

Upper Grand District School Board

Program Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, June 2, 2020

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met virtually on Tuesday, June 2, 2020, commencing at 7:04 p.m.

The Chairperson Trustee Topping presided, and the following Trustees were present: Bailey, Busutil, Campbell, 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.

Trustee Topping reviewed the protocol for virtual meetings and advised that the meeting was being recorded.

On behalf of Superintendent Van Ooteghem, Trustee Topping read the following: Welcome to June 2020 and PRIDE month. During this time of social isolation, it is more important than ever to celebrate and show support to our LGBTQ+ community, and the Black and racialized students, staff and families. The Upper Grand District School Board includes all awesome humans and we want to make sure that all students, families and community members know that we care about them. PRIDE month is about celebration, identity and social justice. In the Upper Grand District School Board, we will continue to celebrate and show support for the Black, racialized and LGBTQ+ students, staff and families. We will continue to make changes and we will continue to honour all voices.

Agenda

Trustee Lustgarten Evoy 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 Foley moved that the minutes of the meeting held on February 4, 2020 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

Report from Student Trustees

Student Trustee Amelia Luff advised that there were student senate meetings held over Google Meets during the past two months. On April 28th, the meeting commenced with a Mental Health moment, with Mental Health Addictions Lead Jenny Marino, which was dedicated to suggestions for keeping physical distancing, and keeping physically and mentally healthy. Superintendent Morrell provided an informative presentation regarding the role of Superintendent of Schools with the Upper Grand DSB, followed by a question and answer session on distance learning. Student Trustees Amelia and Nathalie, together with Communications Officer Loney and Teacher from Centre Wellington DHS Alana King, are writing a public service announcement to celebrate the graduating class of 2020. The recording will be made available on the Boards' website. A video has been made with the help of student representatives from both the Upper Grand DSB and the Wellington Catholic DSB which expresses thanks to the essential workers during the COVID -19 Pandemic. The video also includes messages of encouragement to fellow students and has been posted on the Boards' website. Nathalie advised that, on Tuesday, May 28th, another virtual Student Senate meeting was held. Once again, Jenny Marino joined the meeting and shared information on the Upper Grand DSB Mental Health website for grades 4 to 12 students. The website had student input and will be launched soon. Superintendent Van Ooteghem, Secondary Curriculum Leader Jessica Rowden, and Drayton Heights PS teacher Andy Speers worked together to share information about accessibility at the Upper Grand DSB, including wheel chair basketball and sledge hockey. Students were informed of recent updates from the Ministry of Education which included continued school closure until the end of June and plans for locker clean up. Nathalie advised that the next Student Senate meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, and that student senators for 2020 2021 are encouraged to join. She noted that she was collaborating with Jenny Marino on an interview style instagram project for mental health resources and is working on a transition plan for incoming Student Trustees. On behalf of both herself and Amelia, Nathalie expressed a huge thanks to all Trustees and Board staff for their support throughout their term as Student Trustees, and for being a part of their memorable term. She also thanked her Co-op teacher and Board staff for her in person and virtual co-op placement.

Recommendation # 1

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

The motion carried.

Distance Learning Updates

Superintendents Lindsay, MacDonald and Zen shared the remarkable accomplishments of the Upper Grand DSB learning community, on behalf of all the Superintendents. Superintendent Lindsay reported that staff, students, parents, and community partners rallied together to make the very best of a very strange and unprecedented time; COVID-19 world-wide pandemic.

A few months ago, Trustees were apprised of the learning at home initiatives that were put in place to support students and families. At that time, staff were working hard to put the structures in place to train and support staff and students so that learning could happen at home. The amazing accomplishments were showcased. In the few short days and weeks since the initial closure, Upper Grand DSB departments and staff came together and moved an entire school system online! Through collaboration, ingenuity, and hard work, staff from Information Technology, Program Services, Elementary and Secondary Curriculum, Early Years, Equity, and Senior Administration worked behind the scenes to support staff, students, parents, and the community in the new reality.

