

UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

MINUTES

2012 04 03

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, April 3, 2012, in the Boardroom at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, commencing at 7:00 p.m.

Trustee Moziar presided, and the following Trustees were present: Bailey, Borden, Busuttil, Cooper, Gohn, Schieck, and Topping and Student Trustees MacDougall and Sampson. Present from administration was Director of Education Dr. M.C. Rogers and Communications Officer M. McFadzen, Executive Officer of Human Resources J. Rose and Chief Information Officer J. Shanks, along with Superintendents Benallick, Kelly, Morrell, Talbot, and Wright.

AGENDA

Trustee Busuttil moved that the Agenda be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Bailey moved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM AT NORWELL DSS

A student teacher of Norwell DSS, along with two senior co-op students, provided an overview of the school's Community Environmental Leadership Program (CELP). CELP is 4-credit (academic science, outdoor activities, civics and careers, and science co-op) program that provides leadership and communication skills, along with environmental awareness, to grade 10 students in an outdoor setting. As well, the students plan, prepare, and lead a 2-day environmental leadership program for grade fives called Earthkeepers. This program allows the CELPers to provide a service to the community while developing their own leadership skills. At the same time they improve their own knowledge of how the environment is connected to all living things on the planet. A slide-show and highlights of the outdoor program, held at Camp Wyoka, was displayed. Trustees were invited to join in one of the upcoming Earthkeepers days to be held on May 3, 7, and 10, 2012.

Recommendation #1:

Trustee Busutil moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the presentation entitled, "Community Environmental Leadership Program at Norwell DSS", be received.

The motion carried.

ELEMENTARY LITERACY COACHES

Elementary Literacy Coaches Catherine Andrews, Heather Galoska, Patricia Josephson, Sarah-Jane Olszewski, and Shari Roberts together presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Literacy Coaching in Upper Grand 2012" that highlighted the role of the Literacy Coach. A Literacy Coach is a literacy specialist whose primary goal is to improve literacy achievement by working collaboratively with teachers and principals through instructional strategies, accountability, resources, and effective managing. The Upper Grand Literacy Coaches are former classroom teachers with an average of 15 years experience and a strong background of elementary literacy instruction. Since the introduction of the Coaches to Upper Grand, during the 2010-11 school year, the Coaches have continued to improve literacy skills within the Board to over 250 classrooms from grades K-8, with a focus this year on K-3 students. The Coaches strategies around planning, instruction, and assessment are also embedded in the 2011-12 Board Improvement Plan. The presentation concluded with a video presentation and audio clips of Upper Grand teachers and the students who talked about Literacy Coaches in the classroom. A brochure entitled, "Elementary Literacy Coaches", that reviewed the role of the Coaches, was distributed.

Recommendation 2:

Trustee Bailey moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the Elementary Literacy Coaches presentation be received.

The motion carried.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) AND THE UPPER GRAND DSB

Local Representative of the Association for Bright Children of Ontario Mr. Jason Offer and Mr. Bruce Dadey presented Trustees with information regarding the International Baccalaureate program. Founded in Switzerland in 1968, the non-profit educational program provides an internationally oriented program for children aged 3-19 at 3 levels; primary, middle years, and high school diploma. IB is offered in over 50 countries, in 313 schools in Canada, and 3000 schools internationally. Neighboring IB schools include Cameron Heights CI in Kitchener, St. John's-Kilmarnock in Breslau, Glenview Park in Cambridge, and Georgetown DHS in Georgetown. There has been

increased interest in the program by local parents and some area children are being bussed to the neighbouring schools to participate in the program. Messrs. Dadey and Offer have been approached to present a request to staff to consider a feasibility study to determine the possibility of delivering an IB high school diploma program within Upper Grand. A PowerPoint presentation reviewed the history and benefits of the program, along with parent and student interest data.

Recommendation #3:

Trustee Bailey moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the presentation entitled, "International Baccalaureate (IB) and the Upper Grand DSB", be received.

The motion carried.

Discussion followed around the feasibility study and it was noted that several factors including equity, philosophy, associated costs, space, transportation, accessibility, and staffing would need to be considered.

Recommendation #4:

Trustee Busutil moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that staff be directed to explore the possibility of structuring a feasibility study to offer International Baccalaureate (IB) within the Upper Grand DSB.

The motion carried.

OPSBA REPORT

Trustee Busutil advised that the expired 2-year public-sector pay freeze will remain in effect. Trustee Bailey added other recent OPSBA updates including highlights from the provincial budget announcement and the impact of the Grants for Student Needs (GSN).

Recommendation #5:

Trustee Cooper moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the verbal OPSBA report be received.

The motion carried.

REPORT FROM STUDENT TRUSTEES

Student Trustee Emileigh Sampson announced that the 4th annual "Speak Out" day will be held on April 11, 2012. Posters have been sent to principals of each

secondary school as well as order forms for pink t-shirts. Student Trustee Jordan MacDougall provided information on the upcoming Environmental Conference to be held on May 2, 2012 at Lakeside Church in Guelph, with keynote speaker David Noble. This year's theme will be around the movie "The Lorax". Workshops are currently being planned. Trustees can email Ms. MacDougall for further information.

Recommendation #6

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

The motion carried.

OTHER

Trustee Borden announced two upcoming meetings; Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at 6:45 Superintendent Wright and Trustee Fairbairn will update Trustees on the outcome of the Negotiation Steering Committee meeting held April 3, 2012, and an in-caucus meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 29, 2012.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Schieck moved that this Committee adjourn at 9:05 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.