

**Upper Grand District School Board
Business Operations Committee
Minutes**

March 10, 2015

The Business Operations Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, March 10, 2015, in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, Ontario commencing at 7:00 p.m.

The Chairperson, Trustee Cooper presided, and the following Trustees were present: Bailey, Busutil, Fairbairn, Lustgarten Evoy, MacNeil, Moziar, Schieck, Topping, and White along with Student Trustees Challinor and Woodford.

Present from the Administration were Dr. M. C. Rogers, Director of Education, together with Superintendents Benallick, Lindsay, McDonald, Morrell, Slater, Talbot, and Wright, Communications Officer McFadzen, Administrative Officer Communications Weidmark, Executive Officer of Human Resources Rose, Student Success Lead Zen, Planning Manager Passy, Senior Planner Imm, Operations Officer Scinocca, and Manager of Operations Veit.

Approval of Agenda

Trustee Schieck moved that the agenda be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Moziar moved that the minutes of the meeting of February 10, 2015 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

Delegations

Trustee Schieck took the Chair for this portion of the meeting.

1. Charlene Berringer and Mariell Munoz

Ms. Berringer and Ms. Munoz requested that the Board consider alternative ways for students to obtain transportation from Rockwood and Erin to enable them to attend the IB program at Guelph CVI. Shared bussing expenses and hiring private bus companies were suggested. It was noted that there is no public transportation available from these areas to Guelph.

Trustee Deliberation

Trustees reminded the presenters that the policy clearly states that there is no transportation provided for out-of-area students who wish to attend the IB program at Guelph CVI. Trustee Cooper expressed thanks for the presentation, noted inequities between the schools in the city of Guelph versus Counties regarding program availability. Concerns raised included full utilization of busses, bell times, time spent on the bus Ministry restrictions against fees charged for transportation, precedent setting, the fact that the existing IB program is a pilot project and intended to grow, no requirements in the Education Act to provide transportation, workload issue with regard to future reviews of transportation utilization, and the capacity of school to support additional students in the program.

Recommendation # 1

Trustee Cooper moved that the Board direct staff to do a pilot study to examine bus routes for IB students from Erin and Rockwood to Guelph CVI that would determine the number of bus seats available, to examine transportation options for students travelling from Erin and Rockwood including courtesy bussing, identify problems related to bell times and bussing, and address cost sharing concerns.

A recorded vote was requested.

Yeah: Trustees Bailey and Cooper

Nay: Trustees, Busuttil, Fairbairn, Lustgarten Evoy, MacNeil, Moziar, Schieck, Topping and White.

The motion was defeated.

Delegations Continued

Trustee Cooper took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

2. Sandy Messenger, Sir Isaac Brock PS

Ms. Messenger spoke in support of the grades 7 and 8 programs remaining at Sir Isaac Brock PS.

3. Fiona Kolbuc-James, Sir Isaac Brock PS

Together with her daughter, Ms. Kolbuc spoke in support of the grades 7 and 8 programs remaining at Sir Isaac Brock PS.

4. Pam Grimwood, Sir Isaac Brock PS

Ms. Grimwood supported the grades 7 and 8 programs at Sir Isaac Brock PS to remain as is, in line with the decision outlined in the 2013 feasibility study.

5. Libby Malott and Renee Chumbley, Sir Isaac Brock PS

Co-chairs of the Parent Council Committee at Sir Isaac Brock PS, requested that the decision made in 2013 not be in jeopardy, and that the grades 7 and 8 students remain at Sir Isaac Brock PS.

6. Tricia Agocs, Sir Isaac Brock PS

Together with three grade six students, Tricia Agocs spoke in support of the grades 7 and 8 programs remaining at Sir Isaac Brock PS.

Trustee Schieck expressed thanks to the parents and students for their presentations. He advised that he had placed a notice of motion of reconsideration at the February 24, 2015 Board meeting, regarding the grades 7 and 8 programs at Sir Isaac Brock PS and boundary for Rickson Ridge PS. He noted that after the delegations were heard, and the report from Senior administration was read, he advised that he would no longer be supporting the motion of reconsideration.

