

Upper Grand District School Board Business Operations Committee Minutes

September 15, 2015

The Business Operations Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, September 15, 2015, in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, Ontario commencing at 7:00 p.m.

The Chairperson, Trustee Cooper presided, and the following Trustees were present: Bailey, Busuttil, Fairbairn, Lustgarten Evoy, MacNeil, Moziar, Schieck, Topping, and White along with Student Trustees Challinor and Johnson.

Present from the Administration were Director of Education M. C. Rogers, together with Superintendents Benallick, Lindsay, McDonald, Morrell, Slater, Talbot, and Wright. Executive Officer of Human Resources Rose, Student Success Lead Zen, and Manager of Operations Veit were also in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the agenda be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

School Closures in Extreme Weather

This item was postponed to the next Business Operations meeting.

Other Business

Students Opting Out of Sex Education

Trustee Moziar requested clarification about the process for parents to opt out of components of the sex education curriculum for their children. Director Rogers advised that the Minister of Education reported that a parent can request that a child be absent from a portion of the curriculum. If parents would like their child to be absent for any part of the curriculum, they should request such consideration through the Principal and identify the portion of the curriculum they are concerned with. In order to meet the

needs of the parents and students, each request will be considered individually. Director Rogers noted that there seems to be a misunderstanding as to the extent of the human development curriculum and that it seems to have been sensationalized in the media. She also noted that both the Wellington Catholic Board and the Upper Grand District School Boards have agreed to issue the same type of message in media releases regarding this curriculum.

Bussing

Trustee Schieck reported that parents have complained about the change in bus routes in Alma, which have been in place for some years, where primary and senior students rode the same bus. In response to his concern, Superintendent Wright advised that the routes were changed to enable a shorter time on the busses for younger children.

Trustee Schieck also raised a concern about three busses leaving Alma, with 4, 8, and 12 students on each respective bus, all heading to Elora Senior PS. Superintendent Wright agreed to investigate this concern.

In Camera

Adjournment

Trustee Topping moved that this Committee adjourn at 9:10 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.

