

UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

MINUTES

2013 03 05

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, March 5, 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, Busuttill, Fairbairn, Gohn, Moziar, Topping, Schieck, Waterston and Student Trustee Brown. Present from administration was Communications Officer, M. McFadzen, Administrative Officer M. Weidmark, along with Superintendents Benallick, Kelly, McDonald, Morrell, and Assistant Superintendent Zen.

AGENDA

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

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the Agenda be approved as amended.

The motion carried.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Waterston moved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on February 5, 2013 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

COMMON EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK OF REFERENCE (CEFR)

Ms. Tracey Lindsay, Principal of Program, Ms. Christina Schilling and Ms. Lynn-Michelle Fortier, Curriculum Leaders gave a verbal report on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

Ms. Christina Schilling reviewed the Vision for French as a second language (FSL) and explained how the CEFR philosophy would be applied as a tool for the planning, teaching and assessment of French as a second language in order to communicate and interact in a social situation by providing a common basis for discussion and deepened understanding.

Ms. Schilling explained that the UGDSB is in the fourth year of receiving special Official Languages in Education (OLE) funding which is being used to provide professional learning opportunities to support teachers, student French learning opportunities, and professional development related to the philosophy of the CEFR.

Ms. Lynn-Michelle Fortier provided an overview of the elementary professional learning opportunities that were provided for Core French teachers last year and that will be offered to the French Immersion Teachers this year in an effort to deepen teachers' understanding of the program. Ms. Christina Schilling reported on secondary teachers' professional learning opportunities that looked at lesson design.

Ms. Schilling explained that the premise of CEFR is that language is acquired through interaction that is authentic, spontaneous and action oriented and then provided examples. The intention is to exchange ideas; to develop common goals in language acquisition; to recognize plurilingualism and pluriculturalism; to recognize increased global mobility; and, to increase co-operation, communication and mutual understanding. The CEFR has been used by the European Union for many years and in 1999 the levels of proficiency were standardized. In Ontario, the goal is not to be assessing students for proficiency using the CEFR standards. Students will continue to be assessed according to the Ontario curriculum.

Ms. Tracey Lindsay distributed a summary page illustrating how the CEFR ties into what is currently being done using the Ontario curriculum. She noted a Framework for FSL, K-12, has been released in an effort to strengthen FSL education. It articulates the vision, goals and guiding principles for FSL in Ontario and suggests actions that school board can take to improve FSL programming. The release of new curriculum documents by the Ministry that is based on the CEFR is expected to follow.

In response to questions from Trustees, it was clarified that the overall goal in the province is that teachers will understand the CEFR proficiency levels rather than teach to those levels. The exam is administered by France several times each year at various centres in Ontario for students who might wish to undertake it. Ottawa Carleton is a pilot board and has had students examined to determine their CEFR level. Some other boards have also had a number of students undertake the examinations.

Recommendation #1:

Trustee Waterston moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the verbal Common European Framework of Reference Report be received.

The motion carried.

RELOCATION OF GIFTED INSTRUCTION IN ORANGEVILLE

Ms. Jennifer Passy, Manager of Planning, introduced and reviewed the report entitled, "Relocation of Gifted Instruction in Orangeville," dated March 5, 2013. Gifted instruction for students in grades 4 to 8 is currently offered at Princess Elizabeth PS (PEPS). The number of gifted students at PEPS has increased steadily since 2007 and

current capacity constraints at PEPS will be compounded by the introduction of FDK in 2014/15. Despite planned additions and renovations at PEPS, relocation of some students is necessary. It would be beneficial to accommodate the gifted program students in a facility that will allow for the continued growth of the program. The new Settlers Creek School provides an opportunity to house the gifted instruction in 2014. The grade 7 and 8 students would remain at PEPS in 2014 as the new school will open as JK-7. An information night is being held on March 20th and a webpage with feedback portal has been established. Feedback received will be reviewed and the final report will be presented to the Program Committee on April 2nd.

Recommendation #2:

Trustee Borden moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that memo PLN:13-06 entitled "Relocation of Gifted Instruction in Orangeville" be received.

The motion carried.

SAFE SCHOOLS UPDATES

Mr. Brent McDonald, Superintendent of Education, provided a verbal update on safe schools. Mr. McDonald distributed copies of an article from the Ministry of Education website that defines the whole school approach to promoting a safe, inclusive and accepting school climate. Components of the program were highlighted including the following: safe schools updates from newly released PPM 144, 145 and 213 (Code of Conduct); reporting procedures; suspension/expulsion data from UGDSB; components of new bullying prevention template; and the Safe Schools website including feedback and bullying reporting tools. School supports, student led activities and training and awareness efforts through professional development programs that will be undertaken for all school board staff were also highlighted. The suspension and expulsion data for the UGDSB was reviewed, noting it reflected a declining trend similar that the decline province-wide.

Mr. McDonald explained that based on the information received from the school climate surveys, bullying prevention plans will be created and posted on the website. He also reported that this year's Learning Fair will focus on engaging all students through the whole school approach. Mark Kelly, a journalist for CBC, will be the keynote speaker. The importance of teachers and their roles and relationships and how the issue of mental health ties into the whole school approach to engage at risk students will be examined.

Recommendation #3:

Trustee Moziar moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that verbal Safe Schools Updates be received.

The motion carried.

OPSBA REPORT

Trustee Bailey publically thanked the Minister of Education, Liz Sandals, who

spoke to the OPSBA Board of Directors at their recent meeting and freely and confidently answered their questions.

REPORT FROM STUDENT TRUSTEES

Student Trustees Brown provided a summary of activities that took place in February at the Secondary Schools throughout the Board. Student Trustee Brown also reported on the four high school visits she undertook in an effort to introduce herself and explain her role as Student Trustee and to learn about the students in other areas of the board in order to better understand them and represent their perspective at the Board.

Student Trustee Brown reported on her recent attendance at the OSTA/AECO Board Council Conference (BCC) in Ottawa including the Partnership Program launch, the survey results and other group presentations and discussions.

Recommendation #4:

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

The motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

School Closures When Buses are not Running

Trustee Bailey reported the issue has been raised regarding whether or not rural schools should remain open when school buses are not running. The superintendents of education have discussed the issue and the item will be brought forward to the Business Operations Committee for discussion by Trustees.

Bylaws Review

Trustee Borden reported that it has been some time since the Bylaws have been reviewed and revised and suggested that a small group be struck to undertake a review and to bring forward any changes to the Board for discussion and approval. Trustees Borden and Waterston have volunteered to undertake the task and invited other Trustees who might be interested to contact them.

Presentation on Single Gender Classes

Trustee Moziar requested financial support for her participation in a workshop on single gender classes being held on March 26, 2013 in Hamilton by Dr. Leonard Sax. The cost is \$115.

Recommendation #5

Trustee Bailey moved that the Board provide financial support for Trustee Moziar to participate in a workshop on single gender classes being held on March 26, 2013 in Hamilton.

The motion carried.

IN CAMERA

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Waterston moved that this Committee adjourn at 9:10 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.