

UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

BOARD MEETING – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of Upper Grand District School Board was held on Tuesday, December 20, 2011, in the Boardroom at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 7:10 p.m.

Trustee Borden, Chair, presided and all Trustees were present, along with Student Trustees MacDougall and Sampson.

OPENING PRAYER OR READING

Trustee Gohn read from Luke, Chapter II, regarding the significance of the Christmas season, as the opening reading

CONDOLENCES

Trustee Borden, Chair, reported that condolences were sent on behalf of the Board to the following: Karen Bruce, who works in the Terry James Resource Centre at the Board Office, on the loss of her father; Jerry and Shirley Turner, on the loss of their daughter Amy, a student at John F. Ross C.V.I. in the School Community Work Transition Program; Sharon Colbourne, Principal at Alma PS, on the loss of her mother; Jill Hope, a CYC at Palmerston PS and Drayton Heights PS, on the loss of her father-in-law; Erin Kent, a teacher at Jean Little PS, on the loss of her Father; Sherry Fergus, a Special Program Assistant in the Communication, Language and Speech Services Department, on the loss of her mother; and, Bill Price, a teacher at John F. Ross CVI, on the loss of his mother-in law.

GOOD NEWS

Centre Peel School Choir Video Presentation of Seasonal Music

Dr. M. Rogers, Director of Education, introduced a video of the Centre Peel Public School Choir presenting a selection of seasonal music. She explained the school is located in the Drayton area and has a totally Mennonite community. Religious accommodation is in place that includes starting the day with prayer, not requiring the children to change for physical education and refraining from participation in competitive sport. As part of their culture, they take great pride in singing in harmony.

Trustee Schieck explained the video is of an all girls Choir that is singing a cappella that was taught by mothers over the noon hour. He explained the children learn to sing at a young age and continue singing throughout their lives as part of their culture. The Mennonite community is not accustomed to having their pictures taken and it is unusual and significant for them to allow us to video the children and show the presentation in public.

Dr. Rogers highlighted the remainder of the “Good News” as follows:

College Heights S.S.

A student at College Heights S.S. has had her artwork shown internationally and it adorns walls as far away as Europe. The student is among 54 artists from around the world whose artwork has been featured in *Artism*, a new book about art and autism, but it's not the first time her work has been published. The student, who was diagnosed as high-functioning autistic at the age of four, also has several book covers to her name.

Mitchell Woods P.S.

Mitchell Woods P.S. has produced a CD entitled *Mitchell Woods Voices Holiday CD*. The music was playing prior to the start of the Board Meeting this evening. Recording and creating the CD was a great learning experience for the students. Choir performances on the CD range from grade 1 to 8 and was recorded live in the music room at Mitchell Woods. It was produced on teacher Anneke McCabe's own equipment to keep costs to a minimum. CD materials were purchased wholesale, Jay Lafave (from PrintTs) did the design at no cost, Staples did the printing below cost as a sponsor, and the CDs were burned by teacher Chris Popofski (Westminster Woods). Each CD cost \$2 to make. They manufactured and assembled 250 CD's themselves and they are selling them for \$7 each or 2 for \$10. The project has been very well received and it is something they can do annually. The school will be hosting a concert on Thursday, December 22, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Ken Danby P.S.

On December 14 and 15, 2011, Ken Danby P.S. put on a wonderful black-light play entitled “Dr. Seuss in Words and Song.” Students have been hard at work practicing for this exciting event since the beginning of October. It was a huge production that included 85 students from grade 3 to 8.

Edward Johnson P.S.

Edward Johnson P.S. received the Schools of Distinction Award, a part of the Garfield Weston Award for Improvement in Academics. This award recognizes the school teams who have been most effective in improving the results of the students they teach. It is these schools whose overall academic rating has experienced the fastest, most consistent improvement in the province over the last five years.

Priory Park P.S.

On Wednesday December 14, 2011 eight women representing the IODE Captain Frederick Bond Chapter presented an individualized book to every kindergarten student at Priory Park P.S. Each of the 57 kindergarten students were given a book to take home on a theme or topic that they were interested in. Inside each cover was a personalized label. An extra copy of the book was also purchased for the school as part of the library collection books. In total the chapter donated \$1,450.00 to the school library. The money was used to purchase the kindergarten books and the remaining money was used to

purchase an additional 77 books for circulation in the library to benefit all Priory Park P.S. students. Ms. Jackie Houston, a member of the IODE chapter, was on hand to present the books along with Ms. Linda Stockton-Wigmore, teacher-librarian who ordered the books. Part of the presentation also included a presentation by story teller Ann Estill which the children really enjoyed. Mr. Blair Conrad, Principal, spoke on behalf of the staff and students, thanking the IODE Captain Frederick Bond Chapter for their generous donation and gift to Priory Park students.

