

POLICY AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Presented to: Board of Trustees
Submitted on: October 24, 2023
Submitted by: Robin Ross, Chair, Policy and Priorities Committee
Committee Date: October 3, 2023
Report No.: PP23-06

Members: Robin Ross (Chair), Martha MacNeil, Lynn Topping, Laurie Whyte
Trustees: Jen Edwards, Irene Hanenberg, Katherine Hauser, Ralf Mesenbrink and
Page Knight (Student Trustee)

The Policy and Priorities Committee held a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 7:00pm. Chair Ross presided the meeting. All committee members were in attendance as noted above. There were no conflicts of interest declared.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. [Community Use of Schools 200](#)

Policy Development Officer de Boer shared the proposed policy review plan. It was noted that the revised policy will merge Policy 200 and 202 as the use of E.L. Fox Auditorium falls under the board's Community Use of Schools (CUS) program. A summary of proposed revisions was shared including, but not limited to an updated policy statement, procedural items moved to the policy, updated definitions and CUS program details. This revised policy is recommended for public consultation for 45 days. Discussion was held regarding the use of all board facilities including outdoor areas.

The committee recommended:

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board approve the Policy Review Plan for Policy 200 – Community Use of Schools;

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board receive Policy 200 – Community Use of Schools; and

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board release for public consultation Policy 200 – Community Use of Schools.

2. Smoke and Vape Free Environment 208

Policy Development Officer de Boer shared a summary of the public consultation. The majority of feedback received was in favour of the policy. An outline of updates to the policy was provided including, but not limited to, clarification regarding where the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA) applies and confirmation of the board's commitment to protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and in particular Indigenous staff and students.

The committee recommended:

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board approve Policy 208 – Smoke and Vape-Free Environment.

3. Fees for Learning Materials and Activities 317

Policy Development Officer de Boer shared the proposed policy review plan. It was noted that the review provides an opportunity to revise how programs have traditionally been funded and to reimagine how all students are offered the same or similar experiences while at the same time removing barriers and reducing costs for families. Updates to the policy included clarification and increased transparency on allowable student fees, the addition of a cap on fees for optional programming, enhanced programming or specialty programming, as well as a proposed policy name change. Discussion was held regarding scenarios on when and how the policy would apply. This revised policy is recommended for public consultation for 45 days.

The committee recommended:

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board approve the Policy Review Plan for Policy 317 – Fees for Learning Materials and Activities:

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board receive Policy 317 – Student Fees; and

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board release for public consultation Policy 317 – Student Fees.

4. Recruitment and Selection 420

Policy Development Officer de Boer advised that the Development Plan was previously reviewed at committee. The new policy being proposed includes direction on carrying out recruitment and selection practices that are fair, consistent, transparent, inclusive and equitable. It also ensures the board is upholding requirements in applicable legislation and honouring collective agreements. It was noted that the new policy will merge and replace three current policies including Policy 400 – Pre-employment Screening, Policy 409 – Criminal Records Check/Offence Declaration and Policy 419 –

Teacher Hiring Practices. The policy was recommended for public consultation for 45 days.

The committee recommended:

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board receive Policy 420 – Recruitment and Selection; and

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board release for public consultation Policy 420 – Recruitment and Selection.

5. Indigenous Education (First Nation, Métis, Inuit) 519

Policy Development Officer de Boer reviewed Policy 519 – Indigenous Education and Policy 500 – First Nation, Métis, Inuit Self-Identification which are being merged as revised Policy 519. The title was updated to capture all content. Other revisions that were noted included a renewed policy statement, updated language and a statement about the option for students and families to self-identify as First Nation, Métis, or Inuit through a confidential and voluntary process. The policy was recommended for public consultation for 45 days.

The committee recommended:

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board approve the Policy Review Plan for Policy 519 – Indigenous Education (First Nation, Métis, Inuit);

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board receive Policy 519 – First Nation, Métis, Inuit Self-Identification and Education; and

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board release for public consultation Policy 519 – First Nation, Métis, Inuit Self-Identification and Education.

ITEMS FOR MONITORING

6. Policy Schedule

A policy schedule was shared with important upcoming dates noted.

7. Significant School Celebrations Ad Hoc Committee Report

Director Sovran provided an overview of the ad hoc committee objectives. The committee developed overall guiding principles. Discussion was held regarding scheduling of commencements, elementary graduations, and end of year celebrations. The overall guiding principles when planning events were highlighted. An overview of the format of events was also provided. Other considerations included that schools conduct a review of awards and scholarships to ensure alignment with the Equitable and

Inclusive Education Policy 504 and that efforts should be made to keep costs associated with such events minimal so that barriers of financial access for students and families are eliminated.

8. Math Strategy

Superintendent Hamilton shared an outline of the Math Action Plan. The plan is described as comprehensive plan to identify and intervene to address gaps in student learning and improve K-12 teacher instructional practice, pedagogical capacity, and confidence. A summary of supports and interventions was shared including Math Support Teachers (MSTs), Math Facilitators, Math Learning Support Teachers (LSTs), Transition Support Teachers (TSTs), Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs) and digital math tools. Superintendent Hamilton highlighted the board's own developed resources, named A Strong Math Program, with samples. It was noted that the action plan is research and evidence based and is in alignment with the UGDSB Multi-Year Plan and the Ministry of Education's Math Achievement Action Plan.