

# **Upper Grand District School Board**

## **Program Committee**

### **Minutes**

January 5, 2016

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, January 5, 2016, 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: 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 Lustgarten Evoy moved that the minutes of the meeting held on November 3, 2015 be approved as printed.

**The motion carried.**

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

Student Trustees Challinor and Johnson provided an overview of events for December which included Christmas concerts, ugly sweater day, games and fundraisers, candy grams, shoe boxes, anti-bullying awareness, coffee house, clothing drive, charity drives, staff/student hockey games, winter formals, camouflage day, art show, help for Syrian refugees, and impaired driving campaign. A video presentation was shown that was developed by Dylan and Leia to promote awareness of the role of Student Trustees and student senate. Superintendent Morrell, together with Trustee Fairbairn expressed their congratulations and thanks for a great job.

**Recommendation # 1**

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

**The motion carried.**

**Mental Health Update**

Mental Health and Addiction Lead Woodford provided an update on Mental Health. As part of the province-wide Moving on Mental Health initiative, the Canadian Mental Health Association of Waterloo Wellington Dufferin (CMHAWWD) is collaborating with Overlap, and other service partners to investigate and map the experiences of those accessing child and youth mental health services in the area. This will lay the groundwork for future efforts to improve child and youth mental health services in Wellington Dufferin. While there are countless well-meaning, skilled, and compassionate staff working to provide the best possible care and support, there are many gaps and obstacles that can be improved. This project aims to understand what it's like for those accessing child and youth mental health services so that improvements can be made over the coming months and years. Ms. Woodford advised that a two-day conference will be held to determine how we, as a Board as well as a province are evaluating our wellbeing and mental health. A one-day strategic retreat will be held in March 2016, during which leaders from different services will reflect on what was learned throughout the research phase, and envision what they'd like to achieve over the next year. This plan will be incorporated into the final reports, and will inform the strategic direction of child and youth mental health services in Wellington Dufferin throughout 2016. Ms. Woodford invited Trustees to visit the website <http://www.momhwd.com> for further information. Thanks were expressed to Ms. Woodford for her work and continued dedication in the area of mental health.

**Recommendation # 2**

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the verbal update on mental health be received, with thanks.

**The motion carried.**

**First Nations Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Update**

Equity and FNMI Curriculum Lead Colinda Clyne introduced herself in a traditional Indigenous fashion. She provided highlights of events planned over the past few years which included Elders visits to classrooms, Aboriginal heritage festival, and the student art show at the Wellington County Museum. She advised that part of the Board plan this year was to target grade five students. A number of PD sessions have been

planned for the upcoming school year to build capacity in staff, and to increase the number of self-identified students. Ms. Clyne advised that there are now 350 self-identified students, which could actually be double that number if more students were identified. As a result of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Indigenous issues have come to the forefront. Over the past six years, in over 300 communities, almost 7000 survivor statements were made from people who attended residential schools. The last of these schools closed in 1996. Ms. Clyne showed a short video with Justice Murray Sinclair who stated that Reconciliation is not an Aboriginal problem, it is a Canadian problem. Issues that need to be addressed moving forward include generational change, time, building relationships, reciprocity, education, communication, and understanding. Trustees expressed thanks for all the work done on equity and inclusion with Indigenous people. Trustees were encouraged to speak with school administrators in their areas to arrange (through Colinda) to have members of the Indigenous community visit their schools to educate and raise awareness of Indigenous culture.

### **Recommendation # 3**

Trustee Topping moved that the verbal update on FNMI be received.

**The motion carried.**

### **Student Success – Supervised Alternative Learning**

Student Success Lead Zen praised and introduced two awesome teaching teams. First, the Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) group, Deborah Kortleve, Alastair McGillivray (not in attendance), April King, and Adam Martin (not in attendance), and secondly, the School Within a Factory program team Deborah Kortleve, Jennifer Watson and Tyler Holland. Mr. Zen proudly announced that a more dedicated group of teachers would be hard to find. He thanked them for their passion and dedication. SAL results from the last school year indicated that 262 students had a success rate of 68%, 45 Ontario Secondary School Diplomas were issued, and current enrolment in the SAL program is 279 students. Ms. Kortleve reported that the success rate is due largely to relationships. Relationships matter the most, where trust and mutual respect are paramount. In her presentation, Deborah Kortleve proudly shared her vision and how she initiated and implemented the School Within a Factory program. Together with teachers Jennifer Watson and Tyler Holland the program runs very successfully. Both Jennifer Watson and Tyler Holland elaborated on the program currently located at the Linamar facility; The Frank Hasenfratz Centre of Excellence in Manufacturing on Woodlawn Road in Guelph. This program is a joint effort between Linamar and the Upper Grand District School Board to provide a safe environment for Linamar employees and neighbouring manufacturing employees to work towards achieving their OSSD, while continuing to

work. The program is flexible with time commitments, builds self-esteem, enables employees to be promoted either within or outside Linamar, improves literacy and numeracy, and is in a safe and respectful environment. It was reported that there is a 57 year old person enrolled in the program. A terrific message and encouragement to others: it is never too late to educate. Building strong and respectful relationships is the number one reason for the success of this program and it creates a community of learners in an encouraging environment. The program continues to grow as students recognize the need for a high school diploma as a foundation to better jobs and future advancements in both education or the workplace. Through extensive media coverage, interviews, and publications, the program continues to grow with very positive futures for students who will now obtain their OSSD. It was suggested that such a program be initiated in the North, for which there was great support. Trustee Schieck offered to assist with community contacts. Trustees were very impressed with the program and expressed thanks and appreciation for the passion, hard work and dedication of these teachers, Superintendents and Director Rogers. Director Rogers also expressed thanks to the Board of Trustees for its support of the innovation in our programs and faith in staff to try pilot projects which are different from traditional classroom studies, in order to increase the number of secondary school diplomas obtained.

#### **Recommendation # 4**

Trustee Cooper moved that the verbal update on Student Success be received.

**The motion carried.**

#### **OPSBA – nil report**

#### **Syrian Refugee Update**

Superintendent Talbot provided an update on the Syrian refugee status. She advised that Denise Heaslip was hired as Assistant Superintendent, until the end of June, to provide help with the workload in providing for the needs of the Syrian refugees who will become part of our communities. Ms. Talbot advised that some families have arrived already, and the students will be attending Princess Elizabeth. One family in particular, lived in a refugee camp for a period of three years, has 9 children, and were sponsored collectively by 20 Mennonite families. This family will be moving to the Drayton area and the school-aged children will be attending Drayton Heights PS. It was reported that there are approximately 70 families that will be arriving in the Guelph area in the near future.

**Recommendation # 5**

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the verbal update on Syrian refugees be received.

**The motion carried.**

Trustee Moziar raised a concern about new legislation from the Ministry of Transportation regarding cars entering a pedestrian crossing while people are still on the road. It was suggested that this information be shared with Principals.

**Adjournment**

Trustee Cooper moved that this Committee adjourn at 9:30 p.m. to report to the Board.

**The motion carried.**