Numerous supports included:

- synchronous learning, online or distance education that happens in real time
- asynchronous learning, online or other channels without real-time interaction
- Google Classroom strategies for teachers
- teachers connection with families
- effective strategies for assessment for teachers
- strategies outlined for teachers to work in teams to support students during learning at home
- teacher support to increase student engagement
- specialized support for staff who had students on their caseloads to collaborate on student learning task design and delivery to enhance engagement and success outcomes
- language and literacy staff support with activities for teachers to implement when meeting with students with communication impairments
- Registered Behavioural Therapy training provided to 378 educational assistants

who work with students with ASD

- training for 417 educational assistants with highly targeted and content rich opportunities to support their ongoing work with individual students they support
- strategies for accessing technology for staff, parents, and students
- provision of chrome books for students and staff
- student support for those who needed alternate forms of learning where technology was not an option
- resources and tools provided for students with special education and/or mental health needs
- support for students for mental health and wellbeing
- staff training

Community outreach and special projects included:

- Personal protective equipment shield production using 3D printers
- strategies for students transitioning from grade 8 to 9
- support for students leaving secondary school
- supports for families

Specialized programming and experiential learning

- adapted and adjusted school to careers programming
- experiential learning opportunities and career life planning
- supports for families

Plans to access buildings/sites

- teacher access to technology and resources from schools
- child care spaces entered by staff
- opening of community gardens on board property
- retrieval of student's personal items from schools
- access for staff to work at board offices and school sites

The presentation was concluded with several student success stories. Trustees expressed thanks for all the work done in the past few months in ensuring children can continue to learn. Thanks were also expressed for the wonderful report and presentation.

Recommendation # 2

Trustee Busutil moved that the Distance Learning Updates be received.

The motion carried.

Summer Learning Plans

Superintendent Lindsay advised that, two weeks ago, the Ministry of Education launched the Ontario's Summer Learning Plan. It included programs and initiatives to help students continue to learn over the summer. Due to funding enhancements, many more students will have the opportunity to participate. Together with Superintendent Heaslip and Morrell, details of the plans were shared.

Opportunities included:

expanded enrolment in summer credit programs

- online summer school
- new credit courses delivered virtually
- dual credit summer school
- credit recovery summer program
- new grade 8 Reach-Ahead credits
- summer co-op, regular and high skills

opportunities for learning consolidation and upgrading

- new secondary upgrading credits
- grades 6,7 and 8 literacy and numeracy support programs
- grade 7 and 8 and adult ESL summer schools

targeted programs for vulnerable students

- literacy and numeracy focused
- schedule

support for students with Special Education or Mental Health Needs

- opportunities to volunteer
- programming in Provincial and Demonstration schools
- learning refresher of secondary school course content
- new summer transition programs
- after school skills development programs
- child care

Trustees asked questions of clarification and expressed sincere thanks for the work

done in providing summer school opportunities and again for the terrific presentation.

Recommendation # 3

Trustee Bailey moved that the Summer Learning Plans be received.

The motion carried.

OPSBA Update

Trustee Busuttill reported that an email was sent to all Trustees from OPSBA President Cathy Abraham yesterday, and some of the highlights included:

- In reference to the GSNs, the Minister explained that the Ministry is giving careful consideration to the current pandemic-related challenges including technology and mental health supports, as well as aspects of the anticipated reopening of schools, and reaffirmed that the deadline for boards to submit their budgets will be extended into mid-August.
- OPSBA is working on a submission to the government for their consultation on the framework to re-open schools in September. This work will be informed by Policy and Program Work Teams and school board surveys.
- A reminder that the OPSBA AGM has been deferred to September, and details will be provided once they become available.

Other Business

Trustee Topping expressed thanks to Ron Berti and Matthew Krischewsky for their IT assistance, as well as thanks to Superintendent Tracey Lindsay.

Adjournment

Trustee Bailey moved that this Committee adjourn at 9:01 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.

This document is available in alternate formats upon request.