

**Upper Grand District School Board
Business Operations Committee
Minutes**

December 8, 2020

The Business Operations Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met virtually and in person on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, Ontario commencing at 7:00 p.m.

Trustee Campbell read the protocol for virtual meetings.

The Chairperson, Trustee Campbell presided, and the following Trustees were present: Bailey, Busuttill, Bedi, Edwards, Foley, Lustgarten Evoy, MacNeil, Ross, and Topping, along with Student Trustees Taran Fournier and Kim Tran.

Present from the Administration were, Director of Education Rogers, together with Superintendents Heaslip, Lindsay, McDonald, Morrell, Regier, Slater, and Van Ooteghem, Communications Officer Loney, Executive Officer of Human Resources Rose, Student Success Lead Zen, Manager of Planning Angrish, Operations Officer Scinocca, and Manager of Operations Veit.

Approval of Agenda

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the agenda be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Topping moved that the minutes of the meeting of November 10, 2020 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

2020 Community Planning and Facility Partnership Report

Manager of Planning Angrish presented the 2020 Community Planning and Facility Partnership Report. Facility partnerships can support a sustainable publicly funded education system, improve services and supports and, strengthen the role of schools in communities. Three elementary schools (Alma PS, Ross R. MacKay PS, and Willow Road PS) and one secondary school (Norwell DSS) met the criteria for the 2020/21 school year based on either the utilization or surplus space parameters. After further consideration of the 5-year enrolment and the size of the surplus space it was determined that there were no partnership opportunities or suitable surplus spaces available at this time in existing facilities.

Potential future co-build opportunities that would be subject to approval by the Ministry of Education may be considered for facility partnerships. Potential future locations are reviewed as part of the Long Term Accommodation Plan annual review.

Recommendation # 1

Trustee Ross moved that:

1. Memo PLN: 20-17 “2020 Community Planning and Facility Partnership Report” dated December 8, 2020, be received.
2. The Board advise the community partners on the Partnership List that there are no partnership opportunities or suitable surplus spaces available at this time in existing facilities.
3. Staff be directed to continue consultation with community partners regarding interest in co-build opportunities at possible future schools and additions in the jurisdiction.

The motion carried.

Equity Plan Update and Review

Superintendent Van Ooteghem expressed thanks to Trustees for the commitment they demonstrated for anti-racism training over the past few months. She noted that updates on equity initiatives and progress will be provided regularly as well as data when available. Equity Lead Jessica Rowden presented the 2019-2022 Equity Plan that is intended to be fully responsive to the students, staff, families and Upper Grand DSB community. Pillars of the plan included the following four components:

1. Identify and Name Bias, Oppression and Racism through reflection, evidence, voice/feedback and data.

2. Build collaborative relationships to foster community and align.
3. Address and educate with accountable policies and practices, and
4. Eliminate Bias, Oppression and Racism through disruption and action.

Each section was highlighted with actions, strategies, progress to date, as well as next steps. The presentation was well-received by Trustees who asked questions of clarification, and expressed thanks and gratitude for all the exceptional work done in the area of equity in the Upper Grand community.

Recommendation # 2

Trustee Foley moved that the Equity Plan Update and Review presented on December 8, 2020, be received.

The motion carried.

2020/2021 Revised Estimates Update

Superintendent Regier presented the 2020/2021 Revised Estimated Update including updates on funding and the projected Operating Deficit. He reported that there was a projected Operating Deficit of \$16.1 million, which is equal to 4% of the Grants for Student Needs Operating Allocation.

On November 26th, 2020, the Ministry of Education announced 2020/2021 Grants for Student Needs (GSN) Funding Stabilization. For the 2020/2021 school year only, the negative impact of declining enrolment will be mitigated by the establishment of a GSN funding “floor”. The establishment of the stabilization funding removes the impact of the projected decline in elementary Average Daily Enrolment (ADE) of 309 pupils of the Board. The next announcement of Federal funding for the education sector is expected in January.

Due to the recent increase in the number of COVID-19 cases (both provincially and locally), the operating expenditures reflect the continuation of current teaching practices and enhanced cleaning protocols. The expenditures also include additional special education and mental health supports and higher transportation costs due to additional bus routes and enhanced cleaning protocols.

Superintendent Regier advised that the Ministry deadline for submitting the 2020/2021 Revised Estimates is December 15, 2020. Staff will submit to the Ministry the appropriate reporting documentation as well as any necessary information requested by the Ministry to support the projected deficit.

Recommendation # 3

Trustee Topping moved that memo FIN: 12-20-01 “2020/21 Revised Estimates Update” dated December 8, 2020, be received.

The motion carried.

Other Business – nil report

Trustee Topping moved that this committee move In Camera.

The motion carried.

In Camera

Adjournment

Trustee MacNeil moved that this Committee adjourn at 8:32 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.

This document is available in alternative formats upon request.