

**Upper Grand District School Board
Business Operations Committee
Minutes**

January 12, 2016

The Business Operations Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, January 12, 2016, in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, Ontario commencing at 7:00 p.m.

The Chairperson, Trustee Schieck presided, and the following Trustees were present: Bailey, Busutil, Cooper, Fairbairn, MacNeil, Moziar, and Topping. Trustee White attended via teleconference.

Present from the Administration were Dr. M. C. Rogers, Director of Education, together with Superintendents Benallick, Lindsay, McDonald, Slater, and Talbot. Communications Officer Loney, Executive Officer of Human Resources Rose, Student Success Lead Zen, Planning Manager Passy, Planning Technician Bumbaco, Operations Officer Scinocca, and Manager of Operations Veit were also in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

Trustee Cooper moved that the agenda be amended to change item # 6 Report of the French Review Committee 2015 from a decision item to an information item, and to add two additional items to be considered under other business, and that the agenda be approved as amended.

The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Bailey moved that the minutes of the meeting of December 8, 2015, be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

Delegation, Beyond Borders, event "ONE"

Three students, Dawson, Kory, and Sean from the Beyond Borders Class of 2016 expressed thanks to the Board for affording the opportunity to plan the upcoming "ONE"

event and for the opportunity to promote the Beyond Borders program. "ONE" is an elegant multicultural fundraising gala event which will be held at the River Run Center on January 16, 2016. The event will showcase performers such as Juno nominated musicians Alysha Brilla and Andrew Craig. The event also offers a night full of culture from around the world appealing to all senses and includes talented dancers, multicultural cuisine, French tribute dessert, a live auction, and a silent auction. Everyone was encouraged to attend. The students also elaborated on the Beyond Borders program and the benefits gained by experiential learning opportunities. The students reported that, to date, Beyond Borders raised \$36,000.00 for Mount Sinai Hospital through their fundraising efforts. The Board and administration were thanked for the support and success of the Beyond Borders program. Trustees thanked the students for their presentation and their hard work. Trustee Cooper advised that the Free to Achieve program which is run through the Learning Foundation provides funding for students who can not afford to attend events, and she suggested that Beyond Borders consider supporting this charity next year.

Recommendation # 1

Trustee Cooper moved that the Beyond Borders presentation be received.

The motion carried.

Environmental Report on the Blue Dot Movement

Environmental Sustainability Lead Karen Acton introduced Sarah ,a student from Centennial CVI. Sarah presented information on the Blue Dot Movement and requested that the Board consider adopting the Blue Dot resolution, a project of the David Suzuki Foundation, which is a symbolic gesture and not legally binding. The goal of this movement is to encourage governments to recognize Canadians inherent right to a healthy environment, clean water, fresh air, healthy food, and a say in decisions that affect these. The success of the movement resides with obtaining enough support to convince the Federal government to include healthy food, clean air, and fresh water in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. It was reported that over 100 Municipalities including Guelph and Erin have officially signed declarations to date. The EEMC unanimously supported Sarah's request to bring this matter forward to the Board and to seek its support.

Trustee Busuttill requested that recommendation # 2 as contained in the report be considered separately. She suggested that we not change the way we do our business, and that we have twinned the environmental lens when we do our policy work with that of equity; for example, when we consider photocopying targets we also think about the school families and the importance of communication and parent engagement. She

suggested a minor amendment to the second last paragraph on page two to include the words “equity and”.

Recommendation # 2

Trustee Cooper moved that the report entitled “Environmental Report on the Blue Dot Movement”, dated December 18th, 2015 be received.

The motion carried.

Recommendation # 3

Trustee Cooper moved that the Board approve the adoption of the Blue Dot resolution, as attached in Appendix A of the report entitled “Environmental Report on the Blue Dot Movement”, dated December 18th, 2015, with an amendment to the second last paragraph to read:

“Be it Further Resolved that the Upper Grand District School Board will consider **equity and** environmental impacts when developing and implementing policies and procedures in an effort to move towards healthy and sustainable practices”.

The motion carried.

