

# Upper Grand District School Board

## Program Committee

### Minutes

November 4, 2014

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, November 4, 2014, in the Boardroom at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, commencing at 7:00 p.m.

The Vice-Chairperson Trustee Moziar presided, and the following Trustees were present: Bailey, Busuttil, Cooper, Fairbairn, Gohn, and Waterston 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, Student Success Lead Zen, and Superintendents Lindsay, McDonald, Slater, Talbot, and Wright.

#### **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 Waterston moved that the minutes of the meeting held October 7, 2014 be approved as printed.

**The motion carried.**

#### **Report from Student Trustees**

Student Trustees Dylan Challinor and Guthrie Woodford reported that they attended the OSTA-AECO fall conference, with a mandate to determine priority issues for the upcoming year. Mental health issues, mental health awareness, innovative classrooms, and the inclusion of "student well-being" in collective bargaining agreements topped the list. They highlighted many of the activities that were organized throughout the various secondary schools which included welcome back dances, Thanksgiving food drive, purple day for LGBTQ awareness, tempo band, Halloween dance and haunted house, student council retreat to Muskoka Woods, Me to We

fundraising week, OSLC – Ontario Student Leadership Council, tech drive fundraising, pumpkin carving contest, pep rally, dodge ball tourney, pink day – awareness for Breast Cancer, “survivor day”, and magazine fundraisers. They advised that promoting grade nine involvement will be a focal point for them in the upcoming year. Trustees expressed their thanks and appreciation for their insight.

### **Recommendation # 1**

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

**The motion carried.**

### **Mental Health Update**

Manager, Mental Health/Addictions Programs and Services, Dr. Lynn Woodford, highlighted the recently redesigned website. She advised that, under mental health, there were tabs for both students and parents. On the student tab, there are links to resources, contact numbers, and directions for students considering suicide, or who are dealing with mental health issues. On the parent tab, the resources listed are designed to assist parents in dealing with students who may be suicidal, or experiencing mental health issues. A video was shown on teen suicide prevention, which promoted open communication with students and parents about suicide tendencies, and suggestions on how to broach the issue and open the lines of communication. Dr. Woodford advised that well-being is promoted through increasing awareness and understanding of mental health issues. Trustees expressed their thanks and appreciation for how far we have come with mental health awareness.

### **Recommendation # 2**

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the verbal report on Mental Health be received.

**The motion carried.**

### **Equity Initiatives**

Curriculum Leader Equity and FNMI, Colinda Clyne distributed the Equity School Planner, 2014-15. She advised that this calendar identifies some of the important days of commemoration for the 2014-2015 school year, but is not a complete listing of religious days. It was suggested that staff give consideration to such days when planning school events. Ms. Cline noted that Safe, Equitable and Inclusive Schools encompasses Aboriginal education, equity, religious accommodation, and accessibility. Future goals include achieving excellence, ensuring equity, promoting well-being, and enhancing public confidence. Goals are to move from rejecting, tolerating, to accepting and celebrating, in all areas of equity, including religion, language, race, ethnicity and

cultural identity, ability (cognitive, mental, and physical), sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, poverty, and Aboriginal. Ms. Cline advised of future workshops planned, and newsletters to continue on the path of safe, equitable and inclusive schools. Trustees thanked Ms. Cline for her hard work and her presentation.

### **Recommendation # 3**

Trustee Busuttill moved that the verbal report on Equity Initiatives be received.

**The motion carried.**

### **Student Work Study Teacher (SWST)**

Principal of Program, Cheryl Van Ooteghem, together with four Student Work Study Teachers (SWST) Megan Haessler, Kelley Jones, Patricia Josephson, and Andrea Higgins, highlighted the SWST program as well as their individual experiences. The SWST program is designed to provide assistance to teachers in the classroom and identify any areas where elementary students experience difficulty learning, primarily in mathematics. Collaboration within the classroom, observations, recordings, making thinking visible, analyses and addressing student learning struggles, and data collection are the first steps in this program. Observations are shared with classroom teachers to address the needs of the students and develop learning strategies. Further to on-site sharing, data and results are shared with other SWST teachers across the province. This collaboration enables and creates new and improved teaching strategies resulting in more effective student learning. The SWST teachers noted that students appreciate that they have a voice in their learning strategies and many benefit from their questions and thinking process and improvements. Currently, the program is in 12 elementary schools. A question was asked about SWST in Secondary and the team said they awaited direction from the Ministry. Principal of Program Van Ooteghem praised the SWST teachers for their hard work and passion for student learning. Trustees also expressed their huge appreciation for a terrific program.

### **Recommendation # 4**

Trustee Waterston moved that the verbal report on SWST be received.

**The motion carried.**

### **Other Business**

Trustee Moziar advised that Superintendent Talbot has tickets for WE Day, which is scheduled for November 20, 2014, and that Trustees were to contact her if they chose to attend.

Trustee Cooper requested an update on the bullying hotline and how it is working for our Board. It was reported that this is a new component of the health curriculum which is promoted by the Ministry of Education. Superintendent Lindsay will ask Superintendent Talbot to bring a report to Program Committee.

Trustee Cooper requested an update on the health and physical education curriculum survey and the potential changes in the curriculum scheduled for September 2015. Superintendent McDonald advised that each Parent Involvement Committee was asked for one representative to forward the completed survey to the Ministry of Education. Trustee Cooper also questioned how the survey would impact the current curriculum.

### **In Camera**

### **Adjournment**

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

**The motion carried.**