

Upper Grand District School Board

Program Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, February 4, 2020, in the Board Room commencing at 7:00 p.m.

The Chairperson Trustee Topping presided, and the following Trustees were present: Bedi, Campbell, Edwards, and MacNeil together with student Trustee Amelia Luff. Trustees Bailey and Lustgarten Evoy attended via teleconference. Also in attendance were Director of Education Rogers, Student Success Lead Zen, and Superintendents Heaslip, Lindsay, McDonald, Regier, Slater, and Van Ooteghem.

Agenda

Trustee Campbell 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 January 7, 2020 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Report from Student Trustees

Student Trustee Amelia Luff provided an overview of events for January 2020. She noted that the last meeting was held January 21st and had representatives from 7 schools. Features of the meeting included a presentation by Jenny Marino which included mental health initiatives such as random acts of kindness, a presentation from Melissa McDowell, and an update on student council initiatives. In order to share information about responsibilities of Student Trustees and Student Senate, Megan Sicoli helped create a video which was shared with the Student Senators. Amelia advised that Student Trustee elections were scheduled for later this month.

Recommendation # 1

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

The motion carried.

Youth Hub Update

Kate Reid, Canadian Mental Health, presented a detailed presentation of the Integrated Youth Services in Wellington County and Guelph initiative. She provided background information, explained what an integrated youth hub would look like, the need for this initiative, the targeted clientele (youth ages 12 to 26 years) and the services available. This is a Rotary initiative and includes the following core partners: Rotary Club of Guelph, Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo Wellington, Guelph Community Foundation, Guelph YMCA/YWCA, University of Guelph, and Centre Wellington Big Brothers Big Sisters - Fergus location, Minto Mental Health, and Shelldale Family Gateway. Upper Grand DSB is represented at both the Steering Committee and the Youth Engagement Sub-Committee. The Youth Hub will allow youth to access mental health and addiction services, primary care, employment and other community and social services with a one-stop-shop process. Local youth will be involved in co-designing the look and feel of the hubs as well as informing the services and programs that will be available in the hubs. Locations will be easily accessible and provide services on both a walk-in and appointment basis with hours convenient to youth. Seven sites were identified as the initial sites and will open in the next one to three years. These sites include the Town of Minto, the Village of Erin, Fergus, CMHAWW (north end of Guelph), Shelldale Family - Gateway, the University of Guelph and the Guelph YMCA/ YWCA. The sites and core partners have agreed to launch a joint fundraising campaign to raise the required funds. It is the goal of this model to save the lives of youth by responding to their needs at the right time, in the right place, and in the right way. Trustee Campbell expressed thanks for the presentation and questioned future plans for Dufferin County. In response, Kate advised that they would welcome the opportunity for the next phase for Dufferin, but do not cover that region anymore. This is a Rotary initiative, not a Board one, and she suggested contacting a Rotary Club in Orangeville.

Recommendation # 2

Trustee Campbell moved that the information on Integrating Youth Services in Wellington County and Guelph be received.

The motion carried.

Youth Talk

Mental Health and Addiction Lead Jenny Marino introduced Jessica Schumacher, Youth Engagement Facilitator from the Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo Wellington (CMHAWW). Ms. Schumacher presented information on the YouthTALK program, (funded by the United Way) run by the CMHAWW through in-school teams as well as a Regional Team. This program supports youth to create and deliver peer-led projects about mental health and wellness promotion, stigma reduction, resiliency and healthy coping skills, and provides useful information about local resources. Projects allow students to develop leadership skills and create meaningful connections with their peers to raise awareness and increase coping skills. Youth are encouraged to plan and implement creative projects and activities at their school, including but not limited to exam stress kits, t-shirt campaigns, positive message murals, guest speakers and presentations, hosting resource booths, and more. These initiatives are developed primarily by students with the support of the Youth Engagement Facilitator and designated staff at each school. The Regional Team plans, organizes and facilitates the Regional Youth Wellness Conference that takes place in the spring of every year and is offered to youth throughout Wellington-Dufferin and Waterloo Region. Teasha, a student from Guelph CVI provided an overview of how the mental health program runs at Guelph CVI which included a survey of mental health needs, lunch and learns, therapy dogs for exam times, website creation, and ways to erase stigma associated with mental health. Youth are developing leadership, increasing self-esteem, team building, and getting actively involved in the awareness and assistance available in the areas of mental health. Trustees expressed thanks for all the work in the area of mental health.

Recommendation # 3

Trustee MacNeil moved that the information on YouthTALK be received.

The motion carried.

Student Centered Intervention Plan

Assistant to the Superintendent of Program Wendy Donaldson provided an in-depth presentation on Student Centered Intervention Plans (SCIP). She advised that, with the use of the SCIP, student information is gathered and accessed in a consistent manner throughout the system. Information is gathered and an action plan is created and monitored. The follow-up reflects on what worked, what didn't, how the student felt about the progress made, and whether or not the intervention positively impacted the student. In her presentation she highlighted a collaboratively developed tool which focused on building alignment and consistency across all educational and clinical professionals to support student learning K-12. This SCIP was divided into four segments: student profile; universal design for learning; attitudes, culture and beliefs, and assessment for learning. Each section contained a number of questions to ask about any individual student which would gather data so that when a student struggles the concern can be addressed and necessary support can be put in place. Once questions are answered on the SCIP, it provides a powerful tool for staff to use to address the needs of the student. Teams at all levels use the same tool, providing common and consistent language for teachers, principals, and special education staff and professionals. If we get to know our students, we can teach staff to be supportive and proactive in the strategies developed to meet the needs of the individual students. Trustees expressed thanks for the presentation and the development of the SCIP with the goal to improve the assessment and support for students.

Recommendation # 4

Trustee Campbell moved that the information Student Centred Intervention Plan be received.

The motion carried.

OPSBA – nil report

Adjournment

Trustee MacNeil moved that this Committee adjourn at 8:40 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.

This document is available in alternate formats upon request.