

Upper Grand District School Board

Program Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, April 6, 2021

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, virtually and in the Board Room commencing at 7:00 p.m.

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

Agenda

Trustee Campbell 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 Bailey moved that the minutes of the meeting held on March 2, 2021 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Report from Student Trustees

Student Trustees Kim Tran and Taran Fournier provided an update from the previous month. At the previous meeting, the student senate received an interactive presentation on languages as well as the Pivot Project presented by Curriculum Lead Amy Turner. Students realized that developing skills in multiple languages has many advantages including problem solving, improving memory and creativity, work opportunities, communication and cultural immersion, and lifelong friendship.

The Pivot Project is based on meeting the United Nations sustainable development

goals. During this part of the presentation, the inquiry learning model was explained, where students learn through their own questions. To further explore this concept, student senators chose to examine climate action in relation to the sustainable development goals. It was reported that Jack Gillies volunteered to take on the job of record keeping for the Student Senate. Potential student senators were invited to the upcoming meetings. The April meeting will be connected to World Heritage Day which happens on the 18th of April and it was noted that Earth Day is on April 22nd. At the May meeting, Indigenous Lead Colinda Clyne, is scheduled to do a presentation. At the June meeting, Sarah Gillies, a recent Orangeville DSS graduate and an accomplished para-athlete, will present to the student senators. Trustees expressed thanks for the report.

Recommendation # 1

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

The motion carried.

Mental Health Update

Mental Health and Addiction Lead Jenny Marino reported that, for the month of April, the Umbrella theme is Intrinsic Motivation. Intrinsic motivation is when a person is motivated to perform an activity for its own sake and personal rewards. Extrinsic motivation is when a person is motivated to perform an activity to earn a reward or avoid punishment. Mrs. Marino highlighted a new campaign, "Kid to Kid: COVID-19 Lessons, a platform where students are invited to share their experiences with COVID-19, and to see how the youth in the community are coping with the constant changes due to COVID-19 restrictions and the need to move to remote learning on short notice. Guided by reflective questions and prompts, students considered their experiences, identified what they learned about themselves, shared their opportunities, learned what others are doing to cope locally and globally. Mental Health and Education week is scheduled for May 3 to 7, where learning, wellness and community will be celebrated. The unofficial kick-off was scheduled for April 28, 2021. The Ministry of Education announced summer funding for Mental Health, with a focus on Mental Health literacy and education for youth, support over the summer with students struggling with Mental Health, continued funding for ongoing partnerships with community, and funding for new partnerships to be explored.

A Zoom Meeting webinar is scheduled for the 28th of April, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., featuring guest speaker Dr. Michael Ungar, on the topic of Hope in Times of

Uncertainty: Raising Resilient Children. Trustees were encouraged to join the webinar. Trustees expressed thanks for the report and the continued work in the area of Mental Health for students, staff, and the community.

Recommendation # 2

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

The motion carried.

Data and Evidence

Student Success Lead, Zen, Superintendent of Education McDonald, Superintendent of Program Lindsay, Principal of Program Walker, and Secondary Remote School Vice-Principal McDowall collectively presented the report entitled Data and Evidence – UGDSB dated April 6, 2021. The presentation provided an overview with information on where data is obtained, the software used to hold and analyze the information, in addition to how Board staff use the data, to monitor and track student success.

Although all data reports are not shared, the data collected is used to:

- measure the impact of programs
- track and monitor student achievement across many and varied data points
- collect evidence of student learning to close gaps and ensure students are progressing
- early identification of students who are struggling and then apply interventions that are impactful
- track students who need support and communicate needs to their future teachers
- look for patterns and trends in school, Board, and Regional data to ensure that we are on track in our outcomes
- apply statistical analysis and predictive analytics

Trustees expressed thanks for the in-depth report and for the implementation and sharing of the data collection and use as well as future steps. Trustee Busutil noted that although she appreciated the huge amount of work done in data collection and assessment tools for student success, she will request finer data moving forward on gender specifics as well as the data currently shared.

Recommendation # 3

Trustee Busuttil moved that the Data and Evidence-UGDSB presentation dated April 6, 2021 be received.

The motion carried.

OPSBA Report

Trustee Busuttil provided an update from OPSBA regarding the government's proposed plan for remote learning. She noted that there have been lots of public media attention to the issue of the government's proposed plan for Remote Learning in Ontario. Links for various articles on the government's plan for remote learning were shared with Trustees.

Trustee Busuttil advised that there is a Media Advisory for a Press Conference this week, with ETFO, OSSTF and other union leaders, education stakeholders, and several parent advocacy groups, to share concerns about the plan to make virtual (remote) learning permanent.

On March 25th OPSBA posted a statement from President Cathy Abraham which stated that: "We are deeply concerned about any proposal that prioritizes cost-cutting or revenue generation over student success and wellbeing. There are significant negative implications for students and for public education in the government's proposal. Impacts include reduced student funding levels over the long term, students attending small, rural and remote schools, and diminished local influence on education.

Recommendation # 4

Trustee MacNeil moved that the verbal OP SBA update be received.

The motion carried.

Other Business

Retirement of Superintendent of Education Slater

Director of Education Rogers advised that she received an official notification letter of retirement, from Superintendent Slater, which stated that his last day of work will be August 31, 2021.

Recommendation # 5

Trustee Foley moved that the verbal report on the Retirement of Superintendent of Education Slater be received.

The motion carried.

Adjournment

Trustee Campbell moved that this Committee adjourn at 8:17 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.

This document is available in alternate formats upon request.