

**UGDSB Parent Involvement Committee - Monday, February 27, 2023  
7:00 PM - Held Virtually Due To Inclement Weather**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**Attendance:**

Gillian Prieur, Kumudinie Kariyapperuma, Laura White, Tina Coates, Heather Coates, Bertha Lopez, Jen Tulloch, Natalie Leitch, Heather Cowbrough, Emily Mallett, Manoj M, Martha MacNeil, Katherine Hauser, Jennifer Edwards, Peter Sovran, Jason Boyce, Ben McCabe, Blayne Primeau

**1. Land Acknowledgement and Anti-Racism Statement:**

- Gillian Prieur read both the Land Acknowledgement and Anti-Racist Statement

**2. Welcome and Introductions:**

- Gillian Prieur welcomed the group and introductions were made

**3. Approval of Agenda:**

- Motioned: Kumudinie Kariyapperuma

**4. Approval of Previous Minutes from January 30, 2023 Meeting:**

- Motioned: Katherine Hauser
- Seconded: Martha MacNeil
- Correction: Katherine Hauser's last name only has one "s" in it

## **5. Board Report - Superintendent Matt McCutcheon:**

- Black Heritage, Black Brilliance & Black Futures Month
  - a. Students and staff enjoyed a month-long celebration of activities, engagement events and student voice.
  - b. A Calendar of Events was shared of Canadian content enjoyed across the UGDSB schools.
  - c. A video was shared of the GCVI Black Students' Union appearing on CBC Kids discussing Black Futures.
  - d. A reminder was shared that while we focus on this for a month, it's something we need to focus on all year long.
  
- Pink Shirt Day was celebrated on February 22, 2023 to focus on preventing bullying and hatred of all forms.
  
- System Leader's Meeting - February 22, 2023
  - a. The focus was to set goals through attainable outcomes to realize Vision 2026.
  - b. Jennifer Botterill, 3-time Olympic Gold Medalist, shared about how her life and hockey experience helped to bring her to a realization that we can do amazing things as we encourage each other to work together to support everyone in the community.
  - c. Director Sovran helped to set the "Let's Go" vision and time was given for planning towards the application of our Multi-Year Plan.
  - d. Student voices were highlighted as students emceed the meeting, shared their singing, musical gifts and written talents.

### **Discussion:**

- Following a question about a physical incident involving a weapon near a UGDSB school, Superintendent McCutcheon shared the process that the UGDSB works through with the support of the local Police and other community partners to help plan for potential serious incidents as they arise. He also shared about the planning and practice that the UGDSB system and schools take part in to prepare for such an event. The importance of the ongoing Mental Health work by the UGDSB was highlighted. This event in question helped to provide an

opportunity for review that has taken place to help support students, staff and families moving forward.

- Kumudinie Kariyapperuma shared that during the New Business portion of the meeting she hoped to share some ideas and suggestions from herself and community members she has spoken with.

#### **6. Treasurer's Report - Kumudinie Kariyapperuma:**

- There are no updates to report at this time from the last meeting.
- The balances of account remain the same.

#### **7. Trustee Report - Martha MacNeil:**

- Trustee MacNeil shared information about a motion passed at the Feb. 14th Board meeting regarding school bus safety. Several trustees have heard from parents/guardians regarding concerns about vehicles passing school buses that are stopped with lights flashing and stop arms out. This has been raised as an issue at school boards across the province and the use of cameras on the stop arms has been suggested to help eliminate this safety concern. Trustee Edwards brought forward a motion to direct the chair to write to the Minister of Education and the Attorney General asking the Ministry to implement further safety measures including the use of stop arm cameras.

