

UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

MINUTES

2009 10 06

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, in the Boardroom at 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, starting at 7:00 p.m.

Trustee Bailey presided, and the following Trustees were present: Best, Borden, Busuttil, Edwards, 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, Rose, and Wright, and Acting Superintendent McDonald.

AGENDA

Trustee Topping moved that the Agenda be approved as printed, with the addition of 2 items under "Other Business".

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Waterston moved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

SYSTEM DIRECTIONS 2009-2010 DVD

Superintendent of Program Heather Boswell provided background to the making of the "System Directions 2009-2010" DVD presented tonight. Directed to elementary and secondary teachers and administrators, the DVD was narrated by Board Chair Bob Borden and Director of Education Dr. Martha Rogers. The DVD reviewed the Board's continued plan of working toward high levels of student achievement, reduced gaps in student achievement, and increased confidence in public education.

Principal of Program Bonnie Talbot and Coordinator of Special Education Sandra Szpular shared information around each of the areas of focus for 2009-2010 through a PowerPoint presentation, and detailed how they are all inter-connected and work towards the common goal of student achievement. Ms. Talbot highlighted a handout entitled, "Upper Grand District School Board Highlights of the 2009-2012 Board Improvement Plan, September, 2009" which included long-term literacy and numeracy goals, short-term targets, the four pillars of success and 2009-2010 plans for each area.

Ms. Szpular advised of several initiatives for transition planning and supports for students with autism. Upcoming in - services on "Education and Community: Supporting Students with Behaviour and Mental Health Needs" (8:30 am - 12:00 pm) and "Supporting Visual Learners" (1:00 - 3:30 pm) will be held as follows for elementary and secondary school teams;

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|---|------------------|
| Wellington Schools/Trellis | October 27, 2009 |
| Guelph Schools/Trellis | November 3, 2009 |
| Dufferin Schools/Dufferin Child and Family Services (DCAFS) | November 4, 2009 |

Please see attached for further details.

RECOMMENDATION #1

Trustee Moziar moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the presentation entitled, "System Directions 2009-2010", dated October 6, 2009, be received.

The motion carried.

YOOMAGAZINE - HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH LITERACY PROGRAM

Representatives from the University of Guelph, Dr. Stephen Lewis and doctoral student Michele Davis provided an overview of an online adolescent mental health initiative. Through a PowerPoint presentation, current strategies to address mental health difficulties in schools were reviewed. With a goal of improving mental and physical health decisions and issues, and assisting schools with improved monitoring of student needs, the Provincial Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health has devised an internet delivery system. YooMagazine is an anonymous 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. For a demonstration, Trustees can register online at www.yoomagazine.net login - demo, password - mydemo.

Discussion ensued around the program and Chief Psychologist Dr. Mary Sue Crawford advised that she has explored YooMagazine and is grateful for the help it is providing to teens. Student Trustees Cooper and Steau intend to invite Dr. Lewis to present at an upcoming Student Council Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION #2

Trustee Moziar moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the presentation regarding YooMagazine - Health and Mental Health Literacy Program, be received.

The motion carried.

RECOMMENDATION #3

Trustee Moziar moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the Upper Grand DSB explore the feasibility of using Yoomagazine - Health and Mental Health Literacy Program to the benefit of Upper Grand students and that a report be brought to the January, 2010 Program Committee Meeting.

The motion carried.

OPSBA

Trustee Bailey began his OPSBA report with a quote from Ontario Lieutenant Governor David Onley regarding people with disabilities. Highlights from the September 25 - 26, 2009 OPSBA Board of Director's Meeting included discussion around Bill 177 and lobbying to have some sections amended, Full-Day Learning for Kindergarten - aged students, and technology in the classroom. Trustee Bailey is Chair of the OPSBA Ad Hoc Committee on Communications and Information Technology in the Classroom and will continue to provide updates at further Program Committee Meetings.

RECOMMENDATION #4

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

The motion carried.

STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

Student Trustee Steau advised that the next Student Senate Meeting will be held on October 20, 2009 at 5:30 at the Board Office. Agenda topics will include the water bottle ban, the mandatory civics and careers course, the Safe Schools initiative, and increasing school and community relationships. Trustee Cooper referred to the handout entitled, "Character Development in Ontario Schools, K-12". The Ministry document discusses engaging the community in sharing the responsibility for character development. Trustees Cooper and Steau will attend the upcoming OSTA-AECO conference to be held October 16 – 18, 2009 in Toronto.

RECOMMENDATION #5

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

The motion carried.

OTHER

In support of the Specialist High Skills Major Program (SHSM), Trustee Schieck, Dr. Rogers, and MPP Jack Wilkinson recently visited Norwell DSS. The Ministry approved Program allows students to experience customized learning through apprenticeship, while meeting the requirements for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

Trustee Schieck enquired as to tracking, follow-up, and responsibility around Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils (SALEP). Dr. Rogers advised that legislative changes are imminent and will dictate closer monitoring of SALEP students.

North Wellington parents have contacted Trustee Schieck regarding bussing concerns. Superintendent of Finance Wright requested that transportation concerns be directed to her.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Borden moved that this Committee adjourn at 9:40 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.

| Wellington Schools October 27, 2009 Elora Community Centre | Guelph Schools November 3, 2009 Italian Canadian Club | Dufferin Schools November 4, 2009 Monora Park |
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| Arthur | Central | Centennial Hylands |
| Centre Peel | Gateway | Credit Meadows |
| Drayton Heights | June Ave. | Hyland Heights |
| Kenilworth | Mitchell Woods | Island Lake |
| Maryborough | Paisley Rd. | Laurelwoods |
| Minto-Clifford | Taylor Evans | Mono-Amaranth |
| Palmerston | Victory | Montgomery Village |
| Victoria Cross | Westwood | Parkinson Centennial |
| Alma | Willow Rd. | Princess Elizabeth |
| Elora | Brant Ave. | Princess Margaret |
| J.D. Hogarth | Edward Johnson | Primrose |
| James McQueen | Ken Danby | East Garafraxa |
| John Black | King George | Grand Valley |
| Ponsonby | Laurine Ave. | Centre Dufferin DHS |
| Salem | Ottawa Cr. | Orangeville DHS |
| Victoria Terrace | Tytler | Westside SS |
| Brisbane | Waverley | |
| Eramosa | Aberfoyle | |
| Erin PS | F.A. Hamilton | |
| Rockwood Centennial | Jean Little | |
| Ross R. MacKay | John McCrae | |
| Centre Wellington DHS | Kortright Hills | |
| Erin DHS | Priory Park | |
| Norwell DHS | Rickson Ridge | |
| Wellington Heights SS | Sir Isaac Brock | |
| | Centennial CVI | |
| | College Heights SS | |
| | Guelph CVI | |
| | John F. Ross CVI | |

Please note:

The morning session, "Education and Community: Supporting Students with Behaviour and Mental Health Needs", will be held from 8:30 AM -12:00 PM.

The afternoon session, "Supporting Visual Learners", will be held from 1:00 - 3:30 PM.