

# **Upper Grand District School Board**

## **Program Committee**

### **Minutes**

April 5, 2016

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, April 5, 2016, in the Boardroom at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, commencing at 7:05 p.m.

The Chairperson Trustee Moziar presided, and the following Trustees were present: Bailey, Busuttill, Cooper, Fairbairn, MacNeil, 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, and Slater.

#### **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 February 2, 2016 be approved as printed.

**The motion carried.**

#### **Report from Student Trustees**

Student Trustees Challinor and Johnson provided an overview of events for February and March, including Songs for Syria, inspirational speaker Ian Tyson, host of the Sears Drama Festival, late bus program, OPP vs student hockey game, teacher lip sync battle, a fundraiser event which raised \$7,000.00 in support of a young student who recently lost his mother, McCrae Day 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, youth empowerment, and DECA success. Leia highlighted the events of the OSTA AECO conference she attended earlier this year.

**Recommendation # 1**

Trustee Schieck moved that the verbal update from Student Trustees be received, with thanks.

**The motion carried.**

**Mental Health Update**

Mental Health and Addiction Lead Woodford advised that Mental Health is how people think, act and cope with life and the stressors and challenges that are part of living. Mental Health can influence how people look at themselves and their life and others around them. It influences an individual's ability to learn and achieve their goals. Learning how to take care of and increase mental health is an important tool in obtaining and maintaining a feeling of well-being. During Child and Youth Mental Health Week, Mental wellness will be addressed by promoting an understanding of mental health wellness, making the mind/body connection, providing approaches to improving mental wellness, increasing coping skills, developing stress management and relaxation techniques, and increasing positive lifestyle behaviors (i.e. physical activity, good sleep hygiene, having a support network). Ms. Woodford reported that Child and Youth Mental Health Week is the first week in May. The theme is the same as last year: Have a SUPER week, **S**ocial connection, **U**plifting emotions **P**ersonal health, **E**mootional calming and **R**esilient thinking. Trustees expressed thanks for the continued work in the area of Mental Health.

**Recommendation # 2**

Trustee Schieck moved that the verbal update on Mental Health be received, with thanks.

**The motion carried.**

**Language Learning Opportunities Agreement Between Ontario and France**

Superintendent Lindsay advised that in 2014, there was an agreement signed between Ontario and France to promote and encourage language learning opportunities, work collaboratively, promote student exchanges, and provide professional growth and understanding of the varied cultures. This evening she introduced and welcomed two representatives from France from L'Académie Clermont-Ferrand, International Relations Dominique Suquet, and Inspector for secondary schools for English teachers Henri Duran. While in Canada, these gentlemen took the opportunity to attend a Board meeting. It was reported that they plan to visit many secondary schools and connect with staff and students.

## **Technology Plan and Technology Integration at the UGDSB**

Superintendent of Education McDonald praised the collaboration of work done by Student Support and Program Services, Student Success, and Information Technology (IT), in line with the Ministry's strategy Lead Learn and Inspire. Several staff were in attendance to showcase how the departments work collaboratively with staff and students to provide and support technology to enhance and extend instruction and encourage and engage students.

Associate Chief Information Technology John McCormick advised of the multi-year objectives, and highlighted two major projects on the go; wireless and wired infrastructure, and disaster recovery.

Technical Support Manager Sandro Buffone advised of website upgrades and transformation and customer service support, as well as multi-year objectives. He reported that the goal of service and support is to make technology more transparent, work on continuous improvement, remove barriers, and make IT more visible.

Elementary Consultant Bill MacKenzie advised of the transition from hard wiring to the ever changing mobile environment. Digital access is now available 24/7 with a single log on, including, but not limited to programs such as calendar, classroom, my blueprint, google, technology coach, mental health support, UG2GO, google training, Gmail, etc. He noted that there is a steady positive growth of service to support the increase in use of digital content and technology. In order to help address equity of access, and work with community partners, Chrome books were placed in the public libraries, for students to borrow.

Special Education Consultant Ben McCabe explained how SEA equipment technology supports students with special needs, such as text to speech, and Pulse. Teachers also use these programs to identify and enhance learning styles.

Itinerant Coaches for Special Education Emma Reay and Marni Reijmers showed a video that showcased how technology helps teachers assist and support students with learning disabilities.

Elementary Curriculum Leader Andrew Cloutier highlighted the online math program Dreambox. He noted that the program collected a huge amount of data generated by the students using the program, which is used by teachers to focus on how to best meet the needs of the students.

Elementary Curriculum Leader Megan Haessler spoke on the positive aspects of social media and how students use it to enhance their own learning.

Secondary Curriculum Leader Sandra Kritzer explained how teachers use technology in the elementary classrooms to push thinking and understand where the students are heading in secondary school. Data is created and analyzed and assessment results are shared with parents. Students use technology to prepare for their OSSLT.

Student Success Curriculum Leader Melissa McDowall shared a video which highlighted students working on their specialist high skills major, and touched on 3D printers, My Blueprint, and Hour Republic.

E-Learning contact Sean Hamilton provided an update on independent learning and how this program improves success for students who, for whatever reason, are unable to attend regular day school.

Technical Coach Jen Apgar spoke on the Learning Connections that promote collaboration and critical thinking, and encourages robotics where students and staff learn by doing.

Elementary Curriculum Leaders Patricia Josephson and Blayne Primeau shared a development tool for teachers and students which focused on how to use “mindomo”. Mindomo is a living responsive program which enables different resources such as videos, website links, and PDF documents to link together. It showcases in a creative way, and can meet the instructional needs of the system as they arise.

Superintendent McDonald expressed thanks to all the presenters. He noted that technology does not have a place everywhere, and that the presentation tonight highlighted success and improvements, and future directions. Trustees expressed thanks and admiration for all the work done in program delivery through technology, and for the support for staff and students throughout the system.

### **Recommendation # 3**

Trustee Bailey moved that the verbal report on Technology Plan and Technology Integration at the UGDSB be received, with thanks.

**The motion carried.**

## **OPSBA**

Trustee Busuttil provided an update from OPSBA.

### **Recommendation # 4**

Trustee MacNeil moved that the verbal OPSBA report be received.

**The motion carried.**

## **Other Business**

### **French as a Second Language, Committee Work**

Trustee Busuttil advised that she researched the delivery of French as a Second Language by other public Boards across the province, and shared various documents outlining their procedures. She advised that a phone meeting with the Toronto DSB Central Coordinating Principal John Tancredi was scheduled for Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., in the Board Office. Trustees were invited to attend, either via teleconference or in person.

### **Recommendation # 5**

Trustee Cooper moved that the Trustee Report dated April 5, 2016 be received.

**The motion carried.**

## **Adjournment**

Trustee Schieck moved that this Committee adjourn at 9:45 p.m. to report to the Board.

**The motion carried.**