

## **UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

### **PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

2010 01 05

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, January 5, 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, Busutil, Gohn, Moziar, Schieck, Topping, 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.

### **AGENDA**

Trustee Busutil moved that the Agenda be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Trustee Topping moved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, November 3, 2009 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

### **ABORIGINAL EDUCATION**

Superintendent of Education Brent McDonald introduced Equity Officer, Aboriginal Education, Donna Gerber who provided background on the First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework. Through a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Gerber shared Upper Grand's current initiatives that support the learning and achieving of Aboriginal students, and highlighted future goals. In its third year, the program works together with the Character Education and Equity and Inclusive Education Strategies to ensure our school environments offer Aboriginal awareness. The Ministry continues to fund student mentorship, leadership, and development projects. Ms. Gerber outlined proposed 2009-2010 plans that will build on these results.

**RECOMMENDATION #1**

Trustee Borden moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the report entitled, "2009-2010 Aboriginal Education Implementation Plan", dated January 5, 2010, be received.

The motion carried.

**CHARACTER EDUCATION INITIATIVES**

Under the direction of Curriculum Leader Paola Argentino, the Character Education Steering Committee has offered supportive leadership to teachers to promote positive attitudes, values and behaviour within Upper Grand students. Mr. McDonald introduced Ms. Argentino who, through a PowerPoint presentation, reviewed the Committee's key principles, goals, and actions, modelled around the 5 character attributes of respect, responsibility, honesty, fairness, and compassion. Centre Wellington DHS vice-principal Julie Bodiam provided an overview of the Link Crew Transition Program that trains grades 11 and 12 students to be Link Leaders who motivate and guide grade 9 students to a positive transition throughout the school year. Principal of Taylor Evans PS Gary Slater, described Character Education applied at the elementary level through experiential learning.

**RECOMMENDATION #2**

Trustee Waterston moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the report entitled, "2009-2010 Character Education Implementation – Consolidation Plan", be received.

The motion carried.

**STUDENT SUCCESS 7 - 12**

Background to the Student Success Grades 7-12 initiative was highlighted by Superintendent of Education Erin Kelly. Based on the four pillars of Student Success (Literacy, Numeracy, Career Pathways, and Community, Culture, and Caring), the key goal of the Plan is to increase the UGDSB graduation rate through credit accumulation.

Through a PowerPoint presentation, a Progress Report and 2009-2010 Action Plan was reviewed. The presentation was reflected in the distributed booklet created by Curriculum Leader Rob Rosie, entitled, "Student Success Grade 7-12 Initiative – I Belong, I Learn, I Succeed". Co-chairs of "Interventions" Julie Prendergast and Jeni Vaughan highlighted the "Achieving by Believing Award" – an initiative to honour grades 8 and 12 graduates who face challenges, adversity or socio-economic issues.

Two recipients of the Award spoke to the Committee and expressed their thanks to the Board. Background to “Pathways”, a career options opportunity, was presented by Co-chair Jane Cotter. Ms. Cotter displayed a video, produced by Primrose ES students, for the grade 8 Skills Canada competition. This year the competition will be held at the Grand River Raceway on March 10. Co-Chair of the Literacy Committee, Christina Schilling, reviewed Literacy initiatives including the after-school and mentoring programs. Comparison graphs and charts of trends over time for Upper Grand and provincial students were presented by Numeracy Co-chair Paul Costa. Co-chair of “Instruction” Mr. Rosie highlighted areas of focus for 2008-2009, 2009-2010 goals, and displayed graphs of secondary levels of achievement, over time.

### **RECOMMENDATION #3**

Trustee Schieck moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the presentation entitled, “Student Success 7 - 12”, be received.

The motion carried.

### **OPSBA**

Trustee Borden referred to the distributed report entitled, “Violence in the Media Coalition (Critical Media Literacy)”. The document reviews the negative influences of violence in a broad range of media. OPSBA has worked with the Coalition to develop resources to support teachers and parents.

Bill 177 has been passed and is awaiting regulation. OPSBA continues to monitor the progress of this Bill. Trustee Bailey, along with the OPSBA Ad Hoc Committee on Learning Technologies Committee, continues to lobby for discussions on changes in the classroom to meet the technological needs of students and teachers.

### **RECOMMENDATION #4**

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

The motion carried.

### **STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT**

Trustees Cooper and Steau updated the Committee on Student Council activities. The last meeting was held on December 8, 2009 and focused on bullying prevention. Trustee Steau advised of several initiatives to create and promote awareness on the issue. Other topics of discussion included secondary French Immersion, and the role of Student Trustee. The next Student Council meeting will be held on February 16, 2010 at 5:30 pm at the Board Office. Dr. Stephen Lewis, University of Guelph, will present YooMagazine.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #5**

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

The motion carried.

#### **OTHER**

Trustee Schieck has received concerns regarding changes to report cards. Director of Education Dr. Rogers advised that the Board has had no input on the subject and is anticipating information from the Ministry.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The motion carried.