

UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

MINUTES

2010 02 02

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, February 2, 2010, in the Boardroom at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 7:00 p.m.

Trustee Moziar presided, and the following Trustees were present: Borden, Busuttil, Edwards, Gohn, Moziar, Schieck, and Waterston, along with Student Trustees Cooper and Steau. Present from the Administration was Director of Education Dr. M.C. Rogers, along with Superintendents Benallick, Boswell, Fyfe, Kelly, McDonald, Rose, and Wright, and Chief Information Officer Shanks.

AGENDA

Trustee Bailey moved that the Agenda be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Waterston moved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS FRAMEWORK AND UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD K-12 IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2009-2010

Superintendent of Program Boswell provided background to the School Effectiveness Framework and the Board's K-12 Improvement Plan for 2009-2010. Further to an amendment to the Education Act (Bill 177), the Ministry has set Board regulations for student achievement standards through multi-year plans. Boards are to deliver an effective program, set goals for improvement, and review them annually. Referring to the Ministry of Education's organizational chart in Appendix "A", Superintendent Boswell reviewed the Student Achievement Division. She then introduced School Effectiveness Lead Principal Emslie. Ms. Emslie highlighted the School Effectiveness Framework (SEF) process (Appendices "B" and "C") and its successful implementation within the Board. Currently being carried out in Upper Grand Elementary schools, SEF is comprised of two processes; School Self Assessment and a District Review. Following the District Review, the resulting action plan provides each school

with a detailed summary report of strengths and resources for next steps for improvement. Reviews have also begun at the Secondary level.

Principal of Program Talbot outlined components of the Ministry's K-12 Board Improvement Plan template (Appendix "D") and the Board's K-12 Improvement Plan 2009-2010 (Appendix "E"). Organized under the 4 pillars of Literacy, Numeracy, Pathways, and Community, Culture, and Caring (CCC), the draft plan was submitted to the Ministry and feedback was received. The plan was revisited and a mid-year Progress Update is provided in Appendix "F". Ms. Emslie summarized by noting that evidence suggests Upper Grand has been very successful in its implementation of the Framework and Improvement Plan and actions are being taken to reduce gaps in student achievement. The Ministry has been complimentary to our ongoing progress. Ms. Emslie noted the challenges and future goals in moving ahead to a K-12 focus.

RECOMMENDATION #1

Trustee Busuttill moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the report entitled, "School Effectiveness Framework and Upper Grand District School Board K-12 Improvement Plan 2009-2010", dated February 2, 2010, be received.

The motion carried.

YOOMAGAZINE – HEALTH LITERACY PROGRAM FOR YOUTH

Board Chief Psychologist Dr. Crawford highlighted key issues to support the adoption of YooMagazine as a one-year pilot project in Board Secondary schools. YooMagazine is an anonymous online adolescent mental health resource that includes questionnaires, news bulletins, classroom activities, hot topics, and several other resources. The magazine is customizable to the needs of individual school Boards and is presently being used in 250 schools across North America. Discussions around communication strategies to schools and parents, and training ensued.

RECOMMENDATION #2

Trustee Bailey moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that;

- a) the report entitled, "YooMagazine – Health Literacy Program for Youth", dated February 2, 2010, be received,
- b) the YooMagazine, an Internet-based provision of Health and Mental Health information, be piloted at Secondary schools in the Upper Grand District School Board for one year, with an evaluation to be completed by June, 2011,

- c) a team at each Secondary school, involving the social worker, child and youth counsellor, several interested students, student success teacher, and possibly a member of special education and/or guidance staff, be provided with training, including how to launch the program, and
- d) the school team, in consultation with the administrators, select content relevant for the school population and monitor student usage and key topics of interest (e.g., in March there were 500 views on self-harm; 250 on cyber bullying).

The motion carried.

REPORT OF THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE IMMERSION FRENCH REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR ERIN, ORANGEVILLE, AND DUFFERIN COUNTY

External Consultant Dave Walpole presented an overview of the establishment of the Immersion French Review Committee for Erin, Orangeville, and Dufferin County. Further to a Board motion to continue discussions around implementing and supporting East Wellington and Dufferin County French Immersion (FI) Programs, it was decided that two Working Groups be formed. One Group, to support implementation of a Dufferin program at Princess Elizabeth PS, and the other Group to continue their focus on existing Programs at Erin and Brisbane PS, and Erin DHS. The attached appendices "A" and "B" are summaries of the Committees goals, objectives and findings.

