

UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

November 24, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of Upper Grand District School Board was held on Tuesday, November 24, 2009, 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 with the exception of Trustees Gohn (excused) and Student Trustee Steau.

OPENING PRAYER OR READING

Trustee Schieck delivered an inspirational reading entitled "The Children's Song," by Rudyard Kipling.

CONDOLENCES

The Director reported that condolences were sent on behalf of the Board to Trustee Lynn Topping, on the loss of her father; Mark Weidmark, UGDSB Webmaster, and Kathleen Weidmark, a supply teacher, on the loss of Mark's father and Kathleen's grandfather and on the loss of Mark's brother and Kathleen's uncle; Mrs. Jill Penrose, on the loss of her husband, Ron Penrose, a custodian at Mono-Amaranth; Dianne Neimanis, recently retired Board Administrative Assistant, on the loss of her husband; David Burgess, a teacher at Centre Wellington District High School, and Katharine Creery, principal at Centre Peel Public School on the loss of David's brother and Katharine's brother-in-law; David Kirk, a retired principal who is currently working as an LTO, on the loss of his mother, Jean Kirk; Jacqueline Nyman, a teacher at Sir Isaac Brock P.S., on the loss of her father; Gord Heasley, principal at Edward Johnson and Nadia Schewtschenko, a teacher at John McCrae P.S. on the loss of Gord's father and Nadia's father-in-law; Jayne Brubacher, a Work Experience Facilitator at Centennial C.V.I., on the loss of her father; David Johnson, on the loss of his wife, Karen (Kim) McGuire, a Librarian and English teacher at college Heights Secondary School; Colleen Black, on the loss of her daughter, Christine Schlee, a student at John F. Ross; Janet Shannon, an EA at Centre Dufferin D.H.S., on the loss of her father; Andrea Kelly, a teacher at Victory Public School, on the loss of her father; Kathy Trimble, the office co-ordinator at O.D.S.S. and Julie Tupling, and educational assistant at Credit Meadows, on the loss of their mother; Diana Baggio-Favrin, a teacher at Jean Little Public School, on the loss of her father-in-law; Lynn Dunseith, an office assistant at Continuing Ed, on the loss of her nephew; Stanley Cutts, a teacher at Jean Little P.S. and Caroline Mitchell, a Curriculum Leader with Program Services, on the loss of Stanley's mother and Caroline's mother-in law; Chris Langman, a teacher at Mono-Amaranth P.S. and Dave Langman, a teacher at Centre Dufferin D.H.S. on the loss of their daughter; and, Cindy Douma, Board Committee Secretary, on the loss of her niece.

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GOOD NEWS

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

Gateway Drive Public School

At Gateway Drive Public School, there is a group of students and teachers who feel very strongly about human rights. Students in grades 6 to 8 have joined together and created the Amnesty Group. They write letters to governments around the world about certain issues. For their last Write-a-Thon they wrote letters about child soldiers. Students came to learn more about this issue and supported the Amnesty Group.

Another component of the Amnesty group is fundraising in order to have sufficient funds to be able to send off the letters. So far, they have raised money by hosting a freezie sale.

Members of this club originate from a variety of places such as Pakistan and Afghanistan. This perspective provides a wide range of knowledge in their letters. It also shows that some students may have experienced some of the issues on which they focus and it helps them to write sincere letters. Some of the traits they focus on are freedom, dignity and justice. They hope that these traits, which we know here in Canada, will provide them with the power to help others around the world.

King George P.S.

King George P.S. received \$10,000 from MusiCounts the charitable arm of The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, which promotes Canadian artists. Teacher Sarah Garret, supported by Martha Rogers applied for a grant earlier this year. Martha paid an early morning visit last week to King George to hear first hand the new instruments purchased.

Kortright Hills P.S.

On Friday, October 30th, 2009, two students from Kortright Hills Public School received the CAA Patrol of the Year Award, by acting quickly as responsible bus patrollers who acted quickly and calmly when their bus went off the road last fall.

Kathleen Zavitz and Alexis Smith were on duty when their bus slipped off the road and into the ditch, landing partially on its side. The bus driver was unable to leave her seat, so Kathleen and Alexis took over. Alexis assisted students as they climbed out of the window and onto the road, while Kathleen stayed on the bus and assisted the students as they climbed out the window. These patrollers were instrumental in helping the twelve students exit safely and get into a driveway, where they stayed until help arrived.

