

**Upper Grand District School Board
Program Committee
Minutes
Tuesday, April 3, 2018**

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, April 3, 2018, in the Board Room commencing at 7:05 p.m.

The Vice-Chairperson Trustee Lustgarten Evoy presided, and the following Trustees were present: Busuttil, Cooper, Fairbairn, MacNeil, Topping, and White, together with student Trustee Caitlin Ennis. Also in attendance were Director of Education Rogers, and Student Success Lead Zen, Superintendents Heaslip, Lindsay, McDonald, Morrell, Regier, Slater, and Van Ooteghem.

Agenda

Trustee Fairbairn moved that the agenda be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Topping moved that the minutes of the meeting held on February 6, 2018 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Report from Student Trustees

Student Trustee Caitlin Ennis provided an overview of events for March. She noted that at a previous meeting, Senior Planner Imm posed two questions for students: what do your schools look like, and what would you want your ideal school environment to be. Student perspectives were received, compiled, and shared with Trustees. Ms. Ennis shared the racial discrimination focus group and student survey from Westside SS. Positive and negative social experiences of students were shared. She reported that a Transitions Conference for students is planned for Wednesday, April 25th and will be held at Centre Wellington DHS. This conference will deal with mental health, pathways, identity, and financial literacy. Ms. Ennis also noted that student Trustee elections were scheduled for Tuesday, April 24, 2018. Trustees expressed thanks for the presentation and work done with the Student Senate.

Recommendation # 1

Trustee White moved that the verbal update from Student Trustees be received, with thanks.

The motion carried.

Mental Health Update

Mental Health and Addiction Lead Jenny Marino provided a list of items she is engaged in and where staff have received training which included ASIST Training, Zones of Regulation, Collaborative Proactive Solutions (CPS), Tools for Life, Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA), Crisis Response, Community Tragic Events Protocol, and Community Suicide Protocol. She also advised of a grant received through community partnership with the Dufferin Coalition for Kids for enhancement to the health and physical education curriculum to promote balanced recreational technology use and healthy behaviours in children and youth for optimal well-being. She reported that a Power Off and Play Campaign was scheduled for June 16, 2018, at Centennial CVI in the cafeteria from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. for children up to 12 years of age. This event is designed to be interactive and open to families. Ms. Marino advised of other initiatives she was involved in which included sexual assault review committee, Dufferin situation table, suicide awareness council, and Women in Crisis prevention committee. Ms. Marino noted that the community connections bring different agencies together to create interactive and relationship building, and share client information to target prevention services to provide the best resources available to students. In support of the positive influence teachers have on students, a video was shown. Trustees expressed thanks for all the work done in the area of Mental Health.

Recommendation # 2

Trustee Topping moved that the verbal update on Mental Health be received, with thanks.

The motion carried.

Violent Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Process

Mental Health and Addiction Lead Jenny Marino provided an overview of the VTRA process. She advised that the VTRA protocol is a community based protocol which includes not only schools but community resources as well, and was developed to reduce the number and severity of violent incidents. This provides a systematic collaborative approach to threat assessment and the best assistance to those in need

by sharing information and resources, in a quick and efficient manner. She noted that violence or mental health behaviours do not just happen, they are a progression and it is imperative that attention be given to early indicators to prevent tragedies. Professionals may be aware of some early indicators, and can help staff identify them. A video was shown which highlighted some students who showed early signs of violence and struggles, for which they could receive help if early intervention or support was provided. Understanding the root often prevents tragedies from happening and community and mental health professionals can get involved, in a preventative/supportive manner not a disciplinary manner. The protocol is followed even if Police are involved, or the student is hospitalized but at that point, it may be just information sharing for the mental health professionals. At times, Principals are targets and the mental health professionals take the lead, not the Principal, in order to provide support for the Principal, or administrative staff. It is paramount to look at all situations to ensure safety to all in the schools if there are any threats. All Principals, Vice-Principals, Psychological Consultants, Social Workers, and Child and Youth Counsellors have been trained in the VTRA protocol. Trustees requested further data on the number and level of incidents, the climate survey, suspensions, expulsions, return to school statistics for expelled pupils, identified students, non-identified students, mental health issues, statistics re success at Youth Options, and a measure of the success of the VTRA procedures and protocols. It was also suggested that talking notes be prepared for Trustees to assist them in answering questions regarding VTRA in the schools.

Recommendation # 3

Trustee Topping moved that the verbal update on VTRA Program be received, with thanks.

The motion carried.

KAIROS Blanket Exercise

FNMI Curriculum Lead Colinda Clyne, together with her son Max, shared a Kairos Blanket Exercise. The purpose of this exercise was to show how Indigenous people have been treated over the years by rules and regulations imposed by the Canadian government. These people were stripped of their land, culture, beliefs, life-style, families, and the rights other Canadians enjoyed. They experienced huge losses in every aspect of their lives. This exercise provides an understanding of what happened in the past, and what has yet to be done to ensure the mistakes of the past are not repeated and that changes are made to ensure equity and non-discrimination of these natives of our land. In order to create awareness and spread the truth of these historic

tragedies, this Kairos Blanket Exercise has been shared at many functions and experienced by administration, curriculum, community members, and some secondary school staff and students, to date. More exercises will be shared in the future. The truth must be told and in order to ensure this happens, Kairos Blanket Exercises will continue to be shared. Trustees and staff expressed thanks and appreciation for the opportunity to partake in the exercise as well as all the work that has been done in support of these people to date.

Trustee MacNeil moved that the Kairos Blanket Exercise and verbal presentation be received.

The motion carried.

OPSBA

Trustee Fairbairn suggested that he would forward an e-mail to Trustees with the update.

Adjournment

Trustee White moved that this Committee adjourn at 9:06 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.