Guelph Secondary Students Become Good Global Citizens

This past summer a group of 12 students, 4 from each of Guelph C.V.I., Centennial C.V.I. and John F. Ross C.V.I., worked toward a credit course called "Issues in Human Rights" and travelled to Lesotho, a tiny African Nation buckled by poverty and disease. As part of the "I Have Hope: In the Fight Against Aids" project, these students came away with new understandings and a commitment to helping and making a difference. This project, run by teachers Joel Barr and Barry Bauman, from Centennial C.V.I. also resulted in the production of an outstanding documentary film entitled, "Start with Us," which was recently released for a first showing on December 1st at the Harbourfront Centre in Toronto. This powerful 55 minute documentary tells of friendship, equality and mutual determination, and most importantly, hope. Upper Grand D.S.B. students and their peers from Lesotho are the voices and inspiration of this moving film. We hope that many of the students and staff in the Upper Grand will see this film after its new year of circulation. Congratulations for their modelling of working together as global citizens.

CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA

Item 11B, Personnel Announcement, was added to the agenda.

Trustee moved that the agenda be confirmed as amended.

The motion carried.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD DECEMBER 6, 2011

Trustee Fairbairn moved the Minutes of the Board meetings held December 6, 2011 and the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held immediately prior to the Final Board meeting be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

MOTION TO RISE AND SIT IN COMMITTEE

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the Board rise and sit in Committee of the Whole, with the Chairperson presiding.

The motion carried.

DELEGATIONS**Edward Johnson Boundary Review**

Mr. Jeremy Urwin and Mr. Darryl LeBlanc addressed Trustees on behalf of the Rockwood, Everton and Eden Mills French Immersion parents regarding the Edward Johnson Boundary Review.

Mr. Darryl LeBlanc explained the delegation represents 35 parents, many with multiple children in the system. The parents would like to be included in the boundary review process for Edward Johnson PS and to work constructively and in partnership with the Board in order to reach a solution that will benefit everyone. He indicated the group understands that children will have to move from Edward Johnson School and also acknowledged the excellent programs in place in Erin. Their first choice would be the introduction of an FI program in Rockwood. The parents are willing to make the concession that their children will need to relocate from Edward Johnson PS. The Rockwood, Everton and Eden Mills FI community has developed a preferred scenario for presentation this evening that they are asking Trustees to consider as a viable alternative. The scenario would have the students from Rockwood, Everton and Eden Mills relocate to the FI Program at King George PS rather than to Erin as they feel it would be the least disruptive move.

Mr. Jeremy Urwin reviewed the proposed "Scenario D" which builds on Scenario A (staff preferred scenario) presented at the public meeting held last week. The scenario permits the Edward Johnson students designated to move to relocate as a whole group to King George. They believe King George has the capacity to house the additional population and maintain capacity for future enrolment. There would be a continued sense of the FI community while cost savings would be achieved as buses would only need to run to and from Guelph, which would also minimize the environmental impact. Advantages would include keeping siblings and families in the same city, minimizing the time on the bus, and enabling the FI and RT students from Rockwood, Eden Mills and Everton to "re-unite" at John F. Ross, which further enhances the sense of community. The group did not identify any significant disadvantages to the proposed Scenario D.

It was clarified for Trustees that the numbers used include the Tytler students who would attend King George School but the number of grade 7 and 8 FI students who live north of the river and currently attend John McCrae PS that are slated to move to King George in 2014 are not factored in as the numbers were not available on the website.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSE TO DELEGATION

Trustee Waterston thanked the delegation for the interesting scenario and suggested that staff input be sought for inclusion in the materials to be considered when making the decision at the end of January 2012.

Trustee Cooper thanked Mr. Urwin and Mr. LeBlanc for the excellent presentation and the Rockwood Community for coming out and putting together the scenario that is a tribute to the passion and dedication to their children. Trustee Cooper also supports the staff review of the proposed scenario, along with the other information received through the public consultation, on the website and by email for inclusion in the report that will be considered in January.