Montgomery Village P.S.

Montgomery Village P.S. is one of eight schools selected from across the country to win \$750 .00 worth of track and field equipment and a visit from RBC

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Olympian, Mark Boswell for making a pledge to create a better Canada. Along with Mark, RBC vice-president Bruce Gehlen visited Montgomery Village bringing with them an Olympic Torch. Montgomery Village P.S. students listed reasons why they love to walk to school or why they wished they could walk to school.

Princess Elizabeth P.S.

Princess Elizabeth P.S. applied for and received a Green Apple Grant valued at \$1,000 through Metro Ontario Inc. (grocery store chain). The grant will be used to purchase three classroom vermicomposters, and have Cathy Nesbitt give presentations to 100 students as part of a growing initiative to reduce garbage produced at school. Students will learn how to set up and care for red wigglers (composting worms). Students will also learn how good waste is being diverted from the garbage stream at Princess Elizabeth P.S. and can be used for fertilizing school gardens.

Centre Wellington D.H.S.

In the September Good News Report it was reported that Nishin Nathwani from Centre Wellington D.H.S. was one of three activists selected to represent North America at the Global Youth Summit in London from November 15 -22, 2009. We have received word today, that Nishin has been selected as one of the six who are heading to Switzerland in January to present their vision(s) to global leaders (e.g. Bill Gates, the president of PepsiCo, Bono, representatives of United Nations Assembly etc.).

Sarah Hennekens a recent graduate from Centre Wellington D.H.S. received a \$10,000 grant to go to the Arctic with the award winning program Students On Ice. Sarah spent two weeks on the Luybov Orlova, a Russian vessel with 120 people from around the world – students, arctic researchers, biologists, artists, musicians, explorers, geologists, photographers, Inuit elders while exploring the eastern coast of Baffin Island, Nunavut.

Westside Secondary School

Students and teachers got their hair waxed, dyed or cut, as part of pink week. The school raised in excess of \$9,300 for the Breast Cancer Society of Canada.

Program Department

On November 11-13, the Educational Computing Organization of Ontario had its 30th Anniversary Conference called “Inspire, Connect, Teach: How are you reaching your digital learners?” under the direction of Brenda Sherry. Brenda is our Board’s Itinerant Technology Coach.

As this year’s conference chair, her committee consisted of 16 Ontario educators. Upper Grand staff members Catherine Andrews, Martine Cramer and Mike Anderson served as committee members.

Two Upper Grand teachers, Devon Moore and Chris Popofski (former tech coaches), conducted one-hour presentations. Trustee Mark Bailey and David Walpole presented a session from OPSBA about the “What if?” document.

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At a time when digital learning impacts all grade levels and curriculum areas and all kinds of learners, Brenda is excited to be taking a leadership role in providing professional development for teachers in the province and beyond. She has volunteered to continue as conference chair again next year!

Province's Queen Elizabeth II Aiming for the Top Scholarship

154 Upper Grand D.S.B. graduates were recipients of the Province's Queen Elizabeth II Aiming for the Top Scholarship. The Queen Elizabeth II Aiming for the Top Scholarship Program is a program of the Ontario Government that rewards students who graduate with top marks at their high school, and who plan to continue their studies at an Ontario college or university. The scholarships are worth a maximum of \$3,500 per year, for up to four years in total.

CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA

Trustee Busuttil 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 THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD OCTOBER 27, 2009

Trustee Waterston moved, seconded by Trustee Edwards, that the Minutes of the Board meeting held October 27, 2009, the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held immediately prior to the Board meeting, be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

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

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

The motion carried.

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DELEGATION

1. Nestle Water re: Aberfoyle Public School

Chair Borden introduced Mr. Michel McArthur, Director, Supply Chain, Nestle Waters Canada. A copy of the news release from Nestle Waters announcing their donation of \$26,250 to Aberfoyle Public School playground renewal was circulated at the meeting. Mr. McArthur reported that his company had matched community donations dollar-for-dollar concluding their three year commitment to the project.

