# Special Board Minutes
# Monday, June 29, 2026
# Boardroom and Virtually

The Upper Grand District School Board met in special session on Monday, June 29, 2026, in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, and virtually via Microsoft Teams, starting at 6:22 p.m.

Trustees Present:
- Ralf Mesenbrink (Chair)
- Alethia O'Hara-Stephenson (Vice Chair)
- Jen Edwards
- Irene Hanenberg
- Martha MacNeil
- Kyle Reaburn
- Robin Ross
- Lynn Topping
- Laurie Whyte
- Elisa Emini (Student Trustee)
- Wreighn Fetalcorin (Student Trustee)

Absent:
- Luke Weiler

Administration:
- Peter Sovran, Chief Executive Officer
- Brent McDonald, Associate Director and Chief Operating Officer
- Scott Keys, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer
- Deirdre Pyke, Superintendent of People, Leadership and Culture
- Roy Cousins, Superintendent of Student Achievement
- Wendy Donaldson, Superintendent of Student Achievement
- Pat Hamilton, Superintendent of Student Achievement
- Belal Taha, Superintendent of Student Achievement
- Claudine Tyrell, Superintendent of Student Achievement
- Steve Viveiros, Superintendent of Student Achievement
- Alicia Ralph, Human Rights, Equity and Accessibility Commissioner
- Heather Loney, Manager of Communications and Public Relations
- Nancy Fiorentino, Manager of Governance and Board Services

## 1. Call 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 Reaburn highlighted the importance of the Board's commitment to equity and anti-racism/anti-oppression.

## 3. Approval of the Agenda

RESOLUTION #26-154:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil
Seconded by: Trustee Whyte

That the Upper Grand District School Board agenda for the June 29, 2026 special meeting, be approved as presented.

CARRIED

## 4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

## 5. Resolve into Committee of Whole (Open)

RESOLUTION #26-155:

Moved by: Trustee Ross
Seconded by: Trustee Topping

That the Special Board meeting of June 29, 2026 resolve into Committee of the Whole, Open session, for consideration of the matters set out in the agenda.

CARRIED

*In accordance with Section 3.3 of By-law 1, Vice Chair O'Hara-Stephenson assumed the Chair of the Committee of the Whole.*

## 6. Delegation(s)

There were no delegations.

## 7. Agenda Item(s)

7.1 2026/2027 Financial Estimates

Chief Executive Officer Peter Sovran shared the 2026-2027 Financial Estimates, which outlined the proposed allocation of resources and budget for 2026-27.

RESOLUTION #26-156:

Moved by: Trustee Ross

That the 2026-2027 Financial Estimates as presented in the report dated June 29, 2026 and attached in Appendix A to the same report, be adopted.

CARRIED

## 8. Rise and Report to the Board

RESOLUTION #26-157:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte

That the Committee of the Whole rise and report to the Board.

CARRIED

*Chair Mesenbrink resumed as the Chair.*

8.1 Committee of the Whole (Open Report)

Vice Chair O'Hara-Stephenson presented the Committee of the Whole (Open Session) report for the session which met on June 29, 2026. A recommendation was made on Agenda Item 7.1 – 2026-2027 Financial Estimates as noted in the report.

RESOLUTION #26-158:

Moved by: Trustee Whyte
Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

That the report and recommendations of the Committee of the Whole open session held on June 29, 2026, be approved.

CARRIED

8.2 Committee of the Whole (Closed Report)

Vice Chair O'Hara-Stephenson presented the Committee of the Whole (Closed Session) report for the session which met on June 29, 2026 noting that recommendations were made on closed session agenda Items 4a) and 4b), pertaining to Section 207(2) b and d of the *Education Act*. No declarations of conflict of interest were declared, and all trustees, with the exception of Trustee Weiler, were in attendance.

RESOLUTION #26-159:

Moved by: Trustee MacNeil
Seconded by: Trustee Edwards

That the report and recommendations of the Committee of the Whole closed session held on June 29, 2026, be approved.

CARRIED

**9. Notice of Motions** (Discussion for Next Meeting)

Moved by Trustee Weiler

BE IT RESOLVED:

That staff shall prepare a policy detailing those circumstances in which AI may and may not be used in the education of students, in which ways and for which purposes, for submission to the Policy and Priorities Committee. Staff shall conduct robust consultations with parents, guardians, community stakeholders, and students on the use of AI in schools, such consultations to include surveys and town halls, and shall take those views into account in preparing the policy. Staff shall conduct a survey of the scientific literature on the subject and consider both potential benefits and harms to students from the use of AI and shall summarize this work in its report. Both harms to the environment from the use of AI and consequences (including externalized consequences) for the Board's sustainability objectives shall also be considered.

**10. Adjournment**

RESOLUTION #26-160:

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

That the June 29, 2026 Upper Grand District School Board special meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.