

UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

MINUTES

2010 03 02

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, March 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, Busuttill, Gohn, Schieck, and Waterston, along with Student Trustees Cooper and Steau. Present from the Administration was Director of Education Dr. Rogers, along with Superintendents Benallick, Boswell, Fyfe, Kelly, and McDonald, along with Communications Officer McFadzen, and Chief Information Officer Shanks.

AGENDA

Trustee Schieck moved that the Agenda be approved as printed, with the addition of one item under Other.

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Waterston moved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

TOWARD SEAMLESS TRANSITIONS: SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS FROM PRESCHOOL SUPPORTS/SERVICES TO SCHOOL BASED SUPPORTS/SERVICES

Collaborative Projects Lead/Coordinator of Special Education Sandra Szpular provided background to the DVD entitled, "Toward Seamless Transitions". Upper Grand has partnered with Wellington Catholic DSB and several community preschool agencies, to create the DVD and accompanying resource brochure entitled, "New Heights New Hopes". Shelley Wilken, Program Advisor, Inclusion Support