

Upper Grand District School Board

Program Committee

Minutes

June 2, 2015

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, June 2, 2015, in the Boardroom at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, commencing at 7:15 p.m.

The Chairperson Trustee Moziar presided, and the following Trustees were present: Bailey, Busuttil, Fairbairn, MacNeil, and Schieck together with student Trustees Dylan Challinor and Guthrie Woodford. Also in attendance were Communications Officer McFadzen, Executive Officer of Human Resources Rose, and Superintendents Lindsay, McDonald, Morrell, Slater, and Talbot.

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 Schieck moved that the minutes of the meeting held on May 5, 2015 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Report from Student Trustees

Student Trustee Dylan Challinor provided an update on the OSTA-AECO AGM. Dylan reported that he was elected as the student council representative for South-Western Ontario. Together, both Dylan and Guthrie highlighted the many activities organized throughout the various secondary schools. Activities included Narnia, hat sales, 1st annual busker festival, star search, rugby boys OFSSA, art in the park, arts carnival, flag football, athletic challenge, car wash, doggie de-stress, reunion, BBQ for staff appreciation, talk show assembly, prom meeting, minute to win it at lunch, Nepal fundraiser (raised \$700 for doctors without borders), physics contest, varsity soccer, coffee house, amazing race, youth empowerment, science olympics, McCrae Day, art show, community garden big dig, Eco team silver accreditation, brain bee, girls rugby,

and student council elections. Other issues discussed included Centennial protests, how students feel about protests, distracted drivers, and student fees. Trustee Bailey congratulated Dylan on his election as student council representative for south-western Ontario. He also expressed his thanks to Guthrie and praised him for his confidence in public speaking, and wished him all the best in his future endeavors.

Mental Health Update

Manager of Mental Health/Addictions Lynn Woodford provided a summary of training done in the past year around mental health and well-being. Training consisted of ASIST training, Safe Talk Training, collaborative proactive solutions, Tools for Life, Reaching In Reaching Out, and Violence Threat Risk Assessment. She advised that the following programs will continue next year: ASIST workshops, Safe Talk, tools for life and RIRO training, intensive school training for CPS, VTRA – local level 1 training team, capacity building and training on the new Health, Physical Education Curriculum. Trustees expressed thanks for the work done on mental health, the increase in awareness of mental health issues, and the change in stigma and acceptance related to mental health issues experienced by students throughout the system.

Recommendation # 1

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the verbal update on mental health be received.

The motion carried.

Special Needs Strategy

Coordinator of Communication, Language and Speech Trudy Counter, provided an update on the Special Needs Strategy activities in Dufferin-Wellington. This included an overview of the coordinated service planning proposal for our region. The report included a general overview, plans for increased identification of kids earlier to provide help sooner, coordination of service planning, seamless service delivery, outcomes, Dufferin-Wellington's accomplishments, and Dufferin-Wellington's upcoming tasks. Ms. Counter noted that to date, they have determined the Chair and Vice Chairs, communiqués and information are on the website, stakeholder engagement, subcommittees are defined, document development (Ministry Checkpoints), and the development of a conceptual model for coordinated service planning, and lead agency for coordinated service planning – Dufferin Child and Family Services. Trustees expressed thanks for the work done in the area of special needs, the coordinated service planning, and the work done on this report.

Recommendation # 2

Trustee Schieck moved that the verbal report on special needs strategy be received.

The motion carried.

“Achieving by Believing”

Superintendent Morrell, on behalf of Student Success Lead Zen, welcomed guests in the gallery, as well as staff and students. Mr. Morrell advised that each year, the Board acknowledges students who have surpassed challenges, adversity and/or socio-economic issues that may have resulted in them not graduating. Through strong support from teachers and access to alternative programs, these students overcame their individual obstacles and struggles, and achieved academic success. Students were recognized and commended for their bravery, willingness to learn, and believing in themselves to create a positive foundation to a successful future. Elementary recipients were Hannah from Willow Road PS, Amanda and Aedan from Westwood PS, Charles from Arthur PS, and Aaliyah and Sophia from Ken Danby PS. Secondary recipients were Kaitlyn from College Heights SS, Jennifer and Elissa from Pine River, Karina from Guelph CVI, Radhika from Westside SS, Jenny from John F Ross CVI, Sarah from Centre Wellington DHS, Hillary and Jordan from Orangeville DSS, and Marcus, Alissa, and Regan from Centre Dufferin DHS. Secondary teaching staff were also recognized and included Todd Lawler from Westside SS, Bill Bulmer and Melissa McDowall from Guelph CVI, and Jennifer Meeker from Centre Dufferin SS. Staff, and members of the Interventions Committee were thanked for the strong supports in place to address the diverse needs of many students, enabling those at risk to graduate. Trustees expressed their thanks for the hard work and dedication and care given to students in need, and offered congratulations to the students for believing in themselves and achieving success.

Recommendation # 3

Trustee Busutil moved that the Achieving by Believing awards and presentation be received.

The motion carried.

OPSBA Report – nil report**Other Business****Program Committee Meeting, September**

Trustee Moziar advised that the September 2015 Program Committee Meeting will be held in Orangeville this year to commemorate the unveiling and official renaming of the Orangeville Education Centre as the Grant Evans Education Center.

Landscaping at the Guelph Board Office

Trustee Bailey advised that this Friday, June 5th at 4:15, volunteers are invited to the weeding party to weed the gardens at the Guelph Board Office, and the following Friday, June 12, also at 4:15, volunteers are invited to weed and mulch. Mr. Bailey suggested that Trustees can participate by donating perennials from their gardens.

Adjournment

Trustee Bailey moved that this Committee adjourn at 8:50 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.