

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

May 11, 2021

The Business Operations Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met virtually and in person on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, Ontario commencing at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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 Lustgarten Evoy moved that the minutes of the meeting held on April 20, 2021 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Trustee Climate Emergency Committee

Student Trustee Tran provided highlights of the video called “The Diet that Helps Fight Climate Change”. The central theme of the video is that what we put on our plates has an impact on climate change. The information included in the video is that 25% of all the global climate change problems we are seeing can be attributed to the food choices we are making on a daily basis. Trustees expressed thanks for the report.

Recommendation # 1

Trustee Edwards moved that the minutes of the Trustee Climate Emergency Committee (TCEC) held April 13, 2021 be received and considered.

The motion carried.

Police Presence in Schools – Next Steps

Superintendent Van Ooteghem and Acting Superintendent Hamilton, along with Assistant to Superintendent of Program, Wendy Donaldson, and Mental Health and Addiction Lead, Jenny Marino collectively presented the report entitled Police Presence in Schools – Next Steps. The presentation offered Trustees an inside look into the work that has been happening in the Upper Grand DSB, and the work that will continue to evolve moving forward. A multi-pronged approach was presented and included: Curriculum and Special Education, Mental Health, Students, Staff and Parents, Procedures and Practices, Community Agencies and Neighbourhood Groups, and Police. The approach was presented through an equity lens to help staff prepare students to live and work in a diverse world where different types of conflict are a reality.

Superintendent Van Ooteghem presented the Curriculum portion of the presentation. The presentation outlined the Culturally Responsive and Relevant work and the PIVOT Project that have been ongoing in the Board. Books and units of study have been created that deal with real and relevant topics to today’s society, such as different types of families, homelessness, poverty, and growing up Black in a White community. Ongoing intense professional development in all these areas will be part of the 2021/2022 school year. The PIVOT Project integrates the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals into everyday classrooms as a way of supporting authentic learning tasks and the development of global competencies. The PIVOT Project aims to resolve conflicts and deal with Mental Health by starting with understanding and empathy.

Assistant to the Superintendent of Program, Wendy Donaldson presented two fundamental areas of conflict resolution and mental health as they relate to Special Education. The work actively supports students so that they can access and engage in learning in areas they

appear to be struggling. The first area covered was how to help and support educators to understand struggle, how to identify it, and how to help support a student who is struggling. The second area was how to utilize the Student Centred Instructional Tool (SCIT). The SCIT has been developed over the past three years to collect a variety of evidence about a student. There are four stages: Information Gathering, Accessing and Analyzing Information, Planning and Monitoring any Intervention, and Reflecting on Effective Assessment Practices.

Mental Health and Addiction Lead, Jenny Marino outlined in the presentation ways to effectively support students in the area of Mental Health and Wellbeing. A variety of in school supports are accessible for varying levels of Mental Health: Child and Youth Counsellors (CYC) to support learning success, Social Workers to offer clinical support, and assigned roles for Attendance Counsellors for further consistency and relationship building. A student focused website, "Mental Health and Me" was developed by working with youth. The site provides quality and accessible information with a wide range of relevant topics. Examples of ongoing staff training to further support and understand student wellbeing and mental health included: the Board wide initiative -The Umbrella Project, Equity content, Indigenous History, 2SLGBTQIA+ information and relevant personal development such as trauma informed training to staff and administrators. Additional work includes a collaboration between UGDSB and community agencies on Violent Threat Risk Assessments (VTRA) training. The Board has worked closely with police services in the region who can be called upon when a stage one VTRA is initiated. Jenny also shared how Restorative Justice is another way youth are supported beyond the VTRA. Repairing harm caused by criminal behaviour can be best accomplished through cooperative processes beyond schools.

