



SAFE, EQUITABLE & INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS STEERING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

1:00 pm

PRESENT:

Aimee Copping, Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition
 Alethia Stephenson, Dufferin County Canadian Black Association
 Ali Zaidi, Immigrant Services, Guelph & Wellington County
 Cheryl Van Ooteghem, Superintendent of Education, UGDSB
 Colinda Clyne, Curriculum Lead, First Nations, Metis & Inuit, UGDSB
 Heather Loney, Communications & Community Engagement Officer, UGDSB
 Indu Arora, West Village Community Development Cooperative
 Jass Ghuman – The Guelph Multicultural Festival
 Jessica Rowden, Curriculum Lead, Equity & Inclusion, UGDSB
 Joy Sammy, Workplace Equity & Diversity Manager, UGDSB
 Laurie Whyte, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
 Marguerite Campbell, Guelph Black Heritage Society
 Martha MacNeil, Trustee & Chair of the UGDSB
 Maureen Oesch, Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)
 Niketa Peters, Dufferin Child & Family Services

REGRETS:

Jolly Bedi, Trustee, UGDSB
 Jennifer Parkinson, Grand River Metis Council
 Jenny Marino, Mental Health & Additions Lead, UGDSB
 Ben Hesch, Family Counselling & Support Services, Guelph
 Lynette Pole-Langdon, Family Transition Place, Orangeville
 Mahrukh Syed, Muslim Society of Guelph
 Sandra Cocco, Immigrant Services, Guelph & Wellington County
 Mona Kambo, Grange Hill East Neighbourhood Group

Item	Discussion	Follow-up
Chair – Marguerite Campbell	Welcome to Jass Ghuman from The Guelph Multicultural Festival, Ali Zaidi from Immigrant Services and Joy Sammy, hired by the Board as the Workplace Equity & Diversity Manager. Approval of November 18, 2020 Minutes – Moved by Laurie Whyte Seconded by Maureen Oesch	
Dufferin County Canadian Black Association – Alethia Stephenson	Registered non-profit organization. Alethia shared the following presentation: Dufferin County Canadian Black Association presentation	

	Colinda Clyne reiterated the need for safe, culturally relevant spaces and that we have to improve communication for individuals to speak up.	
Niketa Peters Dufferin Family & Children’s Services	<p>This is a service agency that is responsible for child welfare, protection, mental health, counselling. Workshops are provided for parents and caregivers, including autism services. Big question – What can we do to support our children? It is important to minimize disruption in our children’s education. This is evident when children are moved to another family. Niketa asked for Board support when approving Out of Area applications. Another piece – conditions for Indigenous, Black and racialized students; living with mental health, marginalized identities. There are challenges within the school system – i.e. being suspended and the stigmas attached.</p> <p>ACTION ITEM – How can we support these students in care to achieve better outcomes? Cheryl and Niketa will discuss.</p> <p>Laurie added that we must support the schools to be advocates for the children who do not have one. The process starts early (kindergarten) by providing a lens for teachers to be aware.</p>	Cheryl & Niketa
Guelph Black Heritage Society Marguerite Campbell	<p>Marguerite is new to Guelph and the Guelph Black Heritage Society. She shared the history of the Society and the focus on community engagement – Change Starts Now campaign to raise awareness. Provide information to the Board to support initiatives and educational opportunities; ensure staff are working with Black students.</p> <p>This is Black Heritage month – board approved decision to rename Black History month to Black Heritage month – focus on heritage and moving workshops outside the month of February. The Society is run by volunteers and amazing work is being done. Cheryl is excited about the curriculum the Society has developed and values the partnership.</p>	
Special Education Advisory Committee Laurie Whyte	Laurie is one of the members on SEAC that meets monthly; key element is parent and community members. The Committee represents families (Laurie’s role is supporting students with FASD); receive budget reports, proposed budgets; information is received early; comment and give	

	<p>input on new programs, changing programs; provide recommendations to trustees; review the yearly Special Education report; communication to the public; what has been accomplished and goals for students. SEAC plays a critical role in ongoing changes in special education and speaks to the importance of voices – community agencies and parents; autonomy to speak and make changes. Laurie can take information from this committee to SEAC – adds a voice.</p> <p>Laurie clarified that you need to be a member of an association in order to sit at SEAC. The Education Act states who can be part of this Council. Meetings are open and informal. Reach out to SEAC members to ask if there is a way to bring issues to the table. Martha MacNeil would be able to provide assistance.</p>	
<p>New Director</p>	<p>Jordene introduced herself as the founding partner of Promeus – Jordene.Lyttle@promeus.ca who will assist in the search for a Director of Education. Important to speak with all groups. What do you want and need? Experience & criteria? Information will be taken back and a candidate profile will be created.</p> <p>Challenges & priorities – comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will be challenging to fill the shoes of someone in the job for a long time; feisty and desire to do what’s right for everyone involved. • Respect everyone’s human rights; eye on individuals and those marginalized. Be able to take some disruption, dismantling the system and then rebuilding. Action oriented. Set the tone in short order. • Might be good for the Director to come and participate in one of these meetings. Pieces of community agencies are a backdrop of what is happening with students. Community is a huge part in how our children are raised – important for the Director to make a link with these groups. • Come with an equity and inclusion lens (disrupt white supremacy and anti-oppression). Understand the big work around anti-racism – programming to meet the needs of students and communities. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Openness to a robust arts program (i.e. after school program). • Need good solid background and foundation in teaching. Director needs these experiences (understanding of being in the classroom; the demands of teachers; dynamics within the system; staff, support staff, unions). • Need for some Special Education awareness which can come in many ways. Understanding students dealing with complex needs. • Director needs multiple experiences; other than just education – solid understanding with multiple perspectives in other areas. • Heart open to All. What does it look like when you come here as a new immigrant? Various issues when arriving. How can we collaborate to find more help for our youth and families? • Range of views and diversity. • Appreciation of the breath and scope of the Upper Grand DSB. <p>Jordene reviewed the process about what happens next and clarified that it is the Trustees that make the hiring decision for the new Director.</p> <p>If you would like to submit further comments, you may do so at resumes@prometheus.ca Subject line: "Input into Director Search"</p>	
Actionable Items – updates?	<p>How do we give our 2SLGBTQI+ community visibility and create safe spaces?</p> <p>Aimee Copping will email Cheryl and Marguerite an on-line bulletin suggestion for review.</p> <p>Laurie shared that "Mental Health & Me" is now available and easy to see on the student landing page.</p> <p>Actionable items – review – move to next meeting</p>	Aimee Copping
Other	Review Terms of Reference – move to next meeting	
Other Business	Maureen asked if we could meet again before April?	Cheryl/ Marguerite
Meeting adjourned	Meeting adjourned – 2:30 pm Moved by Maureen Oesch Seconded by Laurie Whyte	
Next meetings	April 21, 7:00 p.m. June 9, 1:00 p.m.	