

# Upper Grand District School Board

## Program Committee

### Minutes

October 7, 2014

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

The Chairperson Trustee Topping presided, and the following Trustees were present: Bailey, Borden, Busuttil, Cooper, Fairbairn, Gohn, Moziar, Schieck, 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, Administrative Officer Weidmark, Manager of Plant Operations Veit, Senior Planner Imm, Student Success Lead Zen, Manager of Planning Passy, and Superintendents Lindsay, McDonald, Morrell, Slater, Talbot, and Wright.

#### **Traditional Welcome**

Curriculum Leader Equity and FNMI Education Colinda Clyne introduced Jan Sherman, First Nations Métis Elder. Ms. Clyne offered a traditional thank you gift to Ms. Sherman to symbolize traditional offerings which are used for medicine and prayer. Ms. Sherman performed a smudging ceremony where she burned sage in a small vessel and waved it upon each individual with the use of a feather. The purpose of this traditional ceremony was to honour everyone's spirit and to help everyone in the "circle" clean their energy and create one heart one mind for the greater good. Trustees expressed their thanks for the experience.

#### **Agenda**

Trustee Bailey moved that the agenda be approved as amended. (Item 11 was moved to In Camera)

**The motion carried.**

#### **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest.

**Approval of Minutes**

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the minutes of the meeting held September 9, 2014 be approved as printed.

**The motion carried.**

**Wellington Dufferin Guelph Active and Safe Routes to School Committee**

Planning Manager Passy advised that, over the past five years, Senior Planner Imm, together with many community partners, was involved in many initiatives that have advanced within the Upper Grand, including work with the active and safe routes to school committee. Ms. Passy introduced Karen Armstrong, Health Promotion Specialist, Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health, who did a presentation on behalf of the active and safe routes to school committee. Ms. Armstrong identified current progress and future plans designed to assist with safety issues for students who walk or cycle to and from school. She noted that the vision is to have walking or cycling transportation be attractive, realistic and safe. Ms. Armstrong advised that a walk to school event with Education Minister Sandals and Mayor Farbridge is scheduled for Friday, October 10, 2014. The walk is from Grange Road near Watson Parkway to Ken Danby PS and Holy Trinity CS. Trustees expressed their thanks for the presentation and the work done for the safety of students.

**Recommendation # 1**

Trustee Schieck moved that the verbal presentation from the Wellington Dufferin Guelph Active and Safe Routes to School Committee be received.

**The motion carried.**

**First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education (FNMI)**

Colinda Clyne, Curriculum Leader, Equity and First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education, provided an update on FNMI education and shared her future plans. She noted that a logo was developed for both the Public and Catholic boards, there are currently 340 self-identified students in the Board, she communicated with staff and parents that self-identification results in more funding to further assist students, a Dream Walkers Gathering for Aboriginal students is planned for October 15 and 16 at no cost to the students, and she shared two video clips promoting self-identification. Trustees expressed their appreciation and thanks for the presentation and the continued work done in the area of FNMI.

**Recommendation # 2**

Trustee Borden moved that the verbal update on First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education (FNMI) be received.

**The motion carried.**

**Mental Health and Addiction Update – Suicide Prevention, Intervention, Postvention Protocol**

Dr. Lynn Woodford, Manager, Mental Health/Addictions Programs and Services, provided an update on the Board's recently developed Protocol which deals with suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention. She advised that the protocol was based on protocols from other school boards as well as best practices. The purpose of the protocol is to provide a tool to keep students safe, increase awareness, ensure a timely appropriate school based response, provide practical advice and resources, and to increase capacity in our staff to respond and reduce contagion effects. The protocol has three parts; prevention, intervention, and postvention, with a focus on keeping those who are alive safe. Trustees expressed their appreciation for the work done in the area of mental health, and for a great presentation.

**Recommendation # 3**

Trustee Moziar moved that the verbal report on Suicide Prevention, Intervention, Postvention Protocol be received.

**The motion carried.**

**Leading Student Achievement (LSA) Project**

Vice-Principal at Centre Wellington DHS Francis Noventa, together with the LSA Project team: Principal at Westside SS Deidre Wilson; Vice-Principal at Centennial Chad Warren; and Teacher Glenn Wagner, provided an update on the Leading Student Achievement (LSA) Project. Mr. Noventa advised that in addition to those in attendance Principal of Princess Margaret PS Walter Vandervaart as well as approximately twenty teachers were also part of the team. Knowledge building communities in the classroom, an interactive, question-provoking way of teaching was explained, and elaborated with video clips that highlighted students engaged in the program. The theory behind the LSA project is to enhance teaching practices to improve students' ability, comprehension, collaboration, and engagement, and to stay aligned with both school and Board improvement plans. The following quote from John Dewey was appropriately shared for this presentation: "If we teach today as we taught yesterday, then we rob our children of tomorrow." It was reported that teachers received training and that further training would be provided, enabling this teaching method to be used at many locations,

more classrooms, more subjects, and will benefit many more students. Administration, teachers, and students shared their excitement with this program. Trustees expressed their thanks for the update as well as the implementation of the program.

#### **Recommendation # 4**

Trustee Bailey moved that the verbal report on the LSA Project be received.

**The motion carried.**

#### **DELFL 2014 Report**

Secondary Curriculum Leader Christina Schilling provided an update on the DELFL program. She reported that the pilot program at Erin DHS was very successful and resulted in increased student confidence, proficiency and achievement in the French language. Ms. Schilling advised that 21 students challenged the DELFL in April of this year. Five students challenged at the beginner level, and sixteen challenged at the intermediate level, and all were successful in obtaining their diploma with very high marks. The students gained proficiency in the French language in reading, listening, writing, and speaking as was evidenced by the results of the students who challenged the DELFL. Ms. Schilling advised that this coming year, DELFL will be offered to the Upper Grand area, not just Erin DHS. Funds have been approved for the continuance of the DELFL program. Trustees asked questions of clarification regarding benchmarks, gender statistics, future goals, and how to use results to improve the program. Trustees also expressed thanks for a great job.

#### **Recommendation # 5**

Trustee Busuttill moved that the verbal report on the DELFL 2014 report be received.

**The motion carried.**

#### **Student Support and Program Services Publications**

Superintendent of Program Lindsay commented on the booklets that were distributed to staff and Trustees, entitled "Student Support and Program Services" and "How Do We Support Students Who Struggle". These booklets were created for staff, as tools to identify supports in place for students who struggle and to pinpoint curriculum supports and services available. Trustees thanked Superintendent Lindsay for her work on this project and for the creation of the great booklets.

**Recommendation # 6**

Trustee Schieck moved that the verbal report on Student Support and Program Services Publications be received.

**The motion carried.**

**Other Business**

Trustee Moziar questioned what plans, if any, were in place to protect children from the D68 virus which affects children with flu-like symptoms and paralysis. Director of Education Rogers suggested that this issue will be discussed with Manager of Plant Operations Veit and will report back next week.

Director of Education Rogers suggested that it may be useful to set a date to discuss upcoming busing issues. It was agreed that a meeting would be scheduled on Tuesday, October 14, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. to further discuss this issue with Trustees. It was requested that any questions be emailed directly to Superintendent of Finance Wright, by Friday, to allow enough time to provide answers to questions raised.

**In Camera**

**Adjournment**

Trustee Waterston moved that this Committee adjourn at 9:50 p.m. to report to the Board.

**The motion carried.**