

UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

MINUTES

2011 03 01

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, March 1, 2011, in the Boardroom at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 7:00 p.m.

Trustee Topping presided, and the following Trustees were present: Borden, Busuttill, Cooper, Fairbairn, Gohn, Schieck, and Waterston, along with Student Trustee MacDougall. Present from the Administration was Director of Education Dr. M. Rogers, Executive Officer of Human Resources J. Rose, and Principal of Program B. Talbot, along with Superintendents Benallick, Boswell, Fyfe, Kelly, Morrell, and Wright.

AGENDA

Trustee Schieck moved that the Agenda be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Waterston moved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, January 4, 2011 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Background to the Student Success Grades 7-12 initiative was given by Superintendent of Education Erin Kelly. Ms. Kelly advised that the goal of the Student Success Plan is to increase the UGDSB graduation rate through credit accumulation. A handout entitled, "A Student Success Leader...." was distributed and detailed the role of the Leader. Ms. Kelly introduced Secondary Curriculum Leader Rob Rosie who provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Student Success Grade 7-12 Initiative, Progress Report and Action Plan 2010-2011". An accompanying booklet was distributed. Highlights of the Report include the new Organizational Chart, consisting of Pathways, Interventions, and Literacy, Numeracy and Instruction strategies, along with their associated teachers and administration. Mr. Rosie reviewed the Student Engagement, School Engagement, and System Engagement components of the Activity Report. An "Education with Engagement" Conference will be held on March 23, 2011 at Lakeside Church, and a RISE Conference will be held at the University of Guelph on May 6, 2011. Mr. Rosie provided examples of Student Success System Engagement being demonstrated throughout Upper Grand elementary and secondary schools including a student-created "Cardboard Boat" video competition, from Jean Little PS. Student Success students and staff look forward to Celebration Day to be held on May 25, 2011 at Lakeside Church. Graphs of Ministry - collected Student Success statistics, noted as Indicator Data (Academic), and Taking Stock (At-Risk) were displayed.

Principal of Orangeville District SS Darryl Kirkland highlighted Student Success projects happening at the school including an Alternative Education Program and a Young Parents Education Program. A handout entitled, "Orangeville District Secondary School Alternative Programs, A School for All Students" demonstrates options offered to students. Mr. Kirkland introduced ODSS Guidance Head Ian Main who explained the importance of these programs in the lives of at-risk students. Individually designed credit courses are offered at Covenant Campus, an Alternative Learning Program, to help students get their high school careers back on track. Jason and Jessica, two students who have completed courses at Covenant Campus, spoke to the Committee about the support they received from the staff there and expressed their thanks to the Board for the learning and career opportunities. Mr. Kirkland displayed a video of activities in the Alternative Education Program. Trustee Waterston expressed her appreciation, on behalf of the Board, to the teachers involved in the Student Success program.

RECOMMENDATION #1

Trustee Waterston moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the Student Success presentation be received.

The motion carried.

SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR

Ms. Kelly provided background to the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program. The Ministry program allows students to meet the requirements for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) through courses designed in their areas of interest. The program is designed for students who are heading for an apprenticeship, college, university, or workplace. Specialist High Skills Major Lead Charles Benyair was introduced and began with a DVD presentation of Premier Dalton McGuinty addressing the US Secretary of Education showing how Ontario is helping more students graduate. Charts and graphs indicating provincial and Upper Grand comparisons of graduation rates and credits attempted and earned/not earned revealed encouraging growth and participation. A handout entitled, "Specialist High Skills Major" was distributed and provided information about the program. A spreadsheet of Upper Grand schools and fields available, along with enrolment projections of grades 11 and 12 students was distributed. A slideshow of SHSM "success stories" was shown and highlighted Centre Dufferin DHS students involved in a house-build partnership which is also anticipated in the Guelph/Fergus area.

RECOMMENDATION #2

Trustee Borden moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the Specialist High Skills Major presentation be received.

The motion carried.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

An overview of the Continuing Education program was provided by Continuing Education Principal Murray Shannon, through a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Shannon reviewed the locations, funding sources, staff, and programs offered. Continuing Education sites are found in Guelph, Mount Forest, and Orangeville and provide education through 440 instructors. Besides being funded by the Board, financial support is provided through the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Training Colleges, and Universities, Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, and Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Continuing Education offers Adult Day-School Credit and Non-Credit Programs, Secondary Credit and Non-Credit Programs, and Non-Credit Programs for Elementary and Pre-school Children along with several training Programs. Noted was the Student/Participant Enrolment and that over 3,500 adults have earned their Secondary School Graduation Diploma from Continuing Education.

RECOMMENDATION #3

Trustee Schieck moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the Continuing Education presentation be received.

The motion carried.

OPSBA REPORT

Trustee Busuttill referred to the distributed report entitled, "February OPSBA Board of Directors Meeting" held February 25-26, 2011. Highlights of the meeting were noted and included recommendations around the Early Learning Program and 3rd party providers, an endorsement for coalition of agencies for Children and Youth Mental Health, feedback to OPSBA regarding the Board's Accessibility Committee, and a request to the Chair to contact MPs and MPPs noting concern around the removal of federal support programs for new Canadians. A Children and Youth Mental Health Statement of Intent is attached to this report.

RECOMMENDATION #4

Trustee Schieck moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that;

1. The report entitled, "February 2011 OPSBA Board of Directors Meeting" be received, and that;
2. the Board direct the Chair to send a letter to OPSBA to thank them for their initiative and attention to the development of a 3rd party Before and After School "template" under the province's Early Learning Initiative. Further, that the Chair articulate our request that OPSBA also monitor the process for engaging 3rd party providers. In particular, our Board is sensitive to the ability of our smaller child care operators, with less capacity than the larger operators, to be successful in any process,
3. a) the Upper Grand DSB approve the Children and Youth Mental Health Statement of Intent,

- b) the Upper Grand DSB become a supportive member of the Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health,
 - c) the Ontario Public School Board Association represent our Board at the provincial meetings,
4. the Accessibility Committee provide comment to the Board Chair and that our comments and concerns be forwarded to OPSBA as part of their consultation process, and
 5. the Chair be directed to send a letter to our MPs and MPPs outlining the impact that the withdrawal of federal support with the new Canadians support program will have on our communities, families, and children learning in our system.

The motion carried.

REPORT FROM STUDENT TRUSTEES

Recent Student Trustee activities were reviewed by Student Trustee MacDougall, and included two Student Senate meetings and the OSTA-AECO Board Council Conference in Ottawa. Student Senate has been busy planning the Live Free campaign, which kicks off this week and the "Speak-Out" anti-bullying program to be held on April 13, 2011. Information regarding Live Free can be found at www.livefreecampaign.ca. Trustees MacDougall and VanderVlugt, along with Trustee Cooper, have been reviewing the Board's Environmental Policy #210. Trustee MacDougall requested input from Trustees around how students could contribute to any Policy revisions and offered to gather information from students. The next Student Senate meeting will be held on March 8, 2011. Trustee MacDougall presented a DVD of Trustee VanderVlugt's production of the OSTA-AECO "Our Voice" monthly student magazine. The online magazine can be found at www.ourvoice.osta-aeco.org. Results of a Student Survey will be presented at the next Program Committee meeting. Trustees were asked to contact Trustee MacDougall for an emailed copy of the report.

RECOMMENDATION #5

Trustee Busuttill moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the Student Trustee presentation be received.

The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Waterston moved that this Committee adjourn at 9:25 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.