UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NEWS

For Immediate Release

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UGDSB Director/CEO Peter Sovran announces retirement

GUELPH, Ontario – The Upper Grand District School Board (UGDSB) announces that Peter Sovran, Director of Education and Chief Executive Officer, will retire at the end of September following a career that has spanned more than three decades in public education and public service.

Over the past five years, Peter has provided steady and future-focused leadership through a period of significant change for public education. Under his leadership, the UGDSB has remained focused on student achievement, well-being, equity, human rights, sustainability, and the realization of Vision 2026+.

Among the proud highlights of this period has been the Board's year-over-year improvement in student achievement, reflecting the collective commitment of staff, students, families, trustees, and community partners. The establishment of the UGDSB Innovation Lab has helped reimagine professional learning and create new ways for staff to collaborate, learn, and respond to emerging system needs.

Peter has also led the Board through the disruption and opportunities created by artificial intelligence, emphasizing that new technologies must be approached through a strong foundation in literacy, mathematics, critical thinking, human rights, equity, sustainability, and responsible citizenship. This approach has reinforced the importance of preparing students not only for a changing future, but for active and ethical participation in their communities.

"On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to thank Peter for his dedicated service, thoughtful leadership, and unwavering commitment to students, staff, families, and public education," said Ralf Mesenbrink, Chair of the Board. "Peter has led with integrity, vision, and a deep commitment to improvement. His leadership has helped position the UGDSB for continued success."

Reflecting on his retirement, Peter expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve the students, staff, families, trustees, and communities of the UGDSB.

"It has been an honour to serve as Director of Education and CEO of the Upper Grand District School Board," said Peter Sovran. "I am deeply grateful for the dedication of our staff, the leadership of our trustees, the partnership of families and communities, and

the energy, creativity, and promise of our students. I am proud that, through challenge and change, UGDSB has stayed focused on realizing Vision 2026+. Now is the time to remain committed to our purpose. Let's GO! UGDSB."

The Board extends its sincere thanks to Peter for his years of service and leadership.

The Board is also pleased to announce that Brent McDonald, Associate Director and Chief Operating Officer will assume the role of Chief Executive Officer as of October 1.

About the Upper Grand District School Board

The Upper Grand District School Board serves more than 35,000 students through 65 elementary schools and 11 secondary schools in the City of Guelph, County of Wellington and County of Dufferin. The UGDSB covers the ancestral and traditional territories of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Six Nations of the Grand River, and Saugeen Ojibway Nation Territories. Inspiring a love of learning and developing engaged, globally literate citizens is the shared purpose of our Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, and more than 4,000 dedicated education and support staff who are aided by the contributions of caring volunteers and community partners.

Our Purpose: To inspire a love of learning and develop engaged, globally literate citizens.

Our Vision: To be recognized as leaders in creating unparalleled, agile, and inclusive learning experiences for all.

Our Plan:

We will…

- *Deliver foundational education and student achievement*

We will…

- *Inspire a love of lifelong learning*
- *Champion health and wellbeing*
- *Ensure equity of access and outcomes*
- *Lead through sustainability*

We will…

- *Foster engaging and supportive learning environments*
- *Strengthen and grow community relationships*

- *Continuously learn, evaluate and improve*

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