

Upper Grand District School Board

Program Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, October 1, 2019, in the Board Room commencing at 7:15 p.m.

The Chairperson Trustee Topping presided, and the following Trustees were present: Busuttil, Bedi, Edwards, Foley, Lustgarten Evoy, MacNeil, and Ross, together with student Trustees Nathalie Alaves and Amelia Luff. Also in attendance were Director of Education Rogers, Student Success Lead Zen, and Superintendents Heaslip, Lindsay, McDonald, Morrell, Regier, Slater, and Van Ooteghem.

Agenda

Trustee Foley 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 Bedi moved that the minutes of the meeting held on June 4, 2019 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Report from Student Trustees

Student Trustees Nathalie Alaves and Amelia Luff, provided an overview of events for September which included their first meeting where representatives from 8 schools were present. Mental Health Lead Jenny Marino and Curriculum Lead, Secondary Teacher Jessica Rowden were guest speakers who spoke on mental health resources available to students, as well as safe and equitable schools.

Recommendation # 1

Trustee Topping 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 an update on mental health at the Upper Grand DSB. She advised that the pamphlet entitled Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy was created and distributed both at the meeting and throughout the system. The overview statement reads “the Upper Grand District School Board is committed to creating a welcoming, safe and inclusive learning environment that recognizes the essential connection between mental health and student achievement. The well-being of our students is a shared responsibility and we will ensure all stakeholders are able to collaborate in a coordinated, responsive and effective manner.” The Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy is based on four pillars: 1) student mental health awareness and literacy, 2) staff mental health awareness and literacy, 3) mentally healthy, resilient, and safe communities, and 4) youth, family and community engagement. The goal is to align best practices for teachers to serve the diverse population of students and work along-side positive school climates, for safe, inclusive and equitable environments. Mrs. Marino invited Trustees to a play “A Permanent Solution” a poignant, powerful and educational play that speaks honestly to today’s youth about depression and suicide and offering a message of hope. The play is scheduled for November 20, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at John F. Ross CVI, in Guelph. The play was created in partnership with the Suicide Awareness Council of Wellington Dufferin. All secondary principals were also invited.

Recommendation # 2

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

The motion carried.

Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL)

Superintendent of Education Morrell, Principal of Care and Treatment, Custodial and Correctional Facilities (CTCC), Youth Options, and SAL, Audra Cook, SAL Teacher Deb Kortleve, and SAL Teacher Mike Johnson were in attendance to highlight the SAL program. Superintendent Morrell advised that SAL is a last chance program that supports many students when all other options have been exhausted. It was noted that

there is a legal requirement for boards to provide alternate learning and other excusals from attendance at school. The program needs to be flexible to address different families, issues, and student profiles. Students can earn optional credits through employment. SAL is a highly successful program that meets the needs of many students and enables them to survive, repair and thrive. Trustees asked questions of clarification and expressed thanks for the hard work done in the implementation and maintenance of such a terrific program.

Recommendation # 3

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the verbal update on Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) be received, with thanks.

The motion carried.

Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement 2019/2020 (BIPSA)

Principal of Program, Jonathan Walker presented the draft Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement 2019/2020. He reported that the BIPSA is guided by the Boards' mission, vision, and operational plan. The core function is academic achievement and student wellness. The plan also addresses many goals and is divided into four sections, one being achieving excellence with a goal for children and students of all ages to achieve high levels of academic performance, acquire valuable skills and demonstrate good citizenship. The goal of the section on enhancing public confidence is that the community will continue to have confidence in a publicly funded education system that helps develop new generations of confident, capable and caring citizens. Promoting well-being is driven by the goal to develop children and students who have strong relationships and a positive sense of self and to support the whole child (cognitive, emotional, social and physical well-being). Finally, the Ensuring equity goal is that all students be inspired to reach their full potential, with access to rich learning experiences.

Recommendation # 4

Trustee Bedi moved that the verbal update on the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement 2019/2020 (BIPSA) be received.

The motion carried.

EQAO

Principal of Program Walker advised that on September 10, 2019, the Board received the 2018-2019 EQAO and OSSLT results. These results included the Upper Grand

DSB and Provincial scores for grades 3 and 6 in reading, writing and math, grade 9 scores in math and the grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) results. A detailed Board report, which includes results by gender and for students with identifications, was presented by Mr. Walker's team including Sandy Kritzer, Rylan Pranger, Ian MacPherson, Ashley Kozak and Brett Walking. Using the 2018-2019 EQAO and OSSLT results, staff will conduct a thorough analysis of the data. Best practices, trends over time, areas of strengths and needs, and next steps are identified. Using the information gathered professional development is planned.

Recommendation # 5

Trustee MacNeil moved that the report entitled "EQAO and OSSLT Results" dated October 1, 2019 be received.

The motion carried.

OPSBA

Trustee Busuttill shared the draft agenda for the Joint Central West Meeting, scheduled for Saturday, November 2, 2019, which will be held at Saunders Secondary School, at 941 Viscount Road, London.

Recommendation # 6

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that the verbal OPSBA update be received.

The motion carried.

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that this committee move In Camera.

The motion carried.

Student Trustees were excused due to the personal nature of the following item.

In Camera

Adjournment

Trustee Busutil moved that this Committee adjourn at 9:15 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.

This document is available in other formats, upon request.