

UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

MINUTES

2013 11 08

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, January 8, 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, Busuttil, Fairbairn, Gohn, Moziar, Schieck, Waterston and Student Trustees Brown and Sampson. Present from administration was Director of Education, Dr. M. Rogers, Executive Officer of Human Resources J. Rose, Communications Officer, M. McFadzen, Administrative Officer M. Weidmark, Acting Chief Information Officer, D. Walpole, along with Superintendents Benallick, Kelly, McDonald, Morrell, and Talbot, and Assistant Superintendent Zen.

AGENDA

Item 9, In Camera, was added to the agenda.

Trustee Bailey moved that the Agenda be approved as amended.

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Waterston moved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on November 6, 2012 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

STUDENT SUCCESS 2011/12 AND 2012/13 OVERVIEW

Superintendent of Education, Ms. Erin Kelly, introduced the topic of student success and the work that is being undertaken to engage and re-engage in student learning and success.

- **Beyond Borders**

Teachers Mr. Mike Parsons and Ms. April King and several students presented information regarding the Beyond Borders Program and shared their thoughts, experiences and successes. An information brochure regarding the program was distributed at the meeting.

The program offers active, involved, community-minded grade 12 students a unique, integrated and experiential opportunity to combine Business, English, Media and Leadership learning with a focus on globalization, technology and social responsibility. The program is one semester in duration and is housed in the Guelph Youth Music Centre on Cardigan Street with two full-time teachers and two additional teachers who teach one section each.

In response to questions from trustees, it was explained the fee for students is \$875 which covers the costs of camp, trips and journals and that financial assistance is available to students who might need it. In addition, the students organize fundraising events in support of the program. The program is housed in Guelph because the idea originated with teachers here. There are currently 49 students participating from GCVI, Centennial, Bishop Macdonnell and St. James high schools. While the program shares the theme of global citizenship and responsibility, it is separate and distinct from the International Baccalaureate Program, which is a full two year program and has different assessments and examinations.

Trustees were invited to attend an Open House on Friday January 18, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Guelph Youth Music Centre, 75 Cardigan Street, Guelph.

- **Co-op Recall/Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL)/Con Ed Recall**

Teachers Ms. Deb Kortleve and Ms. Sandra Vidug and students from the programs presented information regarding the Co-op Recall, Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL), and Con Ed Recall Programs and shared their thoughts, experiences and successes. The programs are designed to meet the needs of “non-attenders” or “early leavers” and illustrate the commitment to engagement and re-engagement in student learning. A copy of the statistical data relating to the programs was distributed at the meeting.

The Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) program is designed to assist high school students up to 17 years of age working towards achieving credit courses, ILCs, dual credit, credit recovery or volunteer hours. The Co-Op Recall program focuses on students aged 18 to 21, most of whom continue with some form of employment while working towards achieving their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). The Con Ed Recall program officially started in September 2012 through continuing education for those 22 years and older who wish to complete their OSSD.

The need to partner with resources within the community was highlighted and Mr. John Ford of the Second Chance Employment Agency spoke about the link his organization has with the programs. Second Chance is a not for profit agency aimed at finding work for people and receives referrals from the UGDSB programs. Student can also gain credits through direct work program, and he noted that some referrals continue with ongoing employment.

Trustees acknowledged and thanked the teachers for the work they undertake to identify alternate ways in which to encourage and motivate students to continue to learn. The ongoing need to modify learning arrangement to help those with extreme anxiety or other mental health issues was also acknowledged. It was explained that the development of some of the softer skills, e.g. good decision making, are built into the regular

discussions with the students individually as each student's circumstances are different. The issue that the general public may not realize that young people are obligated to be in school until the age of 18 and cannot legally work unless it is through SAL was also noted.

- **Re-engagement**

Teacher Mr. Rick Vidug and a students presented information regarding the Dual Credit re-engagement program and shared their thoughts, experiences and successes. The goal was to enable students who have left school with an opportunity to return and earn two dual credits using a compressed delivery model enabling them to graduate. The program is geared to technical and skilled trades and allows the student to earn two high school and two college credits concurrently. The courses are four weeks in duration and one course was offered in Guelph and one in Orangeville. They are held off site and the college credits apply if the student chooses to continue on in a college program or apprenticeship.

Trustees acknowledged the ongoing theme of rethinking how education is delivered in order meet the needs of all students.

Ms. Lisa Sanvido, Secondary Curriculum Leader, Student Success, presented the Student Success Grade 7-12 Initiative Progress Report and the Action Plan 2012-13. A copy of the information was distributed at the meeting. She reviewed the components of the document including Ministry and Board Foci 2012-13, objectives and data that drive the action plan and highlighted how the components interconnect with the Board improvement plan.

Recommendation #1:

Trustee Bailey moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the update on Student Success 2011/12 and 2012/13 be received.

The motion carried.

CONNECT HEAR – CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH HEARING LOSS IN THE UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Ms. Trudy Counter, Coordinator, Communication, Language and Speech Services and Ms. Sonya White, Itinerant Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing provided a presentation regarding the creation of a support network for the UGDSB students with hearing loss.

Ms. Trudy Counter provided the statistical data regarding this student population, reviewed the members of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Team and highlighted the services they deliver. The importance of connecting these students with peers who also have hearing loss and use hearing devices was stressed as they are vulnerable and at risk regarding student success. The goal to create a support network within our board through e-learning, the creation of the community of students and by establishing partnerships with parents and other services and agencies in the community was highlighted.

Ms. Sonya White provided an overview of the connectHEAR initiative and demonstrated components of the website being established. The site will be initiated for students in grades 6 to 12 and will be monitored by the itinerant teachers. It is a proactive approach to engage this student population and assist them with developing the skills that will support their student success.

Ms. Counter reviewed a number of education initiatives the program will support and reviewed the implementation plan, including timelines.

Recommendation #2:

Trustee Borden moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the update on Connect Hear – Connecting Students with hearing loss in the Upper Grand District School Board, be received.

The motion carried.

OPSBA REPORT

Trustee Busuttill provided a verbal report. She reported updates for the OPSBA Public Education Symposium (PES) have been sent to Trustees via email and included the Policy Program Memorandum 155 regarding diagnostic assessment for students. The memo will be included as board correspondence and also shared with SEAC and the Parent Involvement Committee.

Trustee Bailey noted that Mr. Geoff Williams, Director, Labour Relations for OPSBA, will be presenting at the PES Pre-Symposium on the morning of January 31, 2013 regarding labour issues and trustees were encouraged to attend in order to provide trustee input.

Recommendation #3:

Trustee Waterston moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the verbal OPSBA Report be received.

The motion carried.

REPORT FROM STUDENT TRUSTEES

Student Trustees Bailey and Sampson provided an overview of activities undertaken by the secondary schools within the board during the months of November and December.

Recommendation #4:

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

The motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS - Nil

IN CAMERA

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Waterston moved that this Committee adjourn at 10:50 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.