

Upper Grand District School Board Business Operations Committee Minutes

June 9, 2015

The Business Operations Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, June 9, 2014, 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: Busuttil, Fairbairn, Moziar, and White along with Student Trustees Challinor and Woodford. Trustee MacNeil attended via teleconference.

Present from the Administration were M. C. Rogers, Director of Education, together with Superintendents Benallick, Lindsay, McDonald, Morrell, Slater, Talbot, and Wright, Communications Officer McFadzen, 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 Busuttil moved that the agenda be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee White moved that the minutes of the meeting of May 12, 2015 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

Delegations

1. Julia and Emma, students from Erin DHS delegated the Board to request new sports/playing fields, bleachers, and fencing around the playing fields. A video was shown including numerous students from Erin DHS in support of the request for new playing fields.

2. Parents Brenda Barratt, together with Carrie Coote, elaborated on the student's delegation, regarding the request for playing fields, bleachers, as well as fencing around the perimeter of the fields. Trustee Busuttill noted that she was surprised that the issue came to the Board as a delegation, questioned the reasons, and asked for clarification. It appeared that communication regarding the status of the playing fields project was unclear. Parents assumed that there was something in the works since 2000, received a copy of a staff feasibility study which was done last year (to determine if such a project was feasible and could be done, not to approve it or make it a priority), and were under the impression that the issue was left in the hands of the Board. Parents wanted to present the issue to raise awareness of their concerns, and to ensure that the issue was not lost. It was determined that the issue of the playing fields was part of a staff process, which was incomplete. Trustees thanked the delegations.

New East Guelph (Couling Crescent) School Boundary Review Report # 3

Senior Planner Imm presented the School Boundary Review Report # 3 which provided the following: a summary of information contained in the first and second Boundary Review Reports; a summary of input received from the public; final staff recommendation, justification for the recommended Boundary Change(s); a critical path resolution of the identified accommodation issue; and a communication plan. Scenario 1 as described in the report was recommended by staff. It was noted that negotiations are still underway with the City of Guelph, and that the opening date for the new school had yet to be determined. Trustees expressed their thanks for the report.

Recommendation # 1

Trustee Moziar moved that:

1. Memo PLN: 15-19 "New East Guelph (Couling Crescent) School Boundary Review – Report # 3" dated June 9, 2015 be received.
2.
 - a) The Board approve Scenario 1 as described in Section 4.0 in the report attached to memo PLN: 15-19.
 - b) The JK-8 FI boundary for the New East Guelph (Couling Crescent) school as outlined in Map 2 of Appendix C, attached to memo PLN: 15-19 "New East Guelph (Couling Crescent) School Boundary Review – Report # 3" effective upon the opening of the Couling Crescent school in either September 2016 or September 2017 be approved.

- c) The JK-3 FI, Grades 4-6 FI and Grades 7 and 8 FI boundaries for École King George PS as outlined in Maps 3-5 of Appendix C, attached to memo PLN: 15-19 “New East Guelph (Couling Crescent) School Boundary Review – Report # 3” effective upon the opening of the Couling Crescent school in either September 2016 or September 2017 be approved.
 - d) The JK-6 FI boundary for Edward Johnson PS as outlined in Map 6 of Appendix C, attached to memo PLN: 15-19 “New East Guelph (Couling Crescent) School Boundary Review – Report # 3” effective September 2015 be approved.
3. Staff bring a report to Board in the fall of 2015 to confirm the opening date and starting grades of the Couling Crescent school together with updated maps showing the implementation details for Couling Crescent school and École King George PS.
 4. Prior to February 2019, the Planning Department provide a report to the Board with recommendations about the start of Grades 7 and 8 at the Couling Crescent school supported by updated enrolment projections and information on intermediate class sizes.

The motion carried.

2013 2014 Ontario Green Energy Act Reporting

Operations Officer Scinocca advised that, under the Ontario Green Energy Act 2009, school boards must report and make public energy consumption and ghg emission data by July 1, 2013, boards must update annual energy consumption and ghg data and develop and make public an energy conservation plan by July 2014, and report energy consumption data annually and update the energy conservation plan every 5 years. Mr. Scinocca presented the Ontario Green Energy Reporting in great detail.

Recommendation # 2

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the report entitled “2013 2014 Ontario Green Energy Reporting” (CP:15-02), dated June 9, 2015, be received.

The motion carried.

