

## **UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

January 26, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of Upper Grand District School Board was held on Tuesday, January 26, 2010, in the Boardroom at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 7:00 p.m.

The Chair, Trustee Borden, presided, and all members were present.

### **OPENING PRAYER OR READING**

Trustee Best read The Children's Song, by Rudyard Kipling as the opening reading.

### **CONDOLENCES**

Dr. M. C. Rogers, Director, reported that condolences were sent on behalf of the Board to Lori Shilvock, a teacher at Hyland Heights, on the loss of her father; Ian Eastmure, a teacher at Eramosa Public School and Chris Eastmure, an Occasional Teacher at Salem Public School, on the loss of Ian's father and Chris' father-in-law; Pat Ostermeier, a teacher at Taylor Evans, and Terri Bales, an EA at Centennial C.V.I. on the loss of Pat's mother and Terri's grandmother; Zora Sroka, an Administrative Office Assistant in the Library at John F. Ross C.V.I., on the loss of her mother-in-law; Brenda McLaren, custodian at the Board Office and Dennis McLaren, a custodian at John F. Ross C.V.I. on the loss of their father; Muriel Brown, an Accounts Payable Clerk at the Board Office, on the loss of her brother-in-law; George and Dawn Van Kampen, on the loss of their son, Scott Van Kampen, a student at Westside S.S.; Dennis Weishar, a teacher at O.D.S.S., on the loss of his mother; Lynn Picard, an Outdoor Education Teacher at Island Lake Outdoor Education Centre, on the loss of her mother; Jonathan Henderson, a teacher at John F. Ross, on the loss of his mother; Kristy Sonoda, an Educational Assistant at Waverley Drive P.S. on the loss of her father; Linda Hull, an Educational Assistant at Credit Meadows, on the loss of her mother-in-law; Mike (Griffith) Morison, a teacher at King George P.S., on the loss of his mother; Judy Hales, an Administrative Assistant at the Wellington Centre for Continuing Education, on the loss of her sister; Donna Pritchard, the afternoon Receptionist at the Board office, on the loss of her sister.

### **GOOD NEWS**

Dr. M.C. Rogers, Director, highlighted "Good News" as follows:

#### **Taylor Evans P.S.**

Grade 8 students shovelled the sidewalks and driveways of some of their school's neighbours. The storm that hit Guelph in mid-December was timed

perfectly with the launch that day of their Eagles Giving Back program. Almost 50 Grade 8 students have volunteered to shovel area driveways and sidewalks throughout the winter.

### Centre Dufferin District High School – Tops in Debating

*Is it better to be naughty or nice in one's life on earth?* That was one of two topics at an impromptu debate held in December at Centre Dufferin District High School involving teams from Brantford, Kitchener-Waterloo and other Southwestern Ontario centres as well as the host school. In at least one instance, the Centre Dufferin senior team spoke in defence of “naughty” with arguments based on biblical and historical records as well as a brief analysis of commercialism – in both cases apparently equating naughty with greed in pursuit of the almighty dollar. The senior team went on to win first place with 169 points to 167.5 points for the Waterloo team.

### E-Learning

On Friday January 8 at a meeting of the Consortium (20 Boards that collaborate on e-Learning), Bill Mackenzie from the Program Department, received an ovation for his work on e-Textbooks. Everyone recognized the power of this accomplishment for regular classroom teachers, students, parents, Alternate Education teachers, section 23 teachers and principals. Congratulations Bill on a job well done!

### **CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA**

Trustee Busutil moved that the agenda be confirmed as printed.

The motion carried.

### **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were no conflicts of interest.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2009**

Paragraph 2 on Page 16 of the In Camera minutes was corrected to read “Chair Bob Borden presided...”

Trustee Moziar moved, seconded by Trustee Waterston that the Minutes of the Board Meeting and the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held immediately prior to the Board meeting, be approved as corrected.

The motion carried.

### **RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS TRANSACTED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN CAMERA**

Trustee Best moved, seconded by Trustee Edwards, that the business transacted by the Committee of the Whole in camera be now ratified by the Board.

The motion carried.

### **MOTION TO RISE AND SIT IN COMMITTEE**

Trustee Busuttill moved, seconded by Trustee Topping, that the Board rise and sit in Committee of the Whole, with the Chairperson presiding.

The motion carried.

### **DELEGATION**

#### **West Willow Woods Neighbourhood Group and Community Development Action Group**

Ms. Erin Harvey and Ms. Christine Nolan, representing the West Willow Woods Neighbourhood Group and Community Development Action Group were welcomed and introduced.