Implications of Retaining Sir Isaac Brock PS Grades 7 and 8 Students at Rickson Ridge PS

Manager of Planning Passy advised that a motion was placed at the February 24, 2015 Board meeting, requesting that a report be presented on the current enrolment of Sir Isaac Brock PS and Rickson Ridge PS with future projections for the next 3 years and the implications if Sir Isaac Brock PS grades 7 and 8 remain at Rickson Ridge PS until a

long term accommodation plan can be developed. This report was presented by Ms. Passy and included rationale, history, enrolment projections, development area changes affecting both Sir Isaac Brock PS and Rickson Ridge PS, motions of the feasibility study of 2013, and maps for clarity. Staff were asked to report on potential implications to reverse the decision which included staffing timelines, transportation of intermediate students, loss in enrolment numbers to the Catholic School Board, resources expended already in preparation for intermediate students, and portable needs versus empty classrooms. Ms. Passy also advised that school council have already committed to resources in support of the grades 7 and 8 programs. Trustees expressed thanks for the thorough report.

Recommendation # 2

Trustee Moziar moved that report PLN: 15-09 "Implications of Retaining Sir Isaac Brock PS Grade 7 and 8 Students at Rickson Ridge PS" be received for information.

The motion carried.

Extreme Cold Weather – School Closing

Director of Education Dr. M. C. Rogers, advised that the issue of school closures in extreme cold weather (-35 degrees) was on the agenda to seek direction from Trustees and for them to decide criteria and directives regarding school closures on extreme cold days. Dr. Rogers noted that the decision to close schools is made early in the morning. Manager of Transportation Wendy Dobson advised that some of the criteria considered in cancelling busses includes, visibility, road conditions, ice, temperature with and without the wind chill factor, qualities or restrictions of southern Ontario diesel fuel, water filters freezing, road closures, and policy. Another concern raised was related to communication in the media and web sites and inconsistencies in messages with school websites and the Board's website regarding schools opened or closed. Staff expectations to be at the school, children arriving if the school is open, supervision, safety, day care concerns at schools that have before and after programs, crossing guard safety issues, parental choice to have children attend school versus the Board's decision to close or keep the school open, employers perception if schools are not closed and staff needing to stay home with their children, a definitive definition of extreme cold, consensus across the province with other practices of other Boards, safety of children if left unattended at home, firm direction and leadership from the Board, feed back from school councils, parental concerns, safety risks, potential hazards, staff perspective, collective agreements, were all discussed. It was agreed that more time was needed to get community input, parental and staff concerns.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that staff ensure that we communicate clear guidelines about expectations of what goes on during the school day in the event of school closures. Trustee Lustgarten Evoy withdrew the motion.

Recommendation # 3

Trustee White moved that:

1. Schools remain open to students on extremely cold days even if busses are not running.
2. The Board post an extreme weather alert on the website so parents can decide to send their children to school or not.

Trustee Moziar moved that the above motions be deferred to the Business Operations meeting in September 2015 to enable time for feedback from community, staff, and obtain comparisons from other boards.

**The motion to defer,
having precedence,
was put first, and carried.**

New East Guelph (Couling Crescent) School Boundary Review, Report # 1

Senior Planner Imm provided a quick overview of the boundary review process which complies with Board policy, and noted that it is different than Accommodation Reviews. She advised that a boundary review is necessary to be undertaken to determine the full extent of the new East Guelph (Couling Crescent) school JK-8 FI attendance area boundary. Goals, objectives and constraints were outlined in the report, as well as next steps, and expected timelines. The proposed process, communication plan, and committee composition were outlined.

Recommendation # 4

Trustee Moziar moved that

1. Memo PLN: 15-08 "New East Guelph (Couling Crescent) School Boundary Review – Report #1" be received.
2. The Board approves the initiation of a boundary review process to establish the full JK-8 FI boundary for the new East Guelph (Couling Crescent) school.

3. Trustees adopt the schedule shown in Appendix B of report PLN: 15-08, as the proposed timeline for the boundary review process to establish the JK-8 FI boundary for the new East Guelph (Couling Crescent) school.

The motion carried.

Resignations and Retirements

Executive Officer of Human Resources Rose presented the report Resignations and Retirements dated March 10, 2015.

Recommendation # 5

Trustee Schieck moved that the report "Resignations and Retirements" dated March 10, 2015, be received.

The motion carried.

Other Business – nil report

In Camera

Adjournment

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that this Committee adjourn at 10:40 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.