Mr. McArthur also reported that high school students volunteered during the Nestle Water's Open House, helping them to meet the community involvement requirement of their curriculum. Chair Borden was presented with materials to assist with environmental education curricula and it was noted that schools within the Board visit the facility to tour the facility and to learn about the environment. A group of marketing students from GCVI have also visited the facility and learned about the company's environmental stewardship.

The appreciation of the Board were extended to Mr. McArthur and Nestle Water for participating in the funding for the Aberfoyle School playground project and for their part in hosting educational environmental programs. He was also thanked him for taking the time to talk to the students at their recent District Student meeting.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Bailey moved that the minutes of the Program Committee meeting held November 3, 2009 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Bailey moved the adoption of recommendations, as contained in the Minutes of the Program Committee, dated October 6, 2009.

The motion carried.

The recommendations are as follows:

1. the presentation entitled, "Environmental Learning Centre Curriculum Resources", be received.
2. the presentation entitled, "Policy/Program Memorandum No. 149", be received.
3. the verbal OPSBA report be received.
4. the Student Trustee presentation be received.

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BUSINESS OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Schieck moved that the minutes of the Business Operations Committee held November 10, 2009 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Trustee Moziar requested that recommendation #3 be considered separately.

Trustee Schieck moved the adoption of recommendations 1 and 2 as contained in the minutes of the Business Operations Committee held November 10, 2009.

The motion carried.

The recommendations are as follows:

1. (a) the report, "Resignations and Retirements" dated November 10, 2009 be received; and
(b) the Board approve the Executive Officer of Human Resources' decisions as outlined in the report "Resignations and Retirements," dated November 10, 2009 (Appendix A and B).
2. the verbal report on Health and Safety, as presented by Ms. J.R. Rose, Executive Officer of Human Resources, be received as information.

Trustee Schieck moved that recommendation 3 be approved as follows:

3. the report, "Capital & Renewal Projects (2009/10)," CP:09-06, dated November 10, 2009, be received.

Trustee Moziar noted that the report "Capital and Renewal Projects (2009/10) dated November 10, 2009 includes several items pertaining to Kenilworth Public School totalling approximately \$.5M. Because this school is on the list of schools designated to close, the Board is unable to complete these projects. She further noted there is a motion currently on the record from several years ago that calls for the closing of Kenilworth Public School if the enrolment drops below 120 students for more than two consecutive years. Enrolment data indicates that the enrolment has fallen below that level for several years. It was felt that a decision needs to be made whether or not to rescind the motion or to comply with it. Staff would need to investigate with the Ministry whether or not the motion is still valid in view of changes in legislation and regulations with respect to school closures. Other opportunities may also exist that could strengthen programming there.

The motion to adopt recommendation 3
was considered and carried

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Trustee Moziar moved that an additional motion be considered as follows:

THAT staff be directed to prepare a report clarifying the status of the existing motion to close the Kenilworth Public School, no later than the March 2010 meeting of the business Operations Committee.

A recorded vote was requested by Trustee Schieck in accordance with Clause 66 of the Board's By-law No. 1, and this was as follows:

Yea: Trustees Waterston, Bailey, Moziar, Edwards, Busuttil, Topping and Borden

Nay: Trustees Best and Schieck.

The motion carried.

Announcement of Elementary and Secondary Principal/Vice-Principal Eligibility Lists – 2010

Dr. M. C. Rogers, Director, announced that earlier in the evening in camera, Tammy Fleming and Osma Masood were placed on the Elementary Principal Eligibility List; Michelle Schmid and Paola Argentino were placed on the Elementary Vice-Principal Eligibility List; Julie Bodiam, Stephen Gayfer and Patrick Hamilton were placed on the Secondary Principal Eligibility List and Beth Charles, Julie DeMaeyer, Francis Noventa and Jeff Weddig were placed in the Secondary Vice-Principal Eligibility List.

POLICY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Edwards moved that the minutes of the Policy Management Committee held November 10, 2009 be received and considered.

Trustee Edwards moved the adoption of the recommendation as contained in the Minutes of the policy Management Committee, dated November 10, 2009.

The motion carried

The motion is as follows:

1. Policy 200 - Community Use of School Facilities be approved.

CHAIRS' COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Edwards. moved that that the minutes of the Chairs' Committee held November 3, be received and considered.