Ms. Christine Nolan provided an overview of the programs and services offered by the neighbourhood groups, highlighting the benefits to the communities served. It was explained that the funding for the community development workers that assist these groups has been withdrawn by Family and Children's Services as it is outside their mandate of providing child welfare protection. This action has put the continuation of the neighbourhood groups in jeopardy.

Ms. Erin Harvey, Supervisor of Community Development at Family and Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington County outlined the neighbourhood group structure and the four outcome objectives. Ms. Harvey explained their position that community development work is child welfare and provided reasons and examples. Ms. Harvey also circulated information regarding benefits of programs put in place in Harlem which support community development initiatives and expressed her desire to move toward similar initiatives in Guelph.

Trustees suggested other potential avenues to pursue for short-term funding support such as the Local Health Integration Network and the Trillium Foundation.

It was explained that some alternate short-term funding sources have been identified and that the groups anticipate they can continue for approximately three months. The City of Guelph has agreed to include this issue

in the terms of reference for the City's Sustainable Neighbourhood Framework in an effort to identify a long-term strategy.

Ms. Harvey indicated they were asking the Board to consider providing some short-term funding in support of the CD program; to send a letter to the politicians outlining the importance of the program; and, and to identify a Board member or staff member to participate in a community consultation process to develop a more sustainable, collaborative approach to Community Development. Ms. Harvey was asked to forward a letter to the Board Chair formally requesting representation on the stakeholder groups.

Trustee Busuttil Moved that the Board send a letter to the Premier of Ontario that outlines the importance of the community development work that supports families in our neighbourhoods and the achievement of children in our schools.

The motion carried.

### **PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

Trustee Moziar moved that the minutes of the Program Committee held January 5, 2010 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Moziar moved the adoption of recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 as contained in the minutes of the Program Committee held January 5, 2010.

The motion carried.

The recommendations are as follows:

1. the report entitled, "2009-2010 Aboriginal Education Implementation Plan", dated January 5, 2010, be received.
2. the report entitled, "2009-2010 Character Education Implementation – Consolidation Plan", be received.
3. the presentation entitled, "Student Success 7 - 12", be received.
4. the verbal OPSBA report be received.
5. the verbal Student Trustee report be received.

### **BUSINESS OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Trustee Busuttil moved that the minutes of the Business Operations Committee held January 12, 2010 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Busuttill moved the adoption of recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 as contained in the minutes of the Business Operations Committee held January 12, 2010.

The motion carried.

The recommendations are as follows:

THAT:

- 1) the report entitled Relocation of the Priory Park 7-8 Program dated January 12, 2010 be received;
- 2) the grade 7-8 students from Priory Park Public School be relocated to Jean Little Public School effective September 2010.
- 3) the report, "Resignations and Retirements" dated January 12, 2010 be received; and,
- 4) the Board approve the Executive Officer of Human Resources' decisions as outlined in the report "Resignations and Retirements," dated January 12, 2010 (Appendix A and B).
- 5) the verbal report on Health and Safety, as presented by Ms. J.L. Rose, Executive Officer of Human Resources, be received as information.
- 6) the verbal report presented by Dennis Cuomo, Manager of Planning regarding the Orangeville Properties be received.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Trustee Waterston moved that the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee held January 13, 2010 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

It was reported that elections were held for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair of SEAC, and that parent representatives were elected to both positions.

### **2009-10 INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT**

Ms. J.D. Wright, Superintendent of Finance, introduced and reviewed her report entitled, "2009-10 Interim Financial Reporting as at October 31, 2009," dated January 26, 2010, including Appendix A.

This is the first report using the new Ministry recommended format. It uses actual revenue, expenditures and enrolment for the first two months of the year as a base for projections. Trustees should consider a forecast of a surplus or deficit that is within plus or minus 1% of revenue to be balanced (approximately \$3M). The Financial Report included as Appendix A was reviewed in detail highlighting changes and explanations for any variances.

It was explained that follow-up analysis regarding enrolment decline was undertaken at the elementary level. It was determined that schools where

enrolment decreased by greater than ten students were predominantly in areas identified as having greater social risks and poverty. Principals were contacted and it was determined the main reason for students leaving was a result of the economic downturn. Families often relocated to communities with less expensive housing, to move in with other family members, or to move to the western provinces where work had been obtained by the parents. A correlation between the negative impact at the elementary level and those schools where the students would move to at the secondary level was also identified.

Trustee Best moved the report entitled, "Interim Financial Reporting (#2009-45)," dated January 26, 2010 as presented by Ms. J.D. Wright, Superintendent of Finance, be received.

The motion carried.

### **RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

Ms. J.L. Rose, Executive Officer of Human Resources introduced and reviewed the report entitled "Retirements", dated January 26, 2010, as distributed at the meeting.

