

Upper Grand District School Board

Program Committee

Minutes

November 3, 2015

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, November 3, 2015, in the Boardroom at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, commencing at 7:00 p.m.

The Chairperson Trustee Moziar presided, and the following Trustees were present: Bailey, Busuttil, Cooper, Fairbairn, Lustgarten Evoy, MacNeil, Moziar, Schieck, Topping, and White, together with student Trustees Dylan Challinor and Leia Johnson. Also in attendance were Director of Education Dr. M. C. Rogers, Student Success Lead Zen, and Superintendents Lindsay, Morrell, Slater, Talbot, and Wright.

Agenda

Trustee Schieck moved that the agenda be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the minutes of the meeting held on October 6, 2015 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Report from Student Trustees

Student Trustees Challinor and Johnson provided an update of events attended by secondary school students which included a homecoming dance, Aboriginal exchange, Muskoka Woods, DECA intercity, eat for hunger, fall ball dance, Halloween dance, pumpkin carving, and a canned food drive. Student Senate also obtained input from students on inclement weather procedures and concerns which will be shared at the November Business Operations meeting.

Recommendation # 1

Trustee Bailey moved that the verbal update from student Trustees be received.

The motion carried.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Best Practices

Principal of Program Cheryl Van Ooteghem, together with Elementary Curriculum Leader Chad Reay presented a new resource document entitled Best Practices to Meet the Needs of English Language Learners; a Guide for Administrators, Classroom Teachers, Special Educations Resource Teachers, ESL Resource Teachers and ESL EAs. This document was developed to better meet the needs of students, and to provide a tool for teachers and resource staff to deliver and assess the ESL program in the best possible manner. Some of the sections in the document addressed fundamental principles, Ministry documents, steps to English proficiency, roles of staff, assessment and reporting, accommodations and modifications, progress report cards, special needs, home and school connections, and transition to secondary school. Mr. Reay noted that there are 800 students in the current ESL case load with a wide range of over 40 languages, and that the majority of students were born in Canada. ELL students were asked what teachers could do to improve learning strategies. The response was; to create a safe environment to learn, to check with them to ensure that they understand, and to slow down. Mr. Reay noted that, moving forward, there is always room for improvement and to improving the plans in place for delivery and assessment of English language learners. Trustees expressed thanks for the development of the comprehensive, excellent document and for the wonderful supports in place for English language learners.

Recommendation # 2

Trustee Busuttil moved that the verbal report on the Best Practices to Meet the Needs of English Language Learners be received.

The motion carried.

International Students Update

Superintendent of Education Morrell provided an update on the status of the International Student program. He noted that there are currently 223 secondary students enrolled in either short term (which is less than 5 months), one year, or enrolled in the program through to graduation. Mr. Morrell noted that students come to Canada to experience Canadian culture, improve their English language skills, return home with Canadian credits, and/or to gain the credentials to move forward to acceptance at either a Canadian or American college or university. Mr. Morrell advised

that it was his goal to have 500 International Students enrolled within the next two to three years, and that would make it a sustainable project that the Board could support. He highlighted some of the fun activities planned for the students, discussed how important accurate evaluation is to ensure proper placement, and the many countries he is working with to recruit students. Trustees expressed thanks for the great presentation, continued work with International Students, and for the work done in sustaining the International Students Program.

Recommendation #3

Trustee Schieck moved that the verbal update on the International Students Program be received.

The motion carried.

In Camera

Adjournment

Trustee Fairbairn moved that this Committee adjourn at 9:20 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.

