

SPECIAL POLICY AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Presented to: Board of Trustees
Submitted on: June 25, 2024
Submitted by: Robin Ross, Chair, Policy and Priorities Committee
Committee Date: June 4, 2024
Report No.: PP24-05

Members: Robin Ross (Chair), Alethia O'Hara-Stephenson, Martha MacNeil, Lynn Topping,
Laurie Whyte

The Special Policy and Priorities Committee held a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, June 4, 2024 at 5:30pm. Chair Ross presided the meeting. Attendance was noted as above. There were no conflicts of interest declared.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

1. [Refresh of International Baccalaureate \(IB\) Program in UGDSB](#)
[Refresh of International Baccalaureate \(IB\) Program in UGDSB – Additional Information](#)

Superintendent Heaslip shared a PowerPoint presentation regarding the IB Program which included, but not limited to, the following:

- Secondary Program Reviews
- Timeline of IB Program in UGDSB
- IB Diploma Program (IBDP)
- IB Preparatory Courses
- Student Achievement and Success
- Additional Teaching Sections
- Class Size Comparison
- Student Enrolment
- Geographical Area of Students
- Feedback Survey

Discussion was held regarding patterns of applicants and records available. Trustees inquired about identifying gaps. It was noted that the IB Coordinator meets with each student who withdraws from the program. The demands and rigor of the program were noted as for reasons of withdrawal in the feedback survey. The number of registrations varies from 150-200 based on space within the school. Director Sovran directed the committee to page 10 of the report which included a chart outlining

applicants and waitlist numbers. The success and achievement demonstrated by students graduating from the GCVI IB DP is an accomplishment to be recognized, celebrated and continued.

The committee recommended:

- THAT the 'Refresh of International Baccalaureate (IB) Program in UGDSB' report be received;

THAT the IB Diploma Program at Guelph Collegiate Vocational Institute (GCVI) continue, with admissions starting in Grade 11 from September 2026; and

THAT staff explore the expansion of the IB Diploma Program to the County of Dufferin and North Wellington.

- THAT staff be directed to provide more information on the IB Program specifically alignment with all UGDSB policies including past board resolutions; and

THAT staff be directed to undertake a further review of all students who applied, students who were accepted and not accepted including if they were previously an UGDSB student or out of district.

ITEM FOR MONITORING:

2. [Student Achievement Plan](#)

Superintendent Hamilton provided an overview of the 2023-24 Student Achievement Plan. He shared a PowerPoint presentation which included, but not limited to, the following:

- Background
- Analysis
- Core Academic Skills: Literacy and Math
- Preparing Students for the Future
- Student Engagement and Well-being

The first quarter details of the 2023-24 school year. It was noted that the goals and key outcomes were established with the expectation that all students can achieve when provided with the necessary supports. The remaining quarters had an additional set of goals and key outcomes which were layered into each school's Let's GO! UGDSB plan of action. It was highlighted that this recognized students who were on track in the previous quarter can and should remain on track in the next quarter period. An outline of learning outcomes in core academic skills (Literacy) was shared including additional focus on Grade 3 reading and EQAO achievement. Resources for Grades 4-10 continue to be developed to support educators in embedding research and evidence-based practices to build student's reading skills in morphology, fluency and comprehension. A summary of learning outcomes in core academic skills (Math) was also shared including the work being done in primary classrooms, the Indigenous Education Department is focusing on the importance of co-constructing reciprocal relationships as a step toward decolonizing mathematics education.