

Upper Grand District School Board

Program Committee

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

Minutes

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, March 6, 2018, in the Board Room commencing at 7:05 p.m.

The Chairperson Trustee Moziar presided, and the following Trustees were present: Busuttill, Cooper, Fairbairn, Lustgarten Evoy, MacNeil, Schieck, and White, together with student Trustees Caitlin Ennis and Allison Cai. Also in attendance were Director of Education Rogers, Student Success Lead Zen, and Superintendents Lindsay, McDonald, Morrell, Slater, and Van Ooteghem.

Agenda

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the agenda be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

Approval of Minutes

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

The motion carried.

Report from Student Trustees

It was reported that, at the last Student Senate meeting, Senior Planner Imm did a presentation on the Long Term Accommodation Plan. She asked the students how they would describe their school today, and what they would want their school to be. A lot of feedback was received, and would be shared with Trustees at the next meeting. The upcoming deadline of March 20, 2018 for applications for the Student Voice Awards was mentioned. Trustees expressed thanks for the update.

Recommendation # 1

Trustee Schieck 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 advised that a Crisis Event was defined as an event contained in the environment in which it occurs, resources are available within the organization to respond to the crisis, and contains a high level of predictability such as who may be impacted by the event. A video was shown highlighting how children cope differently with tragic events. Some children may experience a negative impact on their academics, an increase in anxiety, or depression. For best practices, she advised that schools are better able to function with minimal disruption in the immediate aftermath of a crisis if they have sufficient structure in place to coordinate services when the crisis occurs. In a crisis, the best practices include addressing safety and security, dissemination of accurate information, addressing emotional and psychological needs of students, staff, families, and follow-up planning as required. Ms. Marino advised that there is a social worker assigned to every school, who are trained in crisis response to provide support and resources to both staff and students.

A Tragic Event was defined as an event that has the potential to elicit a crisis response within a community, it is not contained in a single environment or organization, it has the capacity to predict that the overall impact of the event would be significantly low. An example of this is multiple suicides. In June 2012, staff received training from Kevin Cameron, with the Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response. In regards to the Tragic Response Protocol, Ms. Marino noted that prevention was the best practice, through the implementation of safe, inclusive and caring classrooms and schools, identification of students at risk, multi-leveled service intervention, counselling and support, assessment, social and emotional awareness, teacher training and support, and much more. Plans for the future included continuing to work with community partners to create comprehensive protocols, develop expansions in protocol specific to suicide, expansion of partners in protocol development (medical and emergency services), and exploring opportunities for funding (Government Bond grants through CMHA). Trustees expressed thanks for the continued work in Mental Health as well as the support provided to both staff and students.

Recommendation # 2

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

The motion carried.

Board Action Plan for FNMI (BAP)

FNMI Curriculum Lead Colinda Clyne provided an update on the Board Action Plan for FNMI and highlighted some of the sixteen areas where the Board is accountable to ministries, schools and communities. Some of these sections included land acknowledgement, student self-identification, youth forums, grade 5 class visits, staff capacity building, collaborations with community partners, data collection and analysis, collaborative inquiry in intermediate grades, art projects for Heritage Festival art show, Indigenous knowledge and math community of practice with Provincial math knowledge network, and reconciliation and reciprocity. Ms. Clyne referenced the apologies from the governments for Residential Schools and relationships with local Indigenous Peoples and how important it is that the education curriculum teaches every child in Ontario the truth about the history of this land and what it means for all of us today. Implementation of the phase one of the Curriculum Enhancements is planned for September 2018. Trustees expressed sincere thanks for the fascinating work done in FNMI and requested a Blanket Exercise be provided for Trustees as well as other modules if possible.

Recommendation # 3

Trustee MacNeil moved that the verbal report on the Board Action Plan for FNMI (BAP) be received.

The motion carried.

OPSBA

Trustee Fairbairn provided an update from OPSBA. He highlighted candidate education day for local candidates for MPP, the individual parties stand on education, sample questions available, and a guide to hosting a Provincial candidates meeting. He noted that Labour Relations were getting ready for bargaining to commence in 2019. Information and feedback was being collected regarding the student transportation funding review, to provide impute for future policy development. He also noted that there was a proposed revision to the pupil accommodation guideline and was available to the public. Trustee Fairbairn advised that OPSBA started a FSL labour market project survey with a view of practical recruitment and retention practices.

Recommendation # 4

Trustee White moved that the verbal OPSBA update be received.

The motion carried.

Other Business- nil report

Adjournment

Trustee Busutil moved that this Committee adjourn at 8:35 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.