

Upper Grand District School Board

Program Committee

Minutes

September 9, 2014

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, September 9, 2014, in the Boardroom at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, commencing at 7:00 p.m.

The Chairperson Trustee Topping presided, and the following Trustees were present: Bailey, Borden, Cooper, Fairbairn, Gohn, Moziar, and Schieck, together with student Trustees Dylan Challinor and Guthrie Woodford. Also in attendance were Director of Education Dr. M. C. Rogers, Executive Officer of Human Resources Rose, Communications Officer McFadzen, Administrative Officer Weidmark, Student Success Lead Zen, Manager of Planning Passy, and Superintendents Lindsay, McDonald, Morrell, Slater, Talbot, and Wright.

Agenda

Trustee Schieck moved that the agenda be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Bailey moved that the minutes of the meeting held June 24, 2014 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Environmental Education

Elementary Curriculum Leader Connie Bender, together with Secondary Curriculum Leader Susan Bender, highlighted Environmental Education initiatives in both elementary and secondary schools. Some of the factors that lead to the success of these initiatives are student, school and community engagement, inclusion of environmental education in every school improvement plan, after school sessions, mentoring, curriculum packages for teachers, ECO school tips, and community gardens. Due to the environment, equity, and mental health components which are imbedded into

the curriculum, a wide variety of opportunities are available to both elementary and secondary students which will help improve their education in these areas. Trustees expressed thanks for a great presentation, for encouraging and supporting a culture change in environmental issues as well as incorporating equity and mental health awareness.

Recommendation # 1

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the verbal report on Environmental Education be received.

The motion carried.

“All About Me”

On behalf of the committee members, (Carlo Zen, Cheryl VanOoteghem, Brent Ellery, Jonathan Walker, Louise Coffee, and Lisa Sanvido) Curriculum Leader Chad Reay, together with Instructional Coach Jen Apgar introduced a new Ministry document entitled “Creating Pathways to Success”. They shared its philosophy and explained how the “All About Me” component of the electronic portfolio works. Creating pathways to success describes a comprehensive education and career/life planning program for kindergarten to grade 12 students designed to help students achieve their personal goals and become competent, successful, and contributing members of society. With the assistance of staff, students need to identify who they are, what their plan is for achieving their goals, who they want to become, know what opportunities are available to them, and determine what steps they will need in education for their career/life planning. This program theory existed many years ago, but was only in hard copies, which was not practical and was a work load issue. With the electronic component introduced, it is believed that the information will be easy to collect and post, and can be stored electronically for a long period of time, without extra demands on staff time. These documents that are uploaded can easily follow the child through elementary to secondary, and can be posted and reviewed by staff, parents, and the individual student. The following seven elementary schools were chosen for the pilot project: Ottawa Cres., Priory Park, Arthur, Minto Clifford, Victoria Terrace, Westminster Woods, and Laurelwoods, with great success so far. Trustees thanked Ms. Apgar and Mr. Reay for their presentation and for the work involved in implementing this electronic component. “All About Me” can be a very powerful tool for students to assist in career/life planning, as well as a communication tool for teachers to enhance parent/teacher interviews.

Recommendation # 2

Trustee Moziar moved that the verbal report on “All About Me” be received.

The motion carried.

Other Business

Trustee Cooper proudly reported that there are currently 72 JK – grade 1 French Immersion students enrolled at Ecole Harris Mill PS, in Rockwood.

Trustee Cooper also raised a concern about numerous calls she received from parents about transportation complaints which included errors with pick-up, pick-up locations changed, poor communication from the transportation consortium, inability for parents to connect with transportation staff, and cracks in the transportation system. She suggested that, although she understood the difficult job of the consortium, consideration should be given to this issue to minimize errors, and improve communication. Trustee Moziar reiterated Trustee Cooper’s concerns.

In Camera

Adjournment

Trustee Fairbairn moved that this Committee adjourn at 9:45 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.