Report of the French Review Committee 2015

Superintendent of Program Lindsay reported that the popularity of the French Immersion (FI) program placed increasing pressure on the ability of the schools to accommodate FI students. As a result, in January 2015, the Board endorsed the formation of a French Review Committee, and approved the Terms of Reference on March 31, 2015. The committee met to review and analyze data on enrolment trends, funding, hiring, instructional strategies, and research as well as connected with other school boards regarding their French as a Second Language (FSL) experiences and obstacles. The committee developed a report which included recommendations to the Board that reflect a multi-prong approach to support and sustain quality FSL instruction, which has been a hallmark of the UGDSB. Superintendent Lindsay introduced Co-chair Judith Nyman, who complimented the committee members and staff for the production of the report and for their dedication and hard work done with the French Review Committee. Ms. Nyman presented the report in great detail and advised that all terms of reference were met. She reported that the process was a struggle with many items and obstacles to consider and to ensure that all voices were heard. The committee decided to consider both FI and FSL in their deliberations and development of the report. Ms. Nyman advised that although Upper Grand offers a terrific program, similar concerns and obstacles are experienced province-wide. Some of the issues considered were sustainability of the French programs, equity of access to programs for all students

within the Board, student success, insufficient French teachers and support staff, Ministry funding criteria, transportation, increase in student moves through boundary changes, and Ministry regulations and restrictions.

The report contained three main scenarios which Ms. Nyman elaborated on in greater detail. The first was Status Quo, and she suggested that Status Quo was not a viable option due to the growth and demands of the French programs.

The second scenario suggested that French be offered at the grade one entry level, which was also not a viable option. This scenario would result in more moves for students through boundary changes, shift students out of non-purpose FDK classrooms, and would create unresolved pressures in a very large number of schools. Another concern with this scenario resides with Ministry restrictions which stipulate that once the decision is made to offer the program at a stipulated grade level, that aspect can not be changed without a regulatory change from the Ministry.

The third scenario suggested a cap on enrolment in French at the JK level and restrict options to enroll in French in JK only. Ms. Nymen advised that a number of boards have implemented this scenario. Although it was not considered a perfect solution, it was suggested that it may be the best option, as it does address a number of concerns. However, many concerns previously mentioned would remain.

An in-depth discussion followed with many questions of clarification raised. Trustees expressed their thanks and gratitude for all the work done by the French Review Committee and for the development of the report in support of French programs for the Upper Grand DSB. Trustees were reminded that earlier this evening a motion was placed and carried to change the status of the Report of French Review Committee 2015 from a decision item to an information item.

Recommendation # 4

Trustee Moziar moved that Memo PLN: 15-30 "Report of the French Review Committee – 2015" dated January 12, 2016 be received.

The motion carried.

Trustee Moziar moved that staff organize four FSL community information meetings: North Wellington, Centre Wellington, Dufferin and Guelph, and that a draft plan with dates and a draft feedback form come back to the February 2016 Business Operations meeting.

After some discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

Resignations and Retirements

Executive Officer of Human Resources Rose presented the report Resignations and Retirements dated January 12, 2016.

Recommendation # 5

Trustee Mozair moved that the report "Resignations and Retirements" dated January 12, 2016 be received with thanks for the many years of service.

The motion carried.

Other Business

Allocation of an Additional PD Day

Superintendent Slater reported that, as a result of the new Provincial ETFO agreements, a new PD day needed to be allocated for this year, and continue in years to come. It was decided that Monday April 25th be allocated this year as the 2016 additional PD day. Mr. Slater advised that this date was agreed upon with the Wellington Catholic Board, and that the Ministry would be notified of the date.

Recommendation # 6

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the verbal report on the allocation of an additional PD day be received.

The motion carried.

Upcoming Retirements

Director Rogers read two letters of resignation to retirement from Superintendent of Finance Janice Wright, as well as Superintendent of Education Linda Benallick. The last day of work for Janice Wright was reported as July 18, 2016, and August 26, 2016 for Linda Benallick. Trustees expressed their thanks, appreciation, and congratulations to both Ms. Wright and Ms. Benallick.

Recommendation # 7

Trustee Topping moved that the verbal report on the upcoming retirements be received.

The motion carried.

In Camera

Adjournment

Trustee Fairbairn moved that this Committee adjourn at 10:00 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.