

Upper Grand District School Board PIC Committee

Monday, May 30, 2022

MINUTES

Those present:

Matt McCutcheon, Martha MacNeil, Gillian Prieur, Kumudine Kariyapperuma, Ben McCabe, Jason Boyce, Peter Sovran, Debbie Bush, Anita MacFarlane, Tina Burden Coates, Rachel Albanese, Barb White, Caroline Folgman, Caroline Derderian, Jen Tulloch, Monica Cojocar, Tara Dean-Witt, Tracy Smith, Stephanie Deward, Leo Song.

1. Welcome and introductions

- PIC Co-Chairs welcomed everyone to the meeting and individuals in attendance introduced themselves. Everyone shared their highlights of the past year

2. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Approval of minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

4. Director Report

Director Report: Peter Sovran

- Shared reflections of 2021-2022 School year
 - ❖ A lot of work framed around the three R's: Reengaging and Refreshing and Reimagining.
 - ❖ Reengaging meant coming back in September for staff and students during times of Covid when things still so uncertain
 - ❖ Refreshing was just reminding ourselves of all the wonderful practices that we have in our schools and not necessarily going back to same practices but refreshing, learning and adapting new practices to suit what works best in this stage
 - ❖ Reimagining the way we held meetings for example, completely online, to now a more blended/hybrid mode
 - ❖ Covid cases rise with new variant in Dec 2021 which resulted in going back to virtual/online learning for students in January 2022
 - ❖ Reflection on the life of Martha Rogers who passed away in December 2021
 - ❖ Significant part of this year have been Thursday school visits by Director Peter Sovran with goal to visit every school, every program and every classroom throughout school board

- Multi Year board Plan
 - ❖ Process of Development includes community education opportunities for parents, students and other stakeholders through spring
 - ❖ The multi year plan should be for three or more school years long and focuses in on the areas of promoting student achievement and well being
 - ❖ Currently The Upper Grand District School Board has a multi year plan which was developed from the 2015 through 2019 school year, however due to Covid and Director Martha Rogers retirement, that plan was extended and is now due for review and renewal
 - ❖ Multi year plan is driven by Board of Trustees in terms of setting strategic directions and then an Annual Operating plan is created by UGDSB Senior Team based on that Multilayer plan that will connect the priorities of both plans
 - ❖ School boards are then required to submit this plan that focuses on their key priorities and strategies to Ministry of Education
 - ❖ The Annual Operating Plan or this year to be called the Action Plan on what actions will be taken to implement the vision of the Multi year plan
 - ❖

4. Guest Speaker: System Principal of Equity Adnan Shahbaz

- The equity goal for our educational community is to be able to identify and describe racism and oppression and then work to dismantle it.
- The Upper Grand District School Board is committed to disrupting systemic racism and oppression in all of its forms
- Board will be implementing ongoing mandatory anti racism and anti oppression training for all staff.
- Review Board protocols and policies, including hiring practices, and be fully transparent and accountable
- Upper grand school board is working to improve the learning experience for all students by looking at data collection in regards to progressive discipline policies across the board.
- Specific focus is how we can best support our school administration by implementing student focused and culturally responsive progressive discipline and restorative models especially for students who have been historically and systemically marginalized by the disciplinary process within the Board
- Starting with gathering input from student and community groups that have been disproportionately disciplined systemically and historically.
- Goal is to have all data collected and work on creating a specific policy and training modules to help administrators when it comes to progressive discipline and ensuring not to create any negative effects on the students (Fall of 2022)
- Survey has been created and is being communicated and circulated within communities, faith groups and social media platforms across school board

4. Board Report

Matt M shared the following information:

- May 2nd to 6th, 2022 was the mental health and Education Week. This was a year the theme was moving forward together, learning Wellness and connection.
- May 18th was a presentation on the celebration of life for Doctor Rogers and a number of individuals had the opportunity to really go and celebrate the extraordinary career and life of Martha Rogers.
- Primary and Junior division assessments scheduled from May 4th to June 24th
- Grade 9 math assessment occurring between June 13th and 17th
- Upper Grand Learning Foundation - <https://www.uppergrandlearningfoundation.com/> An organization that is targeting those equity deserving students who have been underserved through a variety of ways
- Please take the opportunity to donate just generally or target it specifically to a school or even a project or initiative within a school as well.
- The UGLF also in need of 5 community members to sit on board
- June marks an important recognition month for the PRIDE celebrations and the raising of the PRIDE flag in all of the Upper Grand District School board schools.

6. Trustee Report

Martha MacNeil shared information.

- Shared Question/Answers on Trustee Elections and Role of a Trustee
- Trustees are locally elected representatives of the public and are the communities advocate for public education. who then have to carry out responsibilities in the Education Act and maintain a focus on student achievement, wellbeing and equity
- Trustees are a liaison between the Community, the parents and the school board.
- Nominations open from May 2nd to August 19th, 2022
- Election day October 24th, 2022, Term will start November 15th, 2022
- Time commitment of trustees is about 15 hours/week attending various meetings and events, etc.
- Must be Canadian citizen, over 18 years of age and living within Board to be a school board trustee
- Trustees make approximately \$11000/year

7. Chairs' Report and Parent Engagement Event Planning

Barb and Gillian shared information

- PIC Event held back on May 4th where there were online presentations, talked about equity and indigenous studies within the board
- Numbers of attendees were low, had 23 attendees only that attended the particular event and then 16 who followed up after as you could view presentation after the fact
- Feedback of why numbers are declining and what can be done next year to improve numbers, was something happening in school the week of the event? Religious holidays? Busy week due to school events? Other commitments? People tired of online events?

9. Questions, New Business and Final Remarks

The next meeting will be on Monday, September 26th, 2022 at 7:00 PM