

Upper Grand District School Board

Program Committee

Minutes

February 2, 2016

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, February 2, 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: Bailey, Cooper, Fairbairn, Lustgarten Evoy, MacNeil, Schieck, Topping, and White, together with student Trustees Dylan Challinor and Leia Johnson. Trustee Busuttill attended via tele-conference. 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 January 5, 2016 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Report from Student Trustees

Student Trustees Challinor and Johnson provided an overview of events for January which included student productions, DECA Provincials, grade nine study help, pyjama days, semi-formals, pep rallies, environmental audits, grade nine study day, and fundraisers. Trustee Fairbairn expressed thanks for a great job.

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 provided an update on Mental Health. Ms. Woodford highlighted “Moving on Mental Health”, and advised that there were two meetings scheduled with service provider stakeholders to be held February 10, 2016, in Orangeville, and February 12, 2016 in Fergus, in preparation for the report to the MYCS as well as data and information for strategic planning. She advised that the BeSafe Application was developed as a safety plan for youth to gain access to all resources for mental health and addictions. She proudly announced the development and implementation of “Need Help” posters which are used as a communication strategy for students. They will be posted in all schools on the back of washroom stall doors. She advised of the Connectivity/Situation Tables in the community, which are community stakeholders and providers of mental health resources who meet to ensure a timely response to anyone at an acutely elevated risk likely to harm themselves, family, or anyone in the community. For the most part these individuals are not able to advocate or obtain resources for themselves, and this service would provide that type of assistance. Trustees expressed thanks for the continued improvement 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.

Financial Literacy

Principal of John F. Ross CVI Beth Burns introduced teacher Gregory Cawsey who highlighted the John F. Ross CVI School of Business, and in particular the Financial Literacy component of the BBI program. The program was well marketed through the grade 8 parents night, brochures, and student success stories. Mr. Cawsey noted that the curriculum did not change, but the delivery of the program changed to include financial literacy topics for day to day life for young people. Topics include; get a job, you are richer than you think, where your money is going, make saving easy, use cash, tax tips for teens, and how to avoid financial traps. Completion of this course also paves

the way to other business courses. The Guelph Mercury ran many articles in support of this program, and Mr. Cawsey noted that he would like to see more public engagement and consultation in the near future. Trustees expressed thanks for the changes to the delivery of the program to include financial literacy.

Recommendation # 3

Trustee Schieck moved that the verbal report on Financial Literacy be received.

The motion carried.

Time2Read and Reading Tutors

Curriculum Leader Patricia Josephson, and Curriculum Leader Caroline Mitchell, did a presentation supporting the philosophy “it takes a village to raise a child”. They highlighted Reading Tutors and Time2Read programs. The reading tutor program was developed 10 years ago to support primary and junior students with literacy. In reviewing the program and in order to improve it, some action steps were implemented which included: the creation of resources for all schools, increased tutor hours, provision of ongoing training for tutors, development of partnership with Special Education teacher, and the collection of student data. In determining the success of the program, it was reported that tutors felt a special connection to the children, students felt more confident in reading, and data showed major gains in reading levels, with fluency rates doubled by many students. The Time2Read program assists parents in encouraging and teaching their children to read through teacher support and resources at the school. The goal is that each school will have a bin of resources in the near future for parents and teachers to use. Trustees expressed thanks and appreciation for the continued support for students.

Recommendation # 4

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

The motion carried.

OPSBA

Trustee Fairbairn provided an update from OPSBA. Trustees were invited to check out a number of speaker presentations from the Public Education Symposium on the OPSBA website. There was a panel presentation and discussion of Policies, procedures and processes on the Selection of a Director of Education, and Mr. Fairbairn suggested Trustees review this information. He advised that the Ontario Ombudsman

had a new role and scope of powers, which was presented to Trustees. There will be a need for the Board to develop policy or procedures in response to the new powers of this office. Upcoming events included Labour Relations, March 31 – April 1, 2016, Sheraton Toronto; Summit on Children and Youth Mental Health, April 7 – 8, 2016, Allstream Centre, Toronto; and the OPSBA AGM, June 9-12, 2016, Marriott Hotel, Ottawa.

Recommendation # 5

Trustee Bailey moved that the verbal OPSBA report be received.

The motion carried.

Other Business

Update from the Public Education Symposium

Trustee Moziar suggested that, if Trustees attend any conferences, they should prepare an overview and share that at future meetings, in support of accountability and increased public confidence.

Trustees Lustgarten Evoy, White, Schieck and Cooper shared the following comments and experiences from the Public Education Symposium recently attended:

- We all learn in many styles, and none of us are subject to only one learning style.
- The myth of only using our 8 – 10% of our brain 8 – 10% of the time was challenged and in fact was stated that we actually use 100% of our brain 100% of the time.
- The Durham District School Board developed a strategy to deal with poverty, which is something this Board may consider.
- The session on selection of a Director provided some interesting information which this Board may consider and may need to review current policies.
- There are great opportunities gained by a mentorship program in the high school level, which is something this Board could promote.

Recommendation # 6

Trustees Topping moved that the update from the Public Education Symposium be received.

The motion carried.

Request from Rickson Ridge Community for a South Guelph Accommodation Review

Trustee Bailey advised that all Trustees were forwarded an e-mail from the Rickson Ridge community and requested a south Guelph accommodation review. Trustee Bailey suggested that a Chairs' Committee meeting (open to all Trustees) be set to informally discuss the process on how Trustees would address the request raised by the Rickson Ridge community. After some discussion, it was agreed that this item would be discussed in public forum at the February Board meeting.

Adjournment

Trustee Bailey moved that this Committee adjourn at 8:25 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.