

# Upper Grand District School Board

## Program Committee

June 7, 2016

### **Achieving by Believing**

Prior to the meeting, the Achieving by Believing award presentations took place. Secondary Curriculum Leader Melissa McDowell, welcomed everyone to the Achieving by Believing award presentations. Director of Education Rogers praised the students and offered congratulations. Each year, the Board acknowledges students who have surpassed challenges, adversity and/or socio-economic issues that may have resulted in them not graduating. Through strong support from teachers and access to alternative programs, these students overcame their individual obstacles and struggles, and achieved academic success. Students were recognized and commended for their bravery, willingness to learn, and believing in themselves to create a positive foundation to a successful future. Elementary recipients were Ashley from Ken Danby PS, Hajereh from Willow Road PS, Paige from Arthur PS, Casey from John Galt PS, Makayla and Tara from Westwood PS, Micaela from East Garafraxa PS, Paige from Island Lake PS, Reuben from Elora PS, Jodan from Mitchell Woods PS, Lily from Kortright Hills PS and Marcus from Centennial Hylands ES.

Secondary recipients were Jessica from Centennial CVI, Sidney from John F Ross CVI, Rhianna from Centre Dufferin DHS, Ethin from Centre Dufferin DHS, Jeffery from College Heights SS, Meghan from Wellington Heights SS, Kaine, Jeremy, and Kaylyn from Guelph CVI, Justus and Alyx from Centre Wellington DHS, and Jake, Dan, and Kristen from Orangeville DSS.

Elementary teaching staff recognized were Carmen Chaves and Valerie Soper from Rockwood Centennial PS. Secondary teaching staff recognized were Sunniva Ronzio from Guelph CVI, Laura Tremble from Orangeville DSS, Cisca Campolongo from John F Ross CVI, and Gillian Stevens from Centre Wellington DHS.

Student Success Lead Zen offered thanks and congratulations.

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## **Minutes**

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, June 7, 2016, in the Cafetorium at Centre Wellington DHS, Fergus, commencing at 7:20 p.m.

The Chairperson Trustee Moziar presided, and the following Trustees were present: Busuttil, Fairbairn, Lustgarten Evoy, 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 Benallick, Lindsay, McDonald, Morrell, Slater, Talbot, Lindsay, 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 Topping moved that the minutes of the meeting held on May 3, 2016 be approved as printed.

**The motion carried.**

### **Report from Student Trustees**

Student Trustee Challinor, together with Student Trustee Johnson, provided an overview of events for May which included prom, mental health week, talent show, Hope inspirations, math game fair, urban trends study days, academic arts and athletic assemblies, ceremonies, and banquets. They also provided an overview of the Student Senate accomplishments over the past year. It also was reported that John F. Ross CVI women's rugby won gold at OFSAA. Thanks were expressed to the Board and to Trustees for the support and experiences over the past year. Trustees expressed thanks and best wishes to both Leia and Dylan.

**Recommendation # 1**

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

**The motion carried.**

**Mental Health Update**

Mental Health and Addiction Lead Woodford provided a summary of Mental Health initiatives and status of programs. She advised that 102 staff received ASIST training; 118 students and 4 staff received Safe TALK training, 65 elementary and 35 secondary staff received training on Collaborative Proactive Solutions (CPS). Other training included Tools for Life, and Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) the revised VTRA Protocol. She advised of Community Partnerships, Drug Strategy; and a youth addiction subcommittee, which had recommendations for Youth Led Lived Experience Services to improve prevention and increase education in schools. These strategies increased outreach services and local youth treatment. Ms. Woodford distributed two charts, one for Guelph-Wellington, and one for Dufferin, entitled Points of Access for Child and Youth Mental Health Information, Services and Supports. These charts outline the first point of contact, service availability, age range served, level of mental health concern, and three steps that outlined the process. She advised of other community partnerships which included the University of Guelph and Conestoga College, where supports were in place to assist students transitioning from secondary school to College or University. These support programs have been running successfully for a few years, and will continue in the future. Ms. Woodford advised that one of the priorities for next year is the creation and development of one team to address children, youth and families with Mental Health needs. Ms. Woodford advised that through monitoring and regular communications, and in support of students and staff, we CARE: Connected, Aware, Responsive and Empowered. (draft theme). She noted that the supports in place will create empowered students and staff will have the tools they need to increase their positive mental health and that staff will also have the skills they need to teach about well-being and mental health. A video was shown with the message that caring adults make a difference, it only takes one caring adult to make a difference in a child's life. Trustees expressed thanks for the enormous amount of work developed, implemented and constantly improved in the area of Mental Health. There was some discussion about the Board's need to address mental health in the primary years, and provision of supports for young children.

**Recommendation # 2**

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

**The motion carried.**

**CODE Learning Program**

Superintendent of Schools Benallick provided a verbal presentation on the summer camp program that is supported by CODE, Camp Liffoff. This program is for SK to grade 2, and was piloted last year, with great success at Brant Ave. PS. Ms. Benallick advised that the Board was successful in getting funding for a fourth class this summer. Ms. Benallick provided background information as a foundation to an update that will be presented in the fall. It was reported that most students are level 2 and through participation in the summer camp, the goal is to achieve level 3. "Camp Liffoff" is a three-week program, which was run out of Brant Ave. PS last year and branched east to include Waverley Drive, Ottawa Cres. John Galt, Ken Danby, and William C. Winegard public schools. This program focuses on academics while life experiences are also incorporated on an individual basis, as appropriate. This year, up to 40 students in the City of Guelph and in the Town of Orangeville will have the opportunity to attend. The camp will run from July 6 to July 27 this year.

**Recommendation # 3**

Trustee MacNeil moved that the verbal update on CODE Learning Program be received, with thanks.

**The motion carried.**

**OPSBA**

Trustee Busuttil provided an update from OPSBA and referred to OPSBA Priorities for 2016 – 2017 document that was distributed previous to the meeting. In order to obtain support from the Board, she placed the following motion.

**Recommendation # 4**

Trustee Busuttil moved that the amendments and additions to the Priority Areas of Emphasis for 2016-2017 be affirmed by the members.

**The motion carried.**

With reference to Provincial Hiring Practices (Regulation 274) a consideration of First Nations Metis, and Inuit (FNMI) teachers was discussed, and support for OPSBA's

motion which read: “Be it resolved, that OPSBA recommend that the Provincial Hiring Practices (Regulation 274) Committee include as priority topic of discussion an exemption allowing preferential hiring of qualified First Nations, Metis, and Inuit (FNMI) teachers.” A discussion followed clarifying the restrictions on the current hiring practices, and how this resolution may help with FNMI hiring, and remove some barriers for hiring at schools that have a high proportion of FNMI students.

**Recommendation # 5**

Trustee Busuttil moved that the Board support the resolution as noted above.

**The motion carried.**

**Recommendation # 6**

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the verbal OPSBA update be received.

**The motion carried.**

**Other Business**

Trustee Moziar offered best wishes to everyone for a great summer and thanks for a great year.

**Adjournment**

Trustee Schieck moved that this Committee adjourn at 8:50 p.m. to report to the Board.

**The motion carried.**