RECOMMENDATION #3

Trustee Edwards moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that;

- a) the report entitled, "Report Of The Co-Chairs Of The Immersion French Review Committee For Erin, Orangeville, And Dufferin County", dated January 19, 2010 be received,
- b) the principals of the French Immersion family of schools in East Wellington and Dufferin meet annually with parents of their FI students to discuss the status of the program and plans for the following year to address student engagement and retention,
- c) the Chief Information Officer, the Superintendent of Program, and the Superintendents of Education for the area continue efforts to improve the ability of Erin DHS to digitally connect to other Secondary schools within the Board in order to improve access to a wider array of shared courses in the French Immersion program; and that a report on current status and plans be brought to Board by June 2011,
- d) recognizing that Erin DHS is the destination Secondary school for Immersion French for Dufferin students, that the Board regularly communicate this to families of FI students in Dufferin,

- e) the Superintendents and Principal of Erin DHS review the current course offerings, supports, and resources and prepare a long-term plan to provide a program of studies which will be attractive to all students and retain students in the FI stream, and
- f) staff explore the potential for FI Secondary credit courses similar to existing programs like CELP, DaVinci, and Headwaters that may be offered either during the school year or in the summer. These are successful multi-credit course packages offered in English”.

Trustee Edwards moved an amendment to “f” to read, “that staff explore the potential for FI Secondary credit courses similar to existing programs like CELP, DaVinci, and Headwaters, that may be offered either during the school year or in the summer and that Superintendent of Education Kelly investigate the feasibility and timing, and report to Board, by summer 2010. These are successful multi-credit course packages offered in English.

The amendment was
put first, and carried.
The motion carried.

Trustee Edwards read a written summary thanking the East Wellington Working Group for their efforts.

OPSBA

Trustee Borden advised that the next OPSBA Board of Directors’ meeting will be held February 26-27, 2010 and a report will be presented at the March, 2010 Program Committee Meeting. Trustees provided highlights from the recently attended Public Education Symposium.

RECOMMENDATION #4

Trustee Waterston moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the verbal OPSBA report be received.

The motion carried.

STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

Student Trustee accomplishments and future goals for the 2009-2010 school year were outlined by Trustees Cooper and Steau. Trustee Cooper will attend the upcoming OSTA-AECO conference, held in Ottawa later this month. The next Student Senate meeting will be held on February 16, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. at the Board Office. Trustees are welcome to attend. Agenda topics include a presentation from YooMagazine representative Dr. Stephen Lewis, promotion of the Board - wide initiative “Stand Up to Bullying”, and an

introduction to the provincial-wide “Healthy Schools” initiative. Suggestions were welcomed and Director of Education Dr. Rogers shared information about the “Food and Friends” school nutrition program.

RECOMMENDATION #5

Trustee Bailey moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the verbal Student Trustee report be received.

The motion carried.

OTHER

Superintendent of Education Benallick requested Trustee representation on an Early Learning Steering Committee. Information will be sent out this week around this new Committee. Ms. Benallick suggested 1 representative and 1 alternative member for the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION #6

Trustee Bailey moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that;

- a) 1 Trustee be appointed as a representative of the Early Learning Steering Committee and 1 Trustee be appointed as an alternative and that,
- b) Trustees Busuttill and Topping be appointed as Trustee representatives for the Early Learning Steering Committee.

The motion carried.

Chief Information Officer Shanks requested Trustee participation on the Policy Review Committee sub-committee, to help create new Board Information Technology policies.

RECOMMENDATION #7

Trustee Waterston moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that;

- a) Trustees be appointed as representatives on the Policy Review Committee members of the Policy Review Committee for Information Technology, and that
- b) Trustees Bailey and Moziar, along with Student Trustees Cooper and Steau, be appointed.

The motion carried.

Trustee Moziar reminded Trustees to submit their completed Trustee Interest Survey, found in the Trustee conference on FirstClass.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Borden moved that this Committee adjourn at 8:45 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.

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