Topping

Seconded by: Trustee Whyte

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the Audit Committee report of March 19, 2024.

Carried

Chair Mesenbrink returned to the Chair.

9.3 Finance and Facilities Committee – March 19, 2024

The Finance and Facilities Committee held a hybrid meeting on March 19th. Chair Edwards presided the meeting and there were no conflicts of interest declared. The Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) – Final Report and the Proposal for Renaming of the Island Lake Outdoor Education Centre - Report was presented for consideration by the Finance and Facilities Committee. A report on Capital Projects regarding the new South Guelph Secondary School and the new Centre Wellington Elementary School was provided. An update was also provided on Electric Vehicles for the school board's fleet of vehicles.

Trustee Edwards asked questions of clarification regarding the process of designating a new school to an area, and what a Development Area (DA) is.

RESOLUTION #24-112:

Moved by: Trustee Hauser

Seconded by: Trustee O'Hara-Stephenson

THAT the Upper Grand DSB receives the Finance and Facilities Committee Report of March 19, 2024, including the following recommendations:

THAT memo PLN: 24-03 "Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) Final Report" be received; and

THAT the Board approves in principle the LTAP Workplan Priorities outlined in Section 7 of the LTAP Final Report with the understanding that these priorities may change with future updates; and

THAT an annual review of the LTAP be conducted in accordance with the process outlined in Section 1.5 of the LTAP Final Report; and

THAT the Upper Grand DSB send notification to all Board partners and stakeholders to inform them of the approval of the LTAP Final Report; and

THAT the Proposal for Renaming of the Island Lake Outdoor Education Centre report be approved for action; and

THAT the Island Lake Outdoor Education Centre be renamed Akinomaagayegagmikoong. (ah-kin-oh-ma-gay-gaa-mik-ong).

Carried

10. Report from Chair

Chair Mesenbrink shared his experience regarding the solar eclipse that took place on April 8th.

Thanks were expressed to staff for their hard work in preparing the LTAP report, which was approved by the Board earlier this evening.

Last week Chair Mesenbrink had a call with Guelph MPP Mike Schreiner, and shared highlights on what he had discussed.

Chair Mesenbrink mentioned a few days of significance that were happening in the month of April such as Earth Month, the end of Ramadan, International Day of Pink, Sikh Heritage Month, and Autism Awareness Month.

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 noted that the board has been engaged in the early steps of reimagining alternative education at Upper Grand DSB and shared a partnership with the YMCA of Three Rivers Guelph starting this upcoming fall. This partnership will allow the expansion of Project Search, a groundbreaking school-to-work training initiative for students with disabilities. Project Search offers a pathway to meaningful careers and is another example of the great things happening at Upper Grand DSB as work continues towards realizing Vision 2026.

12. Other Business**13. Correspondence – Nil****14. Information Items****15. Adjournment**

RESOLUTION #24-113:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte

Seconded by: Trustee Hauser

THAT the Upper Grand DSB adjourns at 7:25 p.m.

Carried

This document is available in alternative formats upon request.