Trustee Borden clarified for the delegation that Report #2 was the staff's position on the Boundary Review and that the Board will not make the decision until January after receipt and consideration of Report #3 which will include the staff analysis of all public input received.

BUSINESS OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

A. Minutes of December 13, 2011

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the minutes of the Business Operations Committee held December 13, 2011 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Fairbairn moved the adoption of recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 as contained in the Minutes of the Business Operations Committee, dated December 13, 2011.

The motion carried.

The motions are as follows:

THAT:

1. a) The report entitled "10kWMicroFIT Solar PV for Elementary Schools, Pilot Projects" (CP 11-20), dated December 13, 2011, be received.
 - b) The report entitled "10kWMicroFIT Solar PV for Elementary Schools, Pilot Projects" (CP 11-20), dated December 13, 2011, be approved.
 - c) Staff be instructed to install up to five Solar PV systems as pilot projects at an approximate cost of \$80,000 per system.
2. a) the report entitled "FDK Capital Projects, Parkinson Centennial, Mitchell Woods, Edward Johnson" dated December 13, 2011 be received.

- b) the "Project Description" for Parkinson Centennial PS, Mitchell Woods PS, and Edward Johnson PS, as outlined in report CP:11-21, dated December 13, 2011, be approved.
- c) staff be directed to proceed to construct the projects attached as Appendices 1, 2 and 3 in report CP:11-21, dated December 13, 2011.
3. a) the report entitled "Laurine Ave. Public School (New) Concept Design Report" dated December 13, 2011, CP:11-19, be received.
b) the Concept Design report for the Laurine Ave. Public School (New) Building Project, including the Preliminary Budget of \$6,859,922.46, as outlined in Appendix A of CP:11-19, be approved.
c) the construction model for the Laurine Ave. Public School (New) Building Project be Lump Sum Tender.
4. the report entitled "Capital/Renewal Plans (2011/12), CP11-18, dated December 13, 2011, be received.
5. that memo PLNn:11-26 entitled "East Guelph Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) – Staff's Proposed Transition Plan (Road Map)" be received for information.
6. the memo PLN:11-25 entitled, "Edward Johnson JK-6 FI Boundary Review – Report #2" be received as information.

B. Personnel Announcement

Dr. Martha Rogers, Director of Education, reported that earlier in the evening Trustees received a report on the Transfer of Tracy Lindsay, from the position of Principal of Montgomery Village PS to the position of Principal of Program, effective February 1, 2012.

Trustee Bailey moved that the verbal report on Elementary Principal transfer be received.

The motion carried.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee held December 14, 2011 were distributed at the meeting.

Trustee Waterston moved that the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee held December 14, 2011 be received.

The motion carried.

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Janice Wright, Superintendent of Finance, introduced and reviewed the report entitled, "2011 2012 Interim Financial Reporting as at October 31, 2011," dated December 20, 2011. It is the first Interim Financial Report to

Trustees for the 2011 2012 fiscal year and includes the enrolment count of elementary and secondary schools at October 31, 2011 on which the revised estimates are made and submitted to the Ministry of Education. Appendix A was reviewed in detail including the Summary of Enrolment, Changes in Enrolment; Budget vs Forecast 2006-2012; Actual Enrolment Trends for JK & SK, Grades 1-3 and Grades 4-8, and Secondary; and Operating Expenditures September and October (2 months) 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 comparisons. Ms. Wright reported a revised estimate report has been filed reflecting a \$610,000 surplus.

Ms. Wright noted that enrolment of elementary and secondary schools is higher than projected in the budget and highlighted the changes noting a spike in JK and SK resulting from the introduction of full day Kindergarten and the decline in enrolment at the secondary level that has resulted from the previous decline at the elementary level moving through the system. The variances in operating expenditures from the previous year were also reviewed and explained. Of note was the computer refresh for schools taking place earlier in the budget year and the prior year reversals taking place later in this budget year. In addition, the increase in the costs of occasional supply teachers relates to the need for part of the costs to be reallocated to staff development as they are for the replacement costs resulting from the release of teachers to participate in development and training.

Trustee Bailey moved that the report: 2011 2012 Interim Financial Reporting as at October 31, 2011 (Finance #2011-46) dated December 20, 2011 be received.

The motion carried.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Ms. Jennifer Rose, Executive Officer of Human Resources, introduced and reviewed the report, "Resignations and Retirements," dated December 20, 2011, as distributed at the meeting.