Acting Superintendent Hamilton outlined school-based approaches that support dealing with conflict in schools. Student Senate, student voice and Staff Affinity Groups such as the, Black staff group, 2SLGBTQIA+ staff group, the Poverty and Anti-Racism groups, and the Indigenous staff groups have all provided feedback and advice through their lived experiences. The data collected from them is helping create safe and inclusive spaces for staff and students. Ensuring parents and guardians of our students are kept up to date on what is happening in schools, occurs through school councils, Parent Involvement Committee, other Board committees and Policy reviews. The Police/School Board Protocol is designed to encourage and maintain a positive relationship between police officers and the school community and also provides a clear guideline for administrators and police when working through a police response at a school. It will be reviewed a minimum of every two years. Administrators will be trained on the Police/School Board protocol prior to September. An alternative suspension program beginning in September 2021 will be offered in all secondary schools in the City of Guelph. This is a pilot program and there is hope that it will be available across the Board in years to come. Students who receive a suspension of three to five days can voluntarily attend the alternative suspension program which includes activities that focus on schoolwork completion, one-on-one support, and group workshops.

Superintendent Van Ooteghem outlined how Community Agency and Neighborhood Groups involvement and voice are critical in supporting students who are struggling with mental health and wellbeing. Additional information from these community agencies and neighborhood groups help identify gaps in service that may exist and how they can work together to address any concerns. The Police and the Board are committed to working together to do things differently and to regroup and rebuild their relationship and programs to support students. This includes creating feedback forms, parent letters and surveys through an equity and human rights lens to ensure all police presentations are current and appropriately related to the curriculum. A first draft of an internal data collection system for school administrators to collect data on police calls to schools is already being worked on.

Moving into next year, data on calls to schools, police presentations, and students not participating will be collected and reviewed. This information will help identify gaps in service for students and needs in schools. The Board will provide an annual presentation to Trustees and include an analysis of the data collected. Questions of clarification were asked. Trustees expressed thanks for all the passion and commitment involved.

Recommendation # 2

Trustee Foley moved that the report “Police Presence in Schools - Next Steps” be received.

The motion carried.

Budget Update 2021/2022

Superintendent of Finance Regier provided an update on budget, particularly on the feedback received regarding adding to the Budget Guiding Principles as well as key information related to funding for the 2021/2022 school year. The first new Budget Guideline was related to adapting the Budget and redeploying resources to meet changing needs, and the second guideline was how climate change impact and carbon emissions need to be an essential consideration. Trustee Busuttil requested the words “an essential” be changed to read “an important”. The updated Budget Guiding Principle would read as follows: “Climate change impact and carbon emissions need to be an important consideration as they relate to the future wellbeing of our students, community, and planet”. Trustees agreed with this suggestion. The Ministry of Education has provided information on 2021/2022 funding including funding allocations for COVID-19 supports. The funding allocations for COVID-19 supports include additional staff, additional school operations resources, transportation, Special Education and Mental Health supports, re-engaging students and reading assessment supports. Trustees will receive additional details on Grants for Student Needs (GSN) and Priorities & Partnerships Funds (PPF) during the June 7th Board as Budget Meeting. The Ministry deadline for

submitting 2021-/2022 Budget (Estimates) is June 30th, 2021. Board staff will present the Draft 2021/2022 Budget to the Board as Budget Committee on Monday, June 7th. Questions of clarification were discussed, and Trustees expressed thanks for the report.

Recommendation # 3

Trustee Busuttill moved that the report “FIN 0521-01 entitles “2021/2022 Budget Update” dated May 11, 2021 be received.

The motion carried.

Resignations and Retirements

Senior Manager of Human Resources Rose presented the report “Resignations and Retirements” dated May 11, 2021. Ms. Rose advised there was a correction to the report. The second name under the Elementary Resignations should be under the retirement section. Trustee Bailey noted the list had several long-standing staff members, five of which had over 30 years of service with the Board.

Recommendation # 4

Trustee Bailey moved that the report entitled “Resignations and Retirements” dated May 11, 2021 be received.

The motion carried.

Other Business – nil report

Move to In Camera

Trustee Busuttill moved that this committee move In Camera.

The motion carried.

Personnel matter(s) – Nil Report

Adjournment

Trustee Foley moved that this Committee adjourn at 9:00 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.

This document is available in alternative formats upon request.