The motion carried.

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Trustee Edwards moved the adoption of the recommendation contained in the minutes of the Chairs' Committee dated November 10, 2009.

The motion carried.

The motion is as follows:

1. the monthly financial statements as of October 31, 2009 be received.

Professional Development Options

Trustee Borden circulated at the meeting and reviewed the report entitled "2009-10 Trustee Professional Development," dated November 24, 2009. It was noted that the survey conducted indicated that requests from Trustees to attend OPSBA professional development events exceed the budget available. The Committee discussed the issue and suggests that members of the Board restrict their attendance to only one Board funded event per Trustee for this budget year in order to maintain a balanced budget line. Trustees are individually responsible to advise the Board Committee Secretary which sessions they would like to attend and whether or not they wish to pay for it through the professional development fund or personally. Student Trustees are provided with \$500 each for professional development.

Trustee Bailey moved that the report "2009-10 Trustee Professional Development," dated November 24, 2009, be received.

The motion carried.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Busuttill moved that the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee held November 11, 2009 be received.

The motion carried.

Appointment of Members

Letters received from the Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario and Autism Ontario regarding representation on the Special Advisory Committee were reviewed.

Trustee Best moved that:

- (a) Ms. Lori McNeil-Chong be appointed to the Special Education Advisory Committee as a representative of the Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario effective December 1, 2009 to November 30, 2010, and

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- (b) Ms. Denise Fogal-Smith be appointed to the Special Education Advisory Committee as the alternate representative of the Autism Ontario effective December 1, 2009 to November 30, 2010.

The motion carried.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Janice Wright, Superintendent of Finance, reported that a standard report is being presented for consideration. She noted the change that requires us to file the Financial Statements with the Ministry of Education by November 16th. The draft report was presented to the Audit Committee on November 10th and the Committee gave the authority to staff to file electronic statements by the deadline so as not to receive financial penalty. Changes can be submitted if any modifications become necessary.

Superintendent Wright introduced and welcomed Tom Mennill and Kim Haley representing the firm KPMG LLP, Chartered Accountants, who introduced and reviewed the Audit Findings Report. The reports on the Audited Financial Statements for Upper Grand District School Board and for the Board's Trust Funds were also included in the agenda packages and the "Notes to Financial Statements" were highlighted. In response to a question from Trustees, Mr. Mennill also reported that, within the scope of their work which is focused on financial reporting and statements, no items regarding risk management were identified to bring to the attention of the Board.

Mr. Mennill reported that the audit was completed and an unqualified audit opinion on consolidated financial statements of the Board and the Trust Funds has been rendered. He highlighted the matters arising from the audit that are relevant to the Board pertaining to Tangible Capital Assets, Proportionate Consolidation of Government Partnerships, School Funds, Impact of Tax Harmonization on School Boards and Ministry Initiatives. Mr. Mennill acknowledged the contributions of Superintendent Wright, Ms. Sheila Parker, Manager of Budget and Financial Reporting, and Ms. Kelly Culver, Controller, who were in attendance, and of their departments.

The appreciation of the Board was extended to Mr. Mennill, Ms. Haley and KPMG staff and also to Superintendent Wright, Ms. Parker, Manager of Budget and Financial Reporting, and Ms. Kelly Culver, Controller, and their departments.

A) Audit Findings Report

Trustee Waterston MOVED that the report "Audit Findings Report to the Board of Trustees for year ended August 31, 2009 dated November 24, 2009 be received."

The motion carried

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B) Audited Financial Statements

Trustee Busutil moved that:

- a) the report: 2008-09 Audited Financial Statements (Finance #2009-42) dated November 24, 2009 be received,
- b) the 2008-09 Audited Financial Statements for the Upper Grand District School Board and the 2008-09 Audited Financial Statements for the Upper Grand District School Board Trust be approved.

The motion carried.

REPORTS ON FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM DELIVERY AND IMPACT ON ESL LEARNING IN A DUAL TRACK FRENCH-ENGLISH SCHOOL

As a result of the Central Guelph Accommodation Review Committee discussions, in June 2009 the Board directed the Program Department to provide a report reviewing our Board's current models for FI Program delivery and a report responding to the concerns of impacts on ESL learning in a dual track French-English School.

