

UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

MINUTES

2012 01 10

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, January 10, 2012, in the Boardroom at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 7:00 p.m.

Trustee Moziar presided, and the following Trustees were present: Bailey, Borden, Busuttill, Cooper, Fairbairn, Gohn, Schieck, Topping, and Waterston along with Student Trustees MacDougall and Sampson. Present from the Administration was Director of Education Dr. M. Rogers, and Communications Officer McFadzen, along with Superintendents Benallick, Boswell, Fyfe, and Wright.

AGENDA

Trustee Cooper moved that the Agenda be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Topping moved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, November 1, 2011 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

DELEGATION: EDWARD JOHNSON JK-6 FRENCH IMMERSION BOUNDARY

Dr. Jennifer Brisbin and Mr. Vince Brisbin addressed Trustees on behalf of the Rockwood Centennial PS parents regarding the Edward Johnson Boundary Review. Further to a previous delegation, delivered at the December, 2011 Board Meeting, Dr. Brisbin presented additional information regarding the review through a PowerPoint display. Mr. Brisbin highlighted the proposed "Scenario D" which builds on Scenario A (staff preferred scenario) and reasoned why it is a viable option. The scenario permits the Edward Johnson PS students, designated to move, to relocate as a whole group to King George PS. Advantages would include a continued sense of the French Immersion (FI) community, cost and environmental savings around bussing, siblings would be kept together in the same city, and the FI and RT students from Rockwood, Eden Mills, and Everton would attend John F. Ross together, which further enhances the sense of community. Trustee Moziar thanked Dr. Brisbin and Mr. Brisbin for their presentation and noted that the community will be notified once a decision has been made.

SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS AT THE UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Coordinator of Special Education and Collaborative Projects Lead Sandra Szpular reviewed supports in place for students in the area of mental health, through a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Supporting Mental Health Wellness at UGDSB".

Provincial Strategy

Following the guidelines of the Provincial Government's "Open Minds, Healthy Minds" document, Ms. Szpular provided a summary of the Provincial ten year strategy, with a focus on early intervention over the first three years. Ms. Szpular outlined intended supports and referred to the handout entitled, "Overview of the Three Year Plan" which highlighted Themes, Indicators, and Initiatives around the plan. Ms. Szpular also reviewed three key initiatives - Continuing to Implement, New Initiatives in Process, and New Resources. Information is found on the chart entitled, "Supporting Mental Health Wellness at UGDSB", attached to the Program Meeting agenda.

Collaborative Agreements

A handout entitled, "Protocols for Partnerships: Policy Program Memorandum 149" was distributed and reviewed. The purpose of the Ministry directed PPM 149 is to establish a process for collaborating with external agencies for the provision of services to students in Ontario schools. These services are in the areas of health professionals and social service professionals and paraprofessionals.

Making a Difference: An Educator's Guide to Child and Youth Mental Health Problems

Other initiatives include the "Extending the Reach" Mental Health Forum which was provided to all schools on November 7, 2011. The meeting began with a video entitled "Open Up" which was also shown to Trustees at this evening's meeting. Ms. Szpular displayed charts relating to the importance of mental health to student achievement; concern about mental health (from administrators), and educator preparedness. Excerpts from the Child and Youth Mental Health Information Network (CYMHIN) document entitled, "Making a Difference: An Educators' Guide to Child and Youth Mental Health Problems" were distributed. The entire document can be downloaded at www.cymhin.ca.

Introduction to the Jack Project

Future activities will include (much-omit) focus in the area of suicide prevention. An Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) workshop for CYCs will be held in June, 2012. Upper Grand pre-registered to be involved in "The Jack Project" which is currently in pilot stage at various school boards. The Jack Project is the legacy of Jack Windeler who, in March 2010, died by suicide during his first year of studies at Queen's University. The video was viewed by Trustees and is available at www.thejackproject.org.

RECOMMENDATION #1

Trustee Bailey moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the presentation entitled, "Supporting Mental Health Wellness at the Upper Grand District School Board" be received.

The motion carried.

CARE, TREATMENT, CUSTODY, AND CORRECTIONS – EDUCATION PROGRAMS – SECTION 23

Vice Principal of Section 23 Beth Charles provided an overview of Section 23 Care, Treatment, Custody, and Corrections services and their facilities through a PowerPoint presentation. Ten Section 23 sites are located within Upper Grand and provide academic support, in a therapeutic environment, to students with complex behaviour and mental health concerns, addictions, and medically fragile and dual diagnosis issues. The locations include Ariss Place, Avalon Children's Residence, Avalon Horizons, Avalon Specialized Services, Cedar Heights, Trellis Program, Give Yourself Credit, Hopewell Children's Home, Pine River Institute, and Portage Program.

RECOMMENDATION #2

Trustee Bailey moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the presentation entitled, "Care, Treatment, Custody, and Corrections – Education Programs – Section 23", be received.

The motion carried.

YOUTH OPTIONS PROGRAM

Ms. Charles presented highlights of the Youth Options Program located in Arthur. The program, designed to aid Grades 6-12 students who have been suspended or expelled, has successfully been in existence for 5 years. Classes are held in a structured learning environment and offer onsite academic and socio-emotional support, transition support upon return to school, and are in consultation with family, school, and community agencies. Youth Options also provides a comprehensive intervention program that is meant to minimize suspensions and expulsions. This program is available for all schools with students in Grades 6-12.

RECOMMENDATION #3

Trustee Fairbairn moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the presentation entitled, "Youth Options Intervention Program", be received.

The motion carried.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

The Restorative Practices initiative was reviewed by Ms. Charles. Described as "a different way of dealing with conflict", the victim and offender, as well as all involved, are brought together and can collaboratively fix the harm that's been done to the group. Training for all staff has been provided with additional training for new staff. The project is now part of the Board Improvement Plan. Resource packages are available in each school, as well as the Terry James Resource Centre. Presentations have been held at Learning Fairs, and to Families of Schools and Student Success staff.

RECOMMENDATION #4

Trustee Busuttill moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the presentation entitled, "Restorative Practices", be received.

The motion carried.

OPSBA - Nil

REPORT FROM STUDENT TRUSTEES

Student Trustee Emileigh Sampson reported on the "Free The Children's We Day", sponsored by RIM, that she attended on November 16, 2011 in Kitchener. We Day is a movement, presented to the young community, to provide greater insight into social issues and encourage them to create global change. Several inspiration speakers including international children's rights activists and co-founders of Free The Children Craig and Marc Kielburger, and former child soldier Michel Chikwanine who shared his personal journey. Ms. Sampson will provide Trustees with a PowerPoint presentation of the event.

RECOMMENDATION #5

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

The motion carried.

OTHER

Trustee Gohn advised that arrangements for a Trustee dinner have been made for Friday, January 13, 2012 at East Mill Tapas and Grill in Elora at 7:00 p.m.

Trustee Borden has received an invitation to a Dufferin community event to be held Monday, January 30, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. but is unable to attend. Trustee Topping will attend the meeting on behalf of the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Waterston moved that this Committee adjourn at 8:55 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.