Trustee Schieck extended thanks to the long service employees and moved that the report, "Resignations and Retirements," dated December 20, 2011 (Appendix A and B) be received.

The motion carried

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Borden presented a written report of correspondence received during the past month. He reported on a meeting with Ted Arnott, MPP attended by himself and Director Rogers in follow up to item 1 and noted that item 2 was sent on the direction of Trustees at the last meeting.

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the Board Correspondence report dated December 20, 2011, be received.

The motion carried.

TRUSTEE QUESTIONS AND REPORTS

Visit by Minister of Education

Trustee Moziar reported on a meeting last Friday she attended along with Trustees Bailey and Waterston and Student Trustee Sampson. Minister of Health Laurel Broten, and local MPP, Liz Sandals met with students from the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) at John F. Ross CVI. Trustee Moziar indicated it was a tremendously moving meeting and the students were very candid about their various issues. She hopes the discussions will help the Minister shape the policy on bullying as it relates to these issues. The suggestion was made at the meeting that consideration be given to providing information to senior elementary students to assist with changing attitudes about preconceived notions and stigmas. It was recognized that the schools cannot address the issues alone and that the best way to influence the home is through the education of the children.

Student Trustee Sampson indicated that she would like to see other schools learn from the work done at John F. Ross, noting there is not a GSA in place at her school, Guelph C.V.I. She noted that the openness of the students participating at the meeting has encouraged her talk about the issues at her school.

Trustee Dinner

Trustee Gohn reported on his efforts to organize a Trustee dinner in January or February. He has posted information on First Class with a link to a calendar, in an effort to reach consensus regarding a date. Trustees were asked to respond as soon as possible.

Policy Re: Photographs of Students

Trustee Moziar sought clarification regarding the policy addressing picture taking by parents at school events. She noted the Freedom of Information Officer has distributed a notice asking parents to be respectful about taking pictures that include children other than their own and asking them not to post them on social media. It was noted that it is not illegal to take pictures of other children, and that the issue lies with posting the pictures on the internet. The Board cannot take and use pictures publically without parental consent. While there may be reasonable expectation that when in a public situation pictures might be taken, the issue remains difficult. Trustees referred the issue to staff and requested a report be brought forward at a future meeting to allow further discussion.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the January 2012 schedule for Board and Standing Committee Meetings be approved as follows:

- i. Program Committee – January 10, 2012
- ii. Business Operations be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2012
- iii. Regular Board Meeting be held on Tuesday, January 24, 2012

The list of dates of future meetings was reviewed and the following additions and changes were noted:

- Policy Management Committee Meeting, January 10, 2012 – CANCELLED
- Monday, January 9, 2012 - Trustee Workshop to review input for Edward Johnson Boundary Review, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Board room
- Tuesday, January 10, 2012 – IT Workshop, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Board room
- Monday, January 16, 2012 - Learning Foundation, 5:30 p.m., Room 3
- Monday January 23, Parent Involvement Committee, 6:30 p.m., Room 9
- Trustees will be advised of the date of the January Accessibility Committee meeting when it has been determined.
- Thursday, January 25, 2012, Retirement Reception for Superintendent Rosemary Fyfe, Minora Park, 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The remainder of the meetings are as follows:

Wednesday, December 21, 2011	-	Accessibility Committee, 1:30 p.m., Room 9
Wednesday, January 11, 2012	-	Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL), Guelph, 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday, January 11, 2012	-	Special Education Advisory Committee, Board Room, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, January 16, 2012	-	Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Orangeville, 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 17, 2012	-	Chairs' Committee Trustees' Lounge, 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, January, 19, 2012	-	Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Wellington Heights, 9:30 a.m.

Trustee Topping moved that the Dates of Future Meetings dated December 20, 2011 be received.

The motion carried.

IN CAMERA RESUMING

As directed at the Committee of the Whole meeting earlier in the evening, the in camera session was resumed at 8:20 p.m. in order to complete the confidential items on the agenda.

RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS

Trustee Topping moved, seconded by Trustee Cooper, that the business transacted by the Committee of the Whole be now ratified by the Board.

The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Borden expressed thanks to staff on behalf of the Trustees for an outstanding first term and extended to them best wishes for the holiday season

Trustee Waterston moved, Seconded by Trustee Gohn, that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 8:45 p.m.

The motion carried.