

**Upper Grand District School Board
Business Operations Committee
Minutes**

December 11, 2018

The Business Operations Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, December 11, 2018, in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, Ontario commencing at 7:10 p.m.

The Chairperson, Trustee MacNeil presided, and the following Trustees were present: Busuttil, Bedi, Campbell, Edwards, Foley, Lustgarten Evoy, Ross and Topping, along with Student Trustees Caitlin Ennis and Chloe Gear.

Present from the Administration were, Director of Education Rogers, together with Superintendents Heaslip, Lindsay, McDonald, Regier, Slater, and Van Ooteghem, Communications Officer Loney, Executive Officer of Human Resources Rose, Student Success Lead Zen, Manager of Planning Passy, Operations Officer Scinocca, and Manager of Operations Veit.

Approval of Agenda

Trustee Ross moved that the agenda be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Busuttil moved that the minutes of the meeting of November 13, 2018 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

Report of the Secondary Program Review Working Group – 2018

Student Success Lead Zen introduced Judith Nyman who presented the report of the Secondary Program Review Working Group 2018, in great detail. Ms. Nyman thanked everyone that participated in the working group and congratulated the Board for its forward thinking. She noted schools need to ensure that graduates obtain what they need in the values and knowledge requirements to ensure that they are successful in

both secondary school and in years to follow, no matter what pathways they choose. The Working Group formulated the key questions for surveys, identified the range of learning characteristics to be considered, reviewed course offerings in secondary schools and provided observations to be considered in future discussions regarding learning choices and local school focus programs. The Working Group identified nineteen learning characteristics; and noted that resiliency, perseverance and respectfulness were considered the most important. Ms. Nyman reported that 3,495 students participated in the survey as well as over 50% of teachers, and 476 parents completed the surveys, which provided a significant sample of the overall population. The survey indicated that 25% of students and staff and 30% of parents still believe they require more targeted support going forward. As a result, she advised that the Board needs to continue the excellent work it is doing and consider what additional efforts and attention can be placed in terms of consistency, specifically around post-secondary requirements. More support was suggested from teachers, support staff, administration, and guidance staff, starting at grades seven and eight to help students determine the courses they need to meet the requirements of their specific pathways. It was noted that it is important to tie learning characteristics to the Upper Grand multi-year strategic plan which in turn provides directions to schools which in turn allow a direct line of sight to the students. Five foundational elements for all learners were developed: positive relationships; well-being and mental health; social justice and equity; high expectations; and modern learning. A pictorial of these elements was created, with the Upper Grand DSB logo in the centre with the foundational elements for all learners above with the aspiration for all students to succeed in each area.

Courses offered at various schools were discussed through equity of access lens, and it was noted that students may enrol in program specific courses, depending on availability, timelines, and transportation. It was also noted that larger secondary schools have the ability to be more flexible with course selections.

The Secondary Program Review Report identified areas that can be further explored to enhance the student experience and ensure that all learners are well supported in their post-secondary destination decisions and in developing the learning characteristics and competencies that will make them successful in both school and in life.

Next steps included the presentation of the survey results and the report to all secondary and elementary school staff, and facilitated conversations with applications related to the data. The Board needs to have staff look at these models and see what competencies, such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, need attention for current learnings and learnings of the future in order to ensure student success in terms of post-secondary opportunities. It was suggested that the pathway team in every school, continue to work intentionally and incrementally, towards this goal. It was also suggested that parents and school councils be engaged in the process as well.

In summary, Ms. Nyman reported that the feedback from the parent, student and staff surveys confirmed that the Upper Grand DSB is doing an excellent job in supporting students to graduation. Trustees and Student Trustees asked questions of clarification, and expressed thanks for the report and the supports provided for students to ensure success.

Recommendation # 1

Trustee Busuttil moved that the Report of the Secondary Program Review Working Group – 2018 dated December 11, 2018 be received for information.

The motion carried.

2019-20 Education Funding Guide

Superintendent of Finance Regier advised that the Ministry of Education published the Education Funding Guide on November 16, 2018, and requested feedback by December 14, 2018. The Education Funding Guide was structured around four areas: efficient price setting, outcomes-based funding, accountability and value-for-money, and other education funding efficiencies. Mr. Regier reviewed the sections of The Education Funding Guide and answered questions of clarification. The report presented at the meeting provided the details on how feedback can be submitted to the Ministry.

Recommendation # 2

Trustee Edwards moved that the report “2019-20 Education Funding Guide” dated December 11, 2018 be received.

The motion carried.

Recommendation # 3

Trustee Busuttil moved that the Chair be directed to write a letter in response to the funding survey and be forwarded to the Ministry of Education by the December 14th deadline.

The motion carried.

Resignations and Retirements

Executive Officer of Human Resources Rose presented the report Resignations and Retirements dated December 11, 2018.

Recommendation # 4

Trustee Busuttil moved that the report "Resignations and Retirements" dated December 11, 2018 be received.

The motion carried.

Other Business

Trustee Topping moved that this Committee move In Camera.

The motion carried.

In Camera

Adjournment

Trustee Topping moved that this Committee adjourn at 8:51 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.

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