

UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

MINUTES

2013 04 02

The Program Committee of the Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, April 2, 2013, in the Boardroom at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, commencing at 7:00 p.m.

Trustee Cooper presided, and the following Trustees were present: Bailey, Borden, Gohn, Topping, Waterston and Student Trustees Brown and Sampson. Present from administration was M. McFadzen, Administrative Officer M. Weidmark, along with Superintendents Benallick, Kelly, McDonald, Morrell, Talbot, and Wright and Assistant Superintendent Zen.

AGENDA

Item 10. In Camera Discussion, was added to the agenda.

Trustee Waterston moved that the Agenda be approved as amended.

The motion carried.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Borden noted a correction was required to the March 5, 2013 Meeting Minutes in the Bylaws Review section.

Trustee Bailey moved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on March 5, 2013 be approved as amended.

The motion carried.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Ms. Erin Kelly, Superintendent of Education welcomed the Continuing Education staff and student presenting and acknowledged Mr. Murray Shannon, Principal of Continuing Education, who will be retiring after 42 years with our board.

Mr. Shannon introduced the team present to share information about Continuing Education in the Upper Grand DSB this evening.

Dr. Sheila Nicholas, ESL Supervisor at St. George's Centre for Adult ESL provided information about the English as a Second Language (ESL) and the Language Instruction for New Canadians (LINC) programs available for newcomers wanting to learn English or improve their English skills. The ESL classes are funded through the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (MCI) in partnership with the Wellington Centre for Continuing Education and Upper Grand DSB and the LINC program is funded through the MCI in partnership with the Upper Grand DSB. Ms. Nicholas spoke about the wide variety of programs available for adult learners in Guelph, Fergus, Drayton and Orangeville, through day and evening classes noting childcare is available for certain classes, as well as highlighting the MCI survey findings and feedback received from learners.

Ms. Kerry Halliday, LBS (Literacy Basic Skills) Instructor spoke about how the different curriculums have evolved. We are now part of Employment Ontario, and upgrading services are free for adults over the age of 19 with all levels of abilities in multiple areas. There are 7 locations in Wellington and Dufferin counties. Ms. Halliday referred to the five pathways used with students - secondary credit, post secondary, apprenticeship, employment and independence. Some students attend to obtain skills for employment or independence skills. Many students transition from this to credit programs either through night school, correspondence, summer school or eLearning.

Ms. Christy Rumfeldt, Intake Counsellor, spoke about her role in assisting adult learners make the connection in the community or school system through various programs available (i.e. day school, LBS, ESL, eLearning). Ms. Rumfeldt introduced one of her students and the path taken to assist with making a connection and developing a plan for him. The student spoke about his experience and how after following the plan put in place, he enrolled and graduated from Give Yourself Credit. He then applied for and was granted funding to assist him with a post secondary program, which he is currently attending.

Julie Bodiam, Vice-Principal of Continuing Education concluded the presentation referring to the other programs available for adult and day school learners with courses offered during the day as well as three evenings per week. The summer school programs will be offered at J.F. Ross CVI and Westside SS this year for students. There will also be remedial grade 7 and 8 English & Mathematics "Up and Over" offered.

Recommendation #1:

Trustee Bailey moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the Continuing Education presentation be received.

The motion carried.

RELOCATION OF GIFTED INSTRUCTION IN ORANGEVILLE – FINAL REPORT

Ms. Jennifer Passy, Manager of Planning, presented the “Relocation of Gifted Instruction in Orangeville – Final Report” dated April 2, 2013. This report is a follow-up to the report presented at the March 5, 2013, Program Committee Meeting and was to share the implementation plan for the accommodation of the gifted classes at Settlers Creek elementary school.

Ms. Passy, spoke about the parent meeting held on March 20, 2013, where Upper Grand DSB staff met with families of students in the gifted program at Princess Elizabeth PS to discuss the rationale of the relocation of this program to the new Settlers Creek elementary school, respond to any inquiries and gather feedback from parents about the options for students affected by potential grandparenting. The feedback received following the question and answer session was highlighted. Following this meeting, surveys were sent home with students in the grades 5 and 6 gifted classes to obtain feedback from the families about the two grandparenting options. The majority of families preferred Option 2 “All Gifted students move to the new school in September 2014”. As a result, staff will plan to have all gifted classes relocate to the new Settlers Creek elementary school beginning in September 2014. A transition plan will be developed to assist with the move to the new school. Ms. Passy concluded by referring to the goals of the communication plan.

Recommendation #2:

Trustee Borden moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the report entitled “Relocation of Gifted in Orangeville – Final Report” be received.

The motion carried.

FIRST NATION, METIS AND INUIT EDUCATION

Mr. Brent McDonald, Superintendent of Education introduced Donna Gerber, the Upper Grand DSB Aboriginal Lead.

Ms. Donna Gerber, Equity Officer – Aboriginal Focus, presented First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education this evening. She provided information about the 2007 Ministry of Education *Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework* highlighting the three main goals and how this will assist with making a difference for Aboriginal students. The Census (2006) information illustrated the Aboriginal population over the age of 25 years who do not have a secondary school diploma in Wellington and Dufferin counties, with a second chart displaying UGDSB Aboriginal population by dissemination area.

Ms. Gerber drew attention to some of the resources available from the Ministry of Education including “Aboriginal Perspectives: The Teacher Toolkit”, and the professional development provided for Upper Grand DSB teacher librarians and equity representatives.

The revised Ontario Curriculum contains expectations to help teachers bring First Nation, Métis and Inuit cultures into the classroom. The hope is this will foster a strong self-identity and a positive self-image of our Aboriginal students. Other resources purchased and the professional development offered was also highlighted.

Ms. Gerber spoke about the key findings and the elements identified in the 2009 Progress Report on the implementation of the Policy Framework. She also highlighted the Preliminary Report on the Implementation of the Education Policy Framework released in January 2013 outlining the future program implementation performance measures and the Auditor General's Report 2012.

Ms. Gerber concluded by speaking about how this fits into the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and the School Improvement Plans and the next steps which will include developing an Implementation Plan, continue to promote self-identification, as well as updating the Aboriginal information contained on the website.

Recommendation #3:

Trustee Topping moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education presentation be received.

The motion carried.

OPSBA REPORT

As Trustee Busuttill was absent this evening, Trustee Bailey reminded everyone of the Regional Meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 6, 2013 at the Halton District School Board.

REPORT FROM STUDENT TRUSTEES

Student Trustees Brown and Sampson highlighted some of the activities and events that took place in March at Secondary Schools in our board through Student Council (i.e. Easter egg hunts, theme days). They also reported a Student Council Handbook is being developed and will contain submissions from secondary schools.

Recommendation #4:

Trustee Gohn moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the Student Trustee Report be received.

The motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

There were no other business items.

IN CAMERA

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Borden moved that this Committee adjourn at 8:37 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.