

Upper Grand District School Board

Program Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, November 3, 2020

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met virtually as well as in person on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, in the Board Room commencing at 7:03 p.m.

The Chairperson Trustee Topping presided, and the following Trustees were present: Bailey, Busuttil, Campbell, Edwards, Foley, Lustgarten Evoy, MacNeil, and Ross, together with student Trustees Taran Fournier and Kim Tran. Also in attendance were Director of Education Rogers, Student Success Lead Zen, and Superintendents Heaslip, Lindsay, McDonald, Morrell, Regier, Slater, and Van Ooteghem, and Executive Officer of Human Resources Rose.

Trustee Topping read the protocol for virtual meetings.

Agenda

Trustee Busuttil 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 MacNeil moved that the minutes of the meeting held on October 6, 2020 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Report from Student Trustees

Student Trustees Kim Tran and Taran Fournier provided an overview of events for September. It was reported that on Tuesday, October 20 the second virtual Student Senate meeting was held with 17 students attending by way of google meet with 9 out of the 12 secondary schools represented. In order to ensure that all schools have representation, an email distribution list was developed to share information with the

students from all 12 schools. For the October virtual meeting, Equity Lead Jessica Rowden presented to the Senators who shared the language used when speaking about equity, diversity and inclusion including Identity, Privilege, Oppression, Anti-Racism, Anti-Black Racism and Anti-Oppression, as well as the Board's commitment to equity. Student Senate finished early to enable students to participate in the virtual Town Hall meeting on Police Presence in Schools. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, starting at 5:00 p.m. and will be held on Google meet.

Recommendation # 1

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

The motion carried.

2020-21 Annual French Review Background Report

Manager of Planning Angrish presented the 2020/21 Annual French Review Background Report, together with Manager of Elementary Staffing and Recruitment Crandall, and Early Learning Manager Conrad. The 2020/21 Annual French Review Background Report was prepared to review the experiences of the 2020/21 application process, enrolment, retention, staffing and cap related information in order to present recommendations to the Board with respect to the 2021/22 school year. Information was shared from the 2020/21 JK FI application process, enrolment projections and projected space in schools, availability of French Qualified (FQ) teachers, feasibility of new FI program(s), review of the JK FI application, selection and waitlist process; and, review of JK FI enrolment caps. Trustees asked questions of clarification and expressed thanks for the report.

Recommendation # 2

Trustee Busuttil moved that:

1. Memo PLN:20-15 entitled "2020/21 Annual French Review Background Report" dated November 3, 2020 be received.
2. The JK FI on-time application window will open at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 and close at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 15, 2021.
3. No new FI programs be established in 2021/22.

4. The JK FI enrolment caps not be adjusted.

The motion carried.

Mental Health Update

Mental Health and Addictions Lead, Marino provided a verbal update on mental health, which included the Umbrella Project, Webinars, and the Messages4Hope Campaign. In the Umbrella Project, the theme for November is gratitude, and with gratitude, she read the Traditional Greeting. Exploring wellness through an equity lens considers Identity, Privilege, Oppression, and Racism. This lens is important as not everyone has a choice. In November, webinars for parent supports will be offered which includes the following topics; mindfulness for children, parent self-care, positive parenting, supporting children with anxiety, and strategies to support K-3 learning at home. Educator webinars included introduction to mindfulness, mindfulness in the classroom, easy yoga for classroom, breathing techniques, student self-regulation, supporting students with anxiety, emotion coaching in the classroom, gratitude for the responsive listener, and positive classroom strategies. Mental Health and Addictions Lead, Marino shared her excitement about Messages4Hope, which included life promotion and suicide prevention. Trustees expressed thanks for the report and all the work done in the area of mental health.

Recommendation # 3

Trustee MacNeil moved that the Mental Health verbal report be received.

The motion carried.

Curriculum Department Support for the 2020/21 Math Curriculum

Principal of Program, Walker advised that this past June, the Ontario Government released a new math curriculum for students in grades 1 to 8. The curriculum was developed over a period of two years, with the consultation of parents, math teachers, and math educational experts. The government requested that elementary teachers implement this new curriculum this school year. Ashley Kozak together with Emily Holmes highlighted key changes to the new curriculum. The key changes included: the addition of the social-emotional learning skills strand, human rights, equity, and inclusive education in mathematics, fewer expectations overall, one overall mark/grade reported, and new content which includes coding, financial literacy, mathematical modelling process, and key concepts and notes. The many supports put in place to assist teachers with the implementation of the new curriculum were also showcased.

Recommendation # 4

Trustee Foley moved that the Curriculum Department Support for the 2020/21 Math Curriculum presentation be received.

The motion carried.

Curriculum Supports for TeachersSupporting Teachers Fall 2020Program Department Curriculum Support for Upper Grand DSB

Superintendent of Program Walker advised that return to school this year was a new experience for all teachers across the province, from adapting to new school and classroom routines to having students engaging in their entire school experience online. Both elementary and secondary curriculum teams were inundated with requests for support from their colleagues. Some of the work that the curriculum teams undertook to support teachers as they returned to the classroom were highlighted. Elementary curriculum leader Chantal Hearn shared K-8 supports, and Superintendent Zen's curriculum team Ian MacPherson, Sandy Kritzer, Sean Hamilton, Amy Turner, and Tracy Hunter focused on the resources prepared for secondary school teachers. Trustees expressed thanks for a wonderful report and all the work done to support students.

Recommendation # 5

Trustee Foley moved that the Curriculum Supports for Teachers presentation be received.

The motion carried.

Annual Accessibility Report 2019-2020

The purpose of the Annual Accessibility Report is to provide an update on the Board's progress over the previous school year in identifying, removing and preventing barriers for persons with disabilities. The purpose of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan is to describe the measures the Board will take over the period 2018-2023 to identify, remove and prevent barriers for persons with disabilities who work, learn or volunteer in and/or use services in Board facilities.

Superintendent Van Ooteghem noted that the plan needed to pivot between March and June this year due to online learning and COVID-19 restrictions. Access to technology, the internet, re-formatting resources for students and creating accessible documents became a focus for everyone. The Information Technology (IT) and Program Departments offered multiple sessions for staff and parents on how to best use the technology tools available to engage their learners. Staff in these departments also created many online how-to resources on the use of accessible formats, fonts, and presentations for websites so that learning was accessible for all. Superintendent Van Ooteghem highlighted training, education, accessible system embedded curriculum program, building an accessibility culture and leadership, procurement, information and communication, employment, transportation, built environment outside play spaces, and review and monitoring process. Trustees expressed thanks for all the work done on accessibility.

Recommendation # 6

Trustee Busuttil moved that the Annual Accessibility Report for 2019-2020 dated November 3, 2020 be received.

The motion carried.

OPSBA Report

Trustee Busuttil reminded Trustees that the Provincial Budget will be coming out on November 5, 2020, and November 7, 2020 is the Regional OPSBA virtual meeting.

Recommendation # 7

Trustee, MacNeil moved that the verbal OPSBA report be received.

The motion carried.

Other Business – nil report

Adjournment

Trustee Busuttil moved that the Program Committee adjourn and this meeting now close at 9:03 p.m.

The motion carried.

This document is available in alternate formats upon request.