

Upper Grand District School Board
Board as Budget Committee Meeting, Tuesday, June 25, 2019
Minutes

The Upper Grand District School Board met as the Budget Committee on Tuesday, June 25, 2019, in the Board Room at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 4:00 p.m. All Trustees were present.

Confirmation of the Agenda

Trustee Topping moved that the agenda be confirmed as printed.

The motion carried.

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting Held June 3, 2019

Trustee Busuttill moved that the minutes of the meeting held June 3, 2019, be amended on page 4, first paragraph, last sentence, remove the word "Staff" and replace it with "Trustees", and be approved as amended.

The motion carried.

Delegations

Jeremy Urwin, Cadence Program

Jeremy Urwin was in attendance to support the Cadence Program. Mr. Urwin, a parent of a Cadence student, praised the Cadence Program, staff, and how it provided encouragement and support to at-risk students. He noted that these students would likely not have graduated without Cadence. Through this program, students were able to feel that they belonged, experience a sense of family, develop self-worth, succeed, graduate, and move forward in their lives to either post-secondary education or employment. Katie, a graduate from the program, shared her experience and noted that she would do anything to save the Cadence Program which proved to be a huge turning point in her life. Mr. Urwin questioned if there was a way to collaborate with the Board, parents and interested parties to somehow save the Cadence Program.

Larry Pearson, Cadence Program

Larry Pearson introduced Steve Berry, a retired teacher, who volunteers at the Cadence Program to help students with English assignments. He praised the students who were

able to turn their lives around and complete their high school requirements, and move forward to post-secondary and/or employment, thanks to the Cadence Program. To date, 161 students graduated from the Cadence program. Through Cadence, these students gained confidence, leadership, community, family, trust, and a sense of belonging, and the ability to move forward in their lives.

Larry Pearson was in attendance to offer support to save the Cadence Program, which was scheduled to be cut due to substantial Provincial cuts. He felt the Cadence Program was important to the Board and the community to provide support for at-risk and vulnerable students. Mr. Pearson suggested that a public/private partnership could collaborate to provide funding to the Board and to save the program.

Trustee MacNeil took the Chair so that Trustee Bailey could provide his input.

Trustee Bailey noted the value of the Cadence Program in providing support to at-risk students and providing them tools to move forward in their lives. The program is housed in Guelph and open to all students, however, not all students can access the program due to geographical barriers. Mr. Bailey questioned what steps could be made to offer this program in other areas of the Board, expand and enhance it, despite funding restrictions. He suggested that the Board fund Cadence for one year at the cost of only one additional teacher, and over the next year consider partnerships, and other specialized services for students.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the Cadence Program and other program cuts across the district had to be considered due to imposed funding cuts.

Trustee Bailey moved that the Cadence Program be funded for 2 teachers and be required to enroll a minimum of 24 students, that the feasibility of the program be reviewed annually, and that Cadence staff return next year to expand geographical accessibility of the program.

Trustee Busuttil called the question, and requested a recorded vote.

Yes : Trustees Bailey, Edwards, Bedi, and Foley

No: Trustees Campbell, Topping, Ross, Lustgarten Evoy, and Busuttil

Abstained: Trustee MacNeil

The motion was defeated.

Trustee Bailey resumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

2019-20 Budget Report and 2019-2020 In Year Deficit Elimination Plan

Superintendent of Finance Regier introduced and reviewed the 2019-20 Budget Report. He advised that the 2019-2020 Draft Budget Report presented to Board as Budget Committee included an In Year Deficit of \$3,883,541.

The Ministry of Education requires a Board-approved Deficit Elimination Plan that identifies how the Upper Grand DSB will produce a balanced budget by the 2021-2022 school year. The 2019-2020 In Year Deficit of \$3,883,541 is within Ministry guidelines therefore the Deficit Elimination Plan does not require Ministry approval. The plan outlined the annual targets in order to achieve a balanced budget by 2021-2022.

Trustee Busuttil moved that:

1. The Operating Budget for the period September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020 be approved in the amount of \$402,381,432. as provided for under Section 231 of the Education Act.
2. The proposed Capital Budget in the amount of \$47,998,812 be approved. This Capital Budget includes Debt Repayment, Amortization Expense, New Schools, School Renewal Projects, School Condition Improvement and Temporary Accommodation space.
3. The Board designate \$0 from Non-Classroom Operating Budget for the purpose of acquiring those school sites eligible to be funded through the Education Development Charges By-Law, as there are insufficient funds in Non-Classroom.
4. The Board approves the use of \$3,883,541 from Accumulated Surplus to balance the Operating Budget.
5. The report entitled "2019 2020 Upper Grand DSB In Year Deficit Elimination Plan" dated June 25, 2019, be received.
6. The proposed In Year Deficit Elimination Plan listed in Table A of the report entitled "2019-2020 Upper Grand DSB In Year Deficit Elimination Plan" dated June 25, 2019, be approved.

The motion carried.

Other Business

Trustee Busutil expressed sincere thanks to Mr. Regier and staff for their work on the budget since February, and expressed appreciation for the difficulty in creating a draft budget with imposed cuts and a deficit reduction plan. Director of Education Rogers also expressed thanks and appreciation to staff.

Adjournment

Trustee MacNeil moved that the Board as Budget Committee adjourn and report to the Board at 5:35 p.m.

The motion carried.