Bonnie Talbot, Principal of Program, Introduced and reviewed the report titled, "Upper Grand District School Board French Immersion Program Delivery," dated November 24, 2009 along with the appendices A through D that illustrate where French Immersion program exist currently and the enrolment as of September 11, 2009, the single and dual stream French Immersion programs including English and French Immersion enrolment, benefits and drawbacks of dual stream and single stream organizations, and Grade 3 EQAO results by French Immersion school on assessments over the past three years. The list of sources for the information are also cited on the last page of the report. The Program Department supports both single and dual track approaches as long as dual track schools maintain a viable population in both tracks and that the number of schools a given student will attend in the elementary years should not exceed two.

Trustee Moziar moved that the report, "Upper Grand District School Board French Immersion Program Delivery, " dated November 24, 2009 be received.

The motion carried.

Hannah Morris, Curriculum Leader, introduced and reviewed the report "Impact on ESL Learning in a Dual Track French-English School," dated November 24, 2009, along with the appendices A, B and C. She explained that staff endeavoured to find educational research that explored this question with no findings. Staff then looked at the question from the perspective of research and scholarly literature which demonstrated the best practice on how students learn a

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Language (Appendix A). Staff also reviewed the policy of the Ministry of Education and their support document, *Supporting English Language Learners: a practical guide for Ontario Educators Grade 1 to 8* (Appendix B). The data on ESL population in Guelph schools was also reviewed (Appendix C). It was noted there is no research to suggest that ESL or ELL students are disadvantaged in a dual track school model.

Trustee Bailey moved that the report, "Impact on ESL Learning in a Dual Track French-English School," dated November 24, 2009 be received.

The motion carried.

The reports will be available to members of the ARC through the Board's website.

PROVISIONS WITH REGARD TO STUDENT TRUSTEES

Chair Borden introduced and reviewed his report "Provision with Regard to Student Trustees," dated November 19, 2009 and the detailed Memorandum from Margot Trevelyan, Director, Labour Relations and Governance Branch, Ministry of Education sent to Directors of Education related to Student Trustees. He noted that it is important that Student Trustees' roles and responsibilities are clear and also that this Board is more advanced regarding the treatment of our Student Trustees than in some other districts.

Trustee Best moved that the verbal report on provisions with regard to Student Trustees be received.

The motion carried.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Ms. J. L. Rose introduced and reviewed her report, "Resignations and Retirements," dated November 24, 2009, as distributed at the meeting.

Trustee Topping moved that:

1. the report, "Resignations and Retirements," dated November 24, 2009 be received; and
2. the Board approves the Executive Officer of Human Resources' decisions as outlined in the report "Resignations and Retirements," dated November 24, 2009 (Appendix A)

The motion carried.

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BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

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

Trustee Schieck moved that the Board Correspondence dated November 24, 2009 be received.

The motion carried.

TRUSTEE QUESTIONS AND REPORTS - Nil

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Trustee Waterston moved that the December 2009 schedule for Board and Board Committee Meetings be approved as follows:

- i. Final meeting of the 2008-09 Board be held on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, at 6:30 p.m.
- ii. Organizational meeting of the new Board be held on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.
- iii. Business Operations be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2009
- iv. Regular Board Meeting be held on Tuesday, December 15, 2009

The list of dates of future meetings, dated November 24, 2009 was reviewed and the following additions were noted:

- Thursday, November 26 - Central Guelph Accommodation Review meeting will be held at Waverley Drive P.S.
- Tuesday, December 15 - Board Accessibility Training, 6:00 to 6:30, p.m.,
Computer Training room
- Thursday, December 17 - Accessibility Committee Meeting, 1:00 p.m., Room 8

Trustee Topping moved that the Dates of Future Meetings dated November 24, 2009 be received.

The motion carried.

It was noted that the Trustee Workshop on updating the Strategic Plan is scheduled Tuesday, December 15th. Members were asked to complete an online survey. The link was previously circulated via email and will be posted on the Trustee Conference. Hard copies can be obtained through the Director's office.

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MOTION TO RISE AND REPORT TO THE BOARD

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

The motion carried.

RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS

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

The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Moziar moved, seconded by Trustee Best, that the Board adjourn and this meeting now close at 9:10 p.m.

The motion carried.