

Upper Grand District School Board

Program Committee

Minutes

May 5, 2015

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, in the Boardroom at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, commencing at 7:00 p.m.

The Chairperson Trustee Moziar presided, and the following Trustees were present: Bailey, Busuttil, Fairbairn, MacNeil, Schieck Topping, and White, together with student Trustees Dylan Challinor and Guthrie Woodford. Also in attendance were Director of Education Dr. M. C. Rogers, Communications Officer McFadzen, Administrative Officer Weidmark, Student Success Lead Zen, and Superintendents Benallick, Lindsay, McDonald, and Slater.

Agenda

Trustee Fairbairn 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 Topping moved that the minutes of the meeting held on April 7, 2015, be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Prayer

In consideration of the 70th anniversary of the Liberation of Holland, Student Trustees Challinor and Woodford recited the poem "In Flanders Fields".

Report from Student Trustees

Student Trustees Challinor and Woodford reported on events that were planned in high schools over the last month which included gay straight alliance activities, mental health week, popcorn sales for environmental club, construction on an outdoor project, gym riot, relay for life, Canadian country singer performance, equity workshop, falcon stock music festival, car bash, puppy day, twin day, band concert for students, white pine

club, tree planting trip, book drive for women/youth shelter, 30 hour famine, rainbow summit, student leadership council meeting, Spartan sports Olympics, earth week, semi-formal, art show, ecoteam free coffee, litterless lunch lottery, Me to We assembly, and a school garden construction.

Recommendation # 1

Trustee White moved that the verbal report from Student Trustees be received.

The motion carried.

Mental Health Update

Dr. Lynn Woodford presented posters that were shared throughout the system entitled "Have a SUPER week". She advised that the child and youth mental health week events included wear green Wednesday, St. John's therapy dogs, tree of hope, mindfulness, yoga, announcements promoting good mental health, music with positive messages, and GLOWW bracelets. Schools were sent suggestions for every day activities which included older students reading to younger students, walk for mental health, posted sticky notes with positive messages, stomp out stigma magnets, survival kits, youth talk activities, stress balls, oceans of glitter, chalk art of hope, smile campaigns, and "Artistry in Mind" at ODSS. The message of hope is to teach children and youth to do the best they can particularly once lagging skills are identified and addressed. Trustees expressed thanks for the work done on mental health throughout the system.

Recommendation # 2

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the verbal update on Mental Health be received.

The motion carried.

GrandPals

Marc Mailhot, teacher from Montgomery Village PS, did a presentation on the successful program GrandPals. He noted that GrandPals is a program operated through Montgomery Village PS and Parkinson PS which embraces the spirit of community partnerships, by having students partnered with seniors. Cross-community, intergenerational relationships were built through students interviewing seniors and sharing stories of their lives. The students had an opportunity to appreciate the wisdom and life experiences of the seniors while the seniors related to the students in similarities they experienced as well as differences that occurred over the years in education and lifestyles. Technology was woven into the project to enhance the

interview process for the students, and provide students with learning tools. This program provided a very positive learning and sharing experience for students, staff, and seniors. Mr. Mailhot advised that there is a Gala event planned for the 17th of June where seniors and students will enjoy a social event with their new GrandPals, and will have an opportunity to celebrate the wonderful relationships developed.

Recommendation # 3

Trustee White moved that the verbal report on GrandPals be received.

The motion carried.

GCVI FOS “Youth Empowerment”

Lisa Sanvido introduced Bill Bulmer, Child and Youth Counsellor, GCVI, together with two students from GCVI, one from grade 11 and one from grade 9. Mr. Bulmer advised that the program “Lady Empowerment” was developed to assist girls with the transition from grade 8 to grade 9. Since its inception, it was changed to “Youth empowerment”. to include both girls and boys. The focus of the program is to help with insecurities, relationships, body image, school involvement, attitude, anxiety, build self-confidence, and to have fun. The two students in attendance shared their testimonials, and expressed sincere appreciation for the wonderful program. Trustees expressed thanks to everyone involved in the program and for the honesty and openness of the students’ testimonials.

Recommendation # 4

Trustee Topping moved that the verbal report on Youth Empowerment be received.

The motion carried.

Digital Historian

Neil Orford, Teacher, Centre Dufferin DHS and students Avery, Elena, Ajay, and Tyler, shared the successful Digital Historian program. Mr. Orford congratulated the Board for getting this wonderful program started, and noted it is the only program of its kind in Canada. Three schools are currently offering this 4 year, grade 11 credit program; Orangeville DSS, Centre Dufferin DHS and Westside SS, and is hosted by the Dufferin County Museum. The digital work is done using the D2L Platform for the Digital Historian Program. Mr. Orford advised that students will travel to Normandy on June 6, 2015, and in November of 2016, they will have the opportunity to tour Europe and visit world war battlefields. Historical value, ongoing legacy for veterans, awesome learning strategies, enthusiasm, passion for learning and history, intellectual vigor, innovative learning through curriculum, confidence building, were some of the noted benefits of this

wonderful program. AT the OPSBA Annual General Meeting this June, Mr. Orford will make a presentation, with the hopes of encouraging other boards to develop such a program, province-wide, enabling many more students to benefit from such learning opportunities and initiatives.

Recommendation # 5

Trustee Topping moved that the verbal update on Digital Historian be received.

The motion carried.

OPSBA Report

Trustee Busuttil provided a verbal OPSBA update. She noted that the AGM will be held in Collingwood June 11 and 13, 2015.

Recommendation # 6

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the verbal OPSBA update be received.

The motion carried.

In Camera

Adjournment

Trustee Fairbairn moved that this Committee adjourn at 10:25 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.