

Upper Grand District School Board

Program Committee

Minutes

May 3, 2016

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, May 3, 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, Busuttil, Fairbairn, Lustgarten Evoy, MacNeil, Schieck, Topping, and White, together with student Trustee Dylan Challinor. Also in attendance were Director of Education Dr. M. C. Rogers, Student Success Lead Zen, and Superintendents Benallick, McDonald, Morrell, Slater, Talbot, Lindsay, and Slater.

Agenda

Trustee Busuttil moved that the agenda be amended adding one additional item "Response to Delegations", and that the agenda be approved as amended.

The motion carried.

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Topping moved that the minutes of the meeting held on April 5, 2016 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Delegation

1. Lianne Carter Ladner, Parent Council Chair, Elora PS,
Music Teacher/Program at Elora PS

Ms. Carter Ladner delegated the Board in support of keeping the music teacher, Kelly Stronach at Elora PS. Ms. Carter suggested that due to Ms. Stronach's strong commitment to the students, community, and to the music program, there would be a huge loss should this teacher be declared surplus. She commented that the

preservation of the outstanding music program is paramount to the school, the students, and the arts community. She also stated that the music program at Elora PS creates a foundation for the music program in Centre Wellington DHS and is enhanced when the students transition from elementary to secondary school. She discussed enrolment status and expectations, cost of musical instruments, respect for collective bargaining restrictions, mental health, student confidence, self-esteem, increased graduation rates, stress reduction, and student success. It was requested that the Board consider special permission to address short term enrolment gaps to avoid staff changes, approve the addition of one more primary music class and one more class across grades 6, 7, and 8. In addition, it was requested that the Board develop an enhanced extra-curricular music program for all students at Elora PS, hire musicians for lunch breaks and after school sessions, and approve financial support to enable and enhance the continuance of the program. Trustees expressed thanks and asked questions of clarification. Trustee Busuttil asked if Ms. Carter Ladner considered the Board's Learning Choices Committee through which their concerns may be addressed and that the school may be themed accordingly as an arts and performance school. Trustee Busuttil suggested that the process include a proposal to the Board, model mechanism to bring forward as a business case, and be presented as a themed school. Trustee Schieck reported that the music program at Elora PS could be the hub of excellence where all Centre Wellington students would focus at Elora PS for an extended music program. Trustee Lustgarten Evoy expressed her thanks and offered her support.

2. Daniel and Jovanna Belair, French Immersion Presentation

Daniel and Jovanna Belair, retired FI teachers, provided a presentation in support of the FI program on behalf of the North Wellington FI parents, They offered suggestions for recruitment and retention of qualified French second language teachers, suggested the creation of a Specialist High Skills Major for FI, offered suggestions for Professional Development, suggested the development of an annual FI Report, and suggested the establishment of a French Second Language Advisory Committee. Trustee MacNeil expressed thanks for the presentation and questioned if, during their consideration of the problems with the delivery of the FI program, they gave any consideration to the s of accommodation, space and capacity issues, and where the students might go. To this question the answer was no. Trustee Busuttil requested permission to share their material at the Provincial and local levels.

Response to Delegations

1. Music Teacher/Program at Elora PS

Trustees recognized the passion and dedication in the community for the outstanding music program at Elora PS, through the support of the incumbent teacher. However, it was noted that the Board is bound by collective agreement. It was again suggested that the Learning Choices Committee be explored. Trustee Moziar advised that a decision could not be made with regard to the delegation's requests as it was out of the hands of the Trustees and staffing allocations had not yet been determined.

2. French Immersion

Trustees expressed thanks to the parents from North Wellington for their delegation, suggestions, and passion for the FI program. Trustee Bailey also commented that they advocated for no caps and advised that accommodation and space needed to be considered as the average school utilization is currently 92%. Trustee Moziar advised that the full debate will be Tuesday, May 10, 2016, at the next Business Operations Committee Meeting.

Report from Student Trustees

Student Trustee Challinor provided an overview of events for April which included John F. Ross CVI 10for10 where students raised nearly \$300,000.00 in partnership with Brain Canada. Other events included a leadership conference, Paris Café, Sound of Music presentation, and tree sculptures. Dylan advised that, through Student Senate, students had the opportunity to provide input on various policies including asthma, accommodation review, boundary review, community planning and partnerships. He introduced and welcomed the newly appointed urban student Trustee Julia Gagnon.

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 students participated in an artwork contest where the winning submission would be used to create posters for healthy minds. She elaborated on the changes on the website, and explained how

students, parents, or staff could access mental health services and support. Some of the areas she highlighted included family health teams, apps for mental health, calm breathing exercise, don't be shy just say hi, random acts of kindness, kids feeling positive about themselves, anxiety, facing fears, healthy habits, nutrition and exercise. She advised that she was working collaboratively and effectively with Communications Officer Loney to increase the awareness of the many resources available for Mental Health assistance and prevention.

Recommendation # 2

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

The motion carried.

Student Support and Program Services Program Highlights

A wonderful group of staff highlighted and showcased numerous programs and initiatives. Principal of Program Jonathan Walker praised the staff for their amazing work, and expressed thanks for the collaboration and passion in support of learning and success for students. The following presentations were made: Chad Rea, Skills Canada; Andrew Cloutier, New Health Curriculum; Jackie Speers, Special Olympics; Michelle Campbell, Library to Learning Commons; Ian McPherson, Building Innovative Practice for Teachers; Sandy Kritzer, Collaborative Inquiry; and Melissa McDowall, All About Me Portfolios. Trustees expressed thanks and appreciation for the update and showcasing of the programs, the passion for all areas of student success, and creating an environment that encourages engagement and interactivity from JK through to graduation.

Recommendation # 3

Trustee Schieck moved that the verbal update on Program Services be received, with thanks.

The motion carried.

OPSBA

Trustee Busuttill provided an update from OPSBA which included student transportation procurement process, Municipal Elections Modernization Act, as well as the kindergarten addendum to Growing Success and Special Education. A discussion followed regarding the timelines related to the implementation of this addendum.

Recommendation # 4

Trustee Bailey moved that the verbal OPSBA update be received.

The motion carried.

Other Business

Trustee Moziar advised that the June Program meeting, scheduled for June 7, 2016, will be held at Centre Wellington DHS, and will start at 6:30 p.m.

Trustee Bailey advised that he was invited to attend the FNMI Advisory Group Meeting where the group voiced an interest on developing closer relationships with the Board of Trustees. It was suggested that such relationship building could start with Territory acknowledgement and a display of a poster or plaque in the Board room. Mr. Bailey advised that, in discussion with Superintendent Talbot, initiatives would be developed and brought to the Trustees to decide their preference.

Adjournment

Trustee White moved that this Committee adjourn at 9:32 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.