

# **Upper Grand District School Board**

## **Program Committee**

### **Minutes**

**Tuesday, January 8, 2019**

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, in the Board Room commencing at 7:00 p.m.

The Chairperson Trustee Topping presided, and the following Trustees were present: Busuttil, Bedi, Campbell (via teleconference), Edwards, Foley, Lustgarten Evoy, MacNeil, and Ross. Student Trustees were not in attendance. Also in attendance were Director of Education Rogers, Student Success Lead/Superintendent of Education Zen, and Superintendents Heaslip, Lindsay, McDonald, Morrell, Regier, Slater, and Van Ooteghem.

#### **Agenda**

Trustee Busuttil moved that the agenda be amended to include an In Camera item at the end of the meeting and that the agenda be approved as amended.

**The motion carried.**

#### **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

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

**The motion carried.**

#### **Report from Student Trustees**

On behalf of the Student Trustees, Superintendent of Education Lindsay provided an overview of events for December which included the highlights of the last student senate meeting. She reported that Mental Health Lead Marino addressed the issue of stress management. Equity Lead Rowden was the main presenter for the night. Senators were taught what people see first, in the line of visibility which leads to either judgement or acceptance.

## **Mental Health Update**

Mental Health and Addiction Lead Jenny Marino provided an update on Mental Health and shared initiatives that were implemented. She advised that a collaborative effort to combine education week with mental health week was in the works, and that youth were encouraged to produce a new theme. A Google site was developed for mental health and will be populated with information on mindfulness, and breathing exercises to help improve positivity and well-being, as well as slow the aging of the brain. Other updates included suicide prevention, violent risk assessments, strategies and guidelines for secondary students to cope with anxiety, crisis response initiatives, healthy schools program, and community protocols regarding sexual violence and human trafficking. Trustees expressed thanks for the continued work in the area of Mental Health.

### **Recommendation # 1**

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

**The motion carried.**

## **Trustee Orientation, Program Department**

Superintendent of Program Lindsey, together with Student Success Lead Zen, Principal of Program Walker, and Supervisor of Central Library and Media Services Wellhauser-Bells provided Trustees with an overview of the Program Department. Their focus was curriculum, central library and media services. It was noted that next month, there will be a presentation on Special Education and other departments within Student Support and Program Services. The work of the Program Department is outlined in the Operational Plan and embedded in the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA). All initiatives in the BIPSA are either Ministry mandated or a Board initiative resulting from policy, and or program memorandums. The Board's Mission and Vision and the Operational Plan also guide the development of the BIPSA. The development of the BIPSA was based on four areas of the Ministry of Education document and included achieving excellence, promoting well-being, ensuring equity, and enhancing public confidence. This document is updated yearly through feedback received from both elementary and secondary staff through professional development sessions, as well as through work done by curriculum staff. The next step in the BIPSA process is the creation of school based plans; school improvement plans for student achievement (SIPSA). These school based plans are implemented to identify changes that a school needs to make in order to improve the level of student achievement, and align these plans with the BIPSA. Other areas covered included Ministry directives, and

support provided to schools through coaches and curriculum leaders. Support is also given for EQAO and OSSLT preparation and testing. Interpretation of the raw data and identification of areas of success and areas where attention may be required, both at the school level and across the Board is also supported by Program staff. Supervisor of Central Library and Media Services Wellhauser-Bells provided an in-depth overview of the operations and support provided to teachers and students by the library and media services. Many resources were noted including the physical location of the library, digital library, online resources, 24/7 availability, and the many aspects of the learning commons model. Trustees asked questions of clarification and expressed thanks for the thorough presentation and clear explanations.

**Recommendation # 2**

Trustee MacNeil moved that the Trustee Orientation on the Program Department be received.

**The motion carried.**

**OPSBA**

Trustee Busuttil provided an update from OPSBA. She noted that Cannabis was discussed and the members commented on the number of municipalities that decided to opt out of Cannabis retail stores in their area. OPSBA staff continue to monitor the progression of Federal and Provincial bills pertaining to the recreational retail sale of Cannabis. Trustees were reminded of the Public Education Symposium scheduled for January 24 to January 26, 2019.

**Recommendation # 3**

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

**The motion carried.**

**Other Business**

Trustee Busuttil moved that this committee move In Camera.

**The motion carried.**

**In Camera**

**Adjournment**

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy moved that this Committee adjourn at 9:30 p.m. to report to the Board.

**The motion carried.**