Trustee Schieck moved

THAT

1. the report, "Retirements", dated January 26, 2010 be received;
2. the Board approve the Executive Officer of Human Resources' decisions as outlined in the report "Retirements," dated January 26, 2010 (appendix A and B).

The motion carried.

### **BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

Chair Borden presented a written report of correspondence received during the past month.

Trustee Schieck moved that the Board Correspondence Report dated January 26, 2010 be received.

The motion carried.

### **TRUSTEE QUESTIONS AND REPORTS**

#### **Acknowledgements**

Trustee Bailey acknowledged and congratulated Bill Mackenzie on his election in December 2009, to the position of President of the Educational Computing Organization of Ontario (ECOO).

Trustee Bailey acknowledged Wendy Wade, Principal of Rickson Ridge P.S. on representing the Ontario Principal's Council at the Early Learning Implementation Advisory Group.

Trustee Bailey acknowledged Mr. Chris Popofski, a grade 6 teacher at Sir Isaac Brock P.S. for participating in a provincial panel symposium where he interacted with the audience in demonstrating how hand held devices can be used as effective learning devices in the classroom.

Dr. Martha Rogers expressed appreciation on behalf of the staff and the Board to Trustee Busuttill for volunteering to chair the recent meeting with the Town of Erin to discuss the Sewage Treatment Plant replacement when the Board Chair was unavailable, and for the masterful way in which she conducted the meeting.

### SALEP Student Assistance

In response to a question by Trustee Schieck, it was clarified that the position designated to work with the SALEP students under the Co-op Recall program is being retained.

### Accessibility Training

Trustee Busuttill reported arrangements have been made for Trustees to complete the on-line Accessibility Training on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the Computer Training Room. Those wishing to participate were asked to advise Trustee Busuttill. All Trustees are required to complete the training by the end of February.

### Early Learning Program

Trustee Topping reported on her attendance at a session in Peel Region regarding the implementation of the Early Learning Program. The audience was representative of a variety of people involved with young children. Trustee Topping encouraged members to consider attending an upcoming session that is being scheduled in Halton. The date will be circulated to Trustees.

Dr. Martha Rogers reported that strategies to address the issue of providing all day early learning should the enrolment exceed the number of available funded spaces at one of the identified schools was discussed at a recent English Public School Directors' meeting. She noted some Boards plan to conduct lotteries and others will determine enrolment on a first come first served basis. Dr. Rogers noted that the UGDSB strategy as submitted to the Ministry in September called for the introduction of the program based on a priority school listing in order to be able to ensure our students would attend school in their home communities and in order not to limit access to the program. This strategy could result in all day early learning not being offered in all thirteen of the Ministry identified schools within this Board if enrolment in the highest priority schools exceeds the projected enrolment.

**DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

- Tuesday, February 2, 2010 - Policy Management Committee (PMC), 3:00 p.m., Boardroom
- Wednesday, February 3, 2010 - Central Guelph Accommodation Review Committee, 7:00 p.m., John McCrae
- Monday, February 8, 2010 - Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils (SALEP), 1:00 p.m., Orangeville
- Tuesday, February 9, 2010 - Chair's Committee, 5:00 p.m., Trustees' Lounge
- Wednesday, February 10, 2010 - Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), 7:00 p.m., Boardroom
- Wednesday, February 17, 2010 - Central Guelph Accommodation Review Committee, 7:00 p.m., Paisley Rd. P.S.
- Thursday, February 18, 2010 - Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils (SALEP), W.H.S.S., 9:30 a.m.
- Friday, February 19, 2010 - Dufferin County Trustees meeting with the County of Dufferin Re: Accessibility, 10 a.m., Orangeville Office
- Wednesday, February 24, 2010 - Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils (SALEP), 9:30 a.m., Room 8

**Monday, February 15, 2010  
Family Day (Board Office closed)**

**February 26-27, 2010  
OPSBA Board of Directors Meeting  
Metropolitan Hotel, Toronto**

Trustee Edwards moved that the January 2010 schedule for Board and Board Committee Meetings be approved as follows:

- i. Program Committee be held on Tuesday, February 2, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
- ii. Business Operations be held on Tuesday, February 9, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
- iii. Regular Board Meeting be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2010.

The motion carried.

Trustee Topping moved that the Dates of Future Meetings, dated January 26, 2010 be received.

The motion carried.

**MOTION TO RISE AND REPORT TO THE BOARD**

Trustee Waterston moved that the Committee of the Whole rise and report to the Board.

The motion carried.

**RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS**

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

The motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Gohn moved, seconded by Trustee Edwards, that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 8:30 p.m.

The motion carried.