

Upper Grand District School Board PIC Committee

January 30, 2023

# MINUTES

## Those present:

Alex Carter, Matt McCutcheon, Martha MacNeil, Katherine Hauser, Jennifer Edwards, Laura White, Gillian Prieur, Kumudine Kariyapperuma, Mahrukh Syed, Ben McCabe, Jason Boyce, Anita MacFarlane, Joanne Jordan, Jenny Marino, Margaret Lumley, Barb White, Jen Tulloch, Bertha Lopez, Ashley M-G, Paula O'Donnell

## 1. Welcome and introductions

Gillian Prieur made Land Acknowledgement

Barb White made an Anti Racism statement and then welcomed everyone to the meeting and individuals in attendance introduced themselves.

## 2. Approval of agenda

Gillian Prieur asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motioned by Alex Carter.

## 3. Approval of minutes

Gillian Prieur asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Edit by Barb White on spelling of name. Motioned by Martha MacNeil seconded by Barb White

## 4. Board Report

Board Report Matt McCutcheon

- "Regular" Return to Classes in January
  - 1st regular return to classes after Winter Break in 3 years
  - Clubs, activities, sports, excursions, and school events continue
  - Continued focus on keeping schools healthy and safe and monitoring attendance trends via the daily absence tracker
  - Use of equipment such as HEPA Filters, hand sanitizers, daily screening of student/staff and visitors, masks and gloves available for those who chose to wear
  - Strongly recommend that masks should be worn at public spaces
  - What is expectation post pandemic regarding child absenteeism: No set number of days that you must attend, with exception if you miss 15 consecutive days
  - First exams for many students including some as old as grade 11
  - A lot of exam stress – pushed more resources out to students so they know of support that is available for them
  - Mental Health resources have been shared with students via the Student UG Landing Page.

- Provide Input into the 2023/24
  - Planning for the next school year has begun and the UGDSB is seeking feedback on the proposed 2023-2024 school year calendars.
  - Please visit the board website to view the draft calendars and complete an anonymous survey to provide feedback
  - The survey is open for response until Feb 8, 2023. After that draft calendar will be brought to trustees for approval
  - Survey looks at things such as PA days on certain days around year so feedback from parents is good, feedback good for looking at holidays and exam days
- Upcoming Dates and Events
  - February is Black History Month
  - Children's Mental Health Week: February 1 to 7
  - 2nd Semester Begins: February 6 (rescheduled due to "no bus day" on January 26)
  - Board Meeting: February 14
  - Family Day: February 20
  - Pink Shirt Day (anti-bullying): February 20
  - Next PIC Meeting - February 27 (7:00pm)

## 5. Guest Speakers Jenny Marino and Dr. Margaret Lumley

- Mental Health Week February 1st (National) and 1st week of May (Provincial)
- Student landing page website – looking to have students audit the page to see if accessible, any issues or concerns
- Strategy for Student Mental Health and Wellbeing (2023-2026)
- Importance of stakeholders and input from community
- Every school board has a mental health lead that work on student mental health and wellbeing
- Mental health leads from K to 12
- School mental health works closely with ministry and director of education to provide supports
- Actional plan, mental health leadership committee, K-12
- Aligned and Integrated Model (AIM): role within school mental health
- Base of the pyramid is "for ALL students" (welcome, include, understanding, promote, partner)
- "Early identification, bolstering, prevention" (prevent, support, bolster)
- "Intensive supports" intervene, this will be through school mental health, also pathways to community supports and services
- The needs have increased with regards to mental health in the past few years.
- **Actionable Goals**
  - Contribute your ideas for a new mental health and well-being strategy
  - Looking at priority areas and creating a new model
  - Creating a model for every student
  - Identity, relationships, trauma informed as some areas to include
  - Stakeholders (students, community, parents/guardians, boards/school staff, senior leadership)
  - The group was asked to complete an inquiry via JamBoard for more collaboration and feedback from parents

## 6. Treasurer's Report

Presented by Kumindine Kariyapperuma

- Received money from the ministry
- PIC Component, Council Component, PRO Component
- School Council component distributed to school councils 500\$/ school
- Meeting expense from October PIC meeting for \$63.81

## 7. Trustee Report

Martha MacNeil shared information

- Trustee MacNeil shared information about the work the new Board has been involved in since the inaugural meeting in November
- Committee members were informed of the outcomes of the two organizational meetings, and the election of the chair and vice-chair.

- In addition, information was shared regarding the work the trustees undertook to review and update Board Bylaw 1, and review and restructure the trustee committees, including the standing committees.
- There was also discussion of the training workshops on various topics that all trustees have been participating in to help in their transition into the role or to refresh the knowledge of the returning trustees.
- The 2 previous Environmental committee have been combined to form a new joint committee

## 8. Chairs' Report

Barb and Gillian lead discussion

- School Council Ideas/Challenges and Questions:
  - Input provided by school council reps whether or not their school did a holiday event/activities
  - Events were successful and had good turn out and opportunity to learn more about school and community
  - Some examples of events were:
    - Winter fest with raffles and door decorating contests
    - Festive hat day, festive sweater day, etc last week of school before the holidays
    - Concert before school ended
    - Halloween costume parade
    - Annual Spaghetti dinner every year –
    - School bazaar
    - Food Drive
- Live Free Campaign
  - Food and Friends Campaign happening in schools
  - Donate a toonie to help kids who live in hunger
  - Elementary and Secondary schools all participating
- Discussion PIC/PRO Funding:
  - Planning for PIC Pro Funds for this year
  - Better school council forum event in Dec but was cancelled due to low registration, not feasible for the format that we had/discussions and breakout sessions
  - Need to plan for PIC Annual Spring event
  - Event would require a lot of planning and engagement from parents
  - Have about \$38,000 to spend on event
  - There is also an option to divide the money to the school to do their own events
  - Have money go to specific schools – priority need schools to move student wellbeing ahead
  - 4 schools identified by each of the 4 superintendents = 16 to help school
  - There will need to be a reporting requirement for schools if PIC decides to give the schools money
  - Requirement to report back on how PIC and schools would spend the funds
  - Some examples of support would be a Literacy program or educating parents on literacy at home
  - Looking at 4 smaller regional events or 1 big spring event
  - School council focus as an idea to work on for Spring event

## 9. Questions, New Business and Final Remarks

**The next meeting will be on Monday February 27th, 2023 at 7:00 PM**