#### **8. Update on Multi-Year Plan and Mid-Year Check In - Director Peter Sovran:**

- Director Sovran thanked everyone for adapting quickly to hold a virtual meeting tonight to help continue with the meeting despite the weather.
- The Multi-Year Plan includes 5 key pillars, 3 enablers and a bold vision for 2026.
- As the new Trustees join the team and learn about the plan, the goal is to formulate Advisory Committees to help provide feedback, support the process and align with the pillars of the plan.
- Last week at the System Leader's Meeting staff started to develop steps towards implementing the plan to create a plan for a life-long love of learning.
- The development of broad overarching goals has helped to provide an opportunity for quarterly and annual goals that will be set that measure the progress of the vision.
- Work on the visual identity of the Board has been in process while this process has been taking place as well. This includes a colour scheme, logo, tag-line and branding which is being considered, in consultation with UGDSB Secondary Schools to help craft this process with student voice at the forefront of this planning. Final plans will be affirmed by the Board of Trustees.

## **9. Consultation - Services, Programs and Educational Outcomes - Blayne Primeau, UGDSB Student Achievement Data Analyst:**

- As an update, Blayne Primeau shared about the results of 19,831 electronic and 264 paper copies of the survey received which helped to give their feedback.
- Through the process, they have been learning about the process to streamline it and prevent survey fatigue for further data collection.
- Key information was found and plans for publicly sharing these results are being made so that it can be done in a respectful and safe manner.
- Blayne Primeau asked to be invited back to seek further input in our next meeting to ask questions and also to share draft reports before information is shared publicly.
- Kumudinie Kariyapperuma shared that it would be helpful for Blayne to have specific questions to share with School Councils for feedback. Blayne said he would connect with Matt to ensure that this was possible.
- Jen Tulloch shared about the importance of protecting the identity and responses of small groups of individuals within the data collected. Blayne Primeau shared that data would only be aggregated so that it would be meaningful while respecting all involved using the expertise of those with specific learned experiences.

## **10. Discussion and Update on PIC/PRO Funding Plans:**

- Building Better School Councils Event - April 26, 2023 - Centre Wellington DHS

- Matt McCutcheon shared on Barb White's behalf that there was a goal to host an event in late spring with an eye to formulating School Councils next year and providing opportunities to share guidance for how to best prepare School Councils for their roles and responsibilities.
- An evening event is being planned potentially involving dinner, guest speakers on specific topics, as well as breakout sessions on a variety of topics.
- Plans for broader promotion, advertising and communication were discussed.

## **11. Questions, New Business, and Final Remarks:**

- Kumudinie Kariyapperuma shared about conversations she has had with parents, many of whom are from marginalized communities, and they were seeking guidance on how to talk to and support their children, and yet as we host events, we often don't have significant attendance by these communities for our events. Challenges over event timing, language barriers and other concerns were shared.
- Kumudinie Kariyapperuma shared the idea of using community and faith groups to help share some of our supports so that they best reach and are suitable for our intended audience.

- Matt McCutcheon thanked Kumudinie Kariyapperuma for sharing these concerns and talked about current school-level and board-level supports for individuals as we seek to care for all learners.
- Matt McCutcheon also shared that as resources for this night might not be fully used for this event, there may be ways and funding available to get this information out to specific community groups and would be something worth considering.
- Jennifer Edwards shared that recording some of these presentations may be of support for some situations.
- Matt shared that PIC Funds could be used for translation or support of specific groups or locations to help further promote engagement opportunities who face extra barriers.
- Martha shared that as a community there may be an opportunity to partner with other UGDSB committees as they are formulated to help support these goals.
- Bertha Lopez shared some personal challenges she has encountered and also spoke of those others newcomers faced as they learned to more easily navigate the school system (ex: understanding the roles of a trustee, superintendent, etc. in a simple, engaging manner).
- Gillian Prieur recommended discussing this further at the next meeting after some time for reflection before our next meeting.
- Jen Tulloch asked for clarification about the new names and roles of the committees and meetings of the UGDSB Board and how to fully engage in the process.
- A link was shared by Martha MacNeil of where to access video of key meetings for Policy & Priorities, Finance & Facilities, as well as other Advisory Committees as they continue to be reimaged.
- Matt McCutcheon shared that there are generally two Board Meetings a month, as well as standing committees who meet regularly on various occasions.
- Input can still be shared through in-person and virtual attendance.

***Next Meeting: March 27, 2023***