Resignations and Retirements

Executive Officer of Human Resources Rose presented the report Resignations and Retirements dated June 9, 2015.

Recommendation # 3

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the report “Resignations and Retirements” dated June 9, 2015 be received with thanks for the many years of service.

The motion carried.

Trustee Orientation

Executive Officer of Human Resources Rose introduced Manager of Health and Safety and Disability Deirdre Pyke. Ms. Pyke provided Trustees with an overview and updates of the Health and Safety initiatives, strengths and areas of focus, the Health and Safety policy, the Joint Health and Safety Committee, and safety leadership. She advised that the Board received recognition across the province for the reduction in workplace accidents from 2011 to 2014, and the improvements in Health and Safety initiatives and programs. Trustees thanked staff for the great work, initiatives and accomplishments in the area of Health and Safety.

Other Business**Discussion Regarding the Delegation for Erin DHS Playing Fields**

Trustee Busuttill raised a number of questions of staff for clarification regarding the system-wide process for upkeep and installation of sports fields in Dufferin and Wellington. In regards to the playing fields at Erin DHS, the following was noted:

- The initiative arose in 2013 in the form of a request from the Principal.
- The request was submitted to plant operations for approval through functional equity funds.
- Funds were not approved as the request exceeded functional equity funding.
- The school continued its requests for the fields.
- A feasibility study was done as part of the internal staff process, to determine if it could be done on the fields, on the tile bed, from an engineering and technical point of view.
- It was determined that the feasibility study indicated that the request was feasible, but it was not approved.
- If the project were to proceed, it would be necessary to obtain approval from the Ministry of the Environment.

- Trustees would need to make decisions regarding property matters and this issue was not brought to the Board as yet, as it was still a staff work in progress project.
- In February of this year, a proposal was made to go through RAAC (renovations, alterations) and there was no decision.
- The feasibility decision was to go to the property committee for consideration with the larger field study, and was deferred to allow time to obtain more information.
- It appeared that communication regarding the status of the playing fields was not communicated with school staff or parents.
- Parents were not told the playing field project at Erin DHS would not be done.
- A preliminary report on secondary sports fields was done, and discussed at the property committee, and discussed different options.
- The feasibility study that was done is not sufficient to direct a building project, and only the Board can direct a capital project, and Ministry approval would be required.
- The facilities at Erin DHS are sufficient, with the addition of the public school playing fields and Barber fields, to meet Ministry Phys. Ed. programs and can field teams, win championships and be successful.
- The property where the field is contemplated is currently declared surplus, and it would need to be reclaimed.

Trustee Busuttill cautioned Trustees that this is an internal staff process. The Property Committee directed staff to look at system wide, not specific schools, to review secondary schools, and elementary schools playing fields. She noted that she did not want any further discussion until staff have had the opportunity to get all the information necessary to make informed decisions. She further suggested that senior administration provide clear communication to the Principal, school council, and school staff of the current status of this project. She also suggested that the communication include that the Board is currently engaged in an overall review of sports fields across the Board and until the Board is able to gather that information, and take a serious look at it, no decisions can be made on any sports fields.

In Camera

Labour Update – nil report

Report Cards

Director of Education Rogers advised of a province-wide problem regarding elementary report cards. She noted that public elementary teachers across Ontario are taking part in a legal strike. This action includes not writing report card comments, and not inputting student marks electronically for the purpose of producing report cards. The issue was raised to decide what the Upper Grand DSB will do in this regard. It was suggested that letters of promotion/placement be distributed. Data entry into ONSIS, and the issue of OSRs were concerns also addressed. The issue with ONSIS was the correct data being entered, and how it will affect future reporting for the student and accuracy for the Ministry regarding grants. OSR transfers for grade 6 students moving to grade 7, grade 8 students going to grade 9, and transfers within or outside of the district needed to be a priority. Purging of irrelevant information in OSRs, completion of French card hours, IEP information, and any other updates must be done before transfers are made. Trustees expressed thanks for the plan in place to address the work to rule labour issues.

Trustee Moziar moved that elementary Principals in the Upper Grand District School Board report on the progress of each pupil to his or her parent or guardian in June 2015 through a letter of promotion/placement.

The motion carried.

Trustee Busuttill moved that that the staff proceed with the ONSIS accurate data entry process.

The motion carried

Personnel Matter(s) nil

Other Business nil

Adjournment

Trustee MacNeil moved that this Committee adjourn at 10:45 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.