

## **POLICY AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Presented to: Board of Trustees  
Submitted on: February 27, 2024  
Submitted by: Robin Ross, Chair, Policy and Priorities Committee  
Committee Date: February 6, 2024  
Report No.: PP24-02

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Members: Robin Ross (Chair), Alethia O'Hara-Stephenson, Martha MacNeil, Lynn Topping

Regrets: Laurie Whyte

The Policy and Priorities Committee held a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 7:00pm. Chair Ross presided the meeting. Attendance was noted as above. There were no conflicts of interest declared.

### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

Policy Development Officer de Boer highlighted revisions since the policy appeared at the last committee meeting. Edits were made to provide more details for schools to submit their own facility requirements in advance of a new school year. Also included in the revisions was an addition to allow the fee schedule to be changed when necessary.

The committee recommended:

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

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board rescind Policy 202 – Community Use of E.L. Fox Auditorium.

#### 2. [Communications 216](#)

Policy Development Officer de Boer shared a summary of feedback received during the public consultation period. One change was noted to the policy with the deletion of text in 3.5.1 as materials or information considered for distribution would be limited to those already identified. The policy will replace current policies Distribution of Materials in Schools from External Organizations 209 and Website and Social Media Management) and protocol P.01 Crisis Communications 312.

The committee recommended:

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board approve Policy 216 – Communications; and

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board rescind Policy 209 – Distribution of Materials in Schools from External Organizations; and

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board rescind Policy 312 – Website and Social Media Management.

3. [Safe Operation of Schools and Board Sites 322](#)

Policy Development Officer de Boer shared a summary of feedback received during the public consultation period. It was advised that the policy does not cover instances where the school is locked/closed due to site-specific emergencies that may pose a threat and therefore a statement referencing the application of Policy 300 – Emergency Procedures was included.

The committee recommended:

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board approve Policy 322 – Safe Operation of Schools and Board Sites; and

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board rescind Policy 104 – Access to School and Board Premises.

4. [Continuity of Learning 520](#)

Policy Development Officer de Boer shared a summary of feedback received during the public consultation period. Discussion was held regarding the need for clarity of expectations of educators and students during school closures, particularly short-term closures. An outline of revisions was provided including an addition to the policy regarding expectations during short-term closures, clarification of application and the responsibility of providing technology to participate in remote learning.

The committee recommended:

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board approve Policy 520 – Continuity of Learning.

5. [School Generated Funds 709](#)

Policy Development Officer de Boer shared a summary of feedback received during the public consultation period. Grammatical revisions were the only changes made.

The committee recommended:

THAT the Upper Grand District School Board approve Policy 709 – School Generated Funds.

## ITEM FOR MONITORING

### 6. [Safe Schools Report](#)

Executive Superintendent McDonald presented the Safe Schools Report. He highlighted the responsibility for everyone to be accountable for their actions and contribute to a positive school climate and noted the Upper Grand District School Board's use of a variety of means to monitor and assess school sites in respect to their safety and school climate. Information and graphs were shared regarding how suspensions and expulsions are trending. Discussion was held regarding the suspension and expulsion rates among elementary, secondary and students with special education needs. A PowerPoint presentation was shared which included, but not limited to, the following: Monitoring Safe Schools, Monitoring Suspensions and Expulsions, Monitoring Identity-Based Harm and Bullying, Police Presence and Prevention and Awareness Updates.

### 7. [School Year Calendar](#)

Director Sovran provided an update regarding the 2024-25 School Year Calendar process. It was noted that consultation has been conducted with co-terminus board and discussions will be held with labour partners and the School Year Calendar Ad Hoc Committee. The School Year Calendar is due to the Ministry of Education by March 1, 2024.

### 8. [Policy Schedule](#)

A policy schedule was shared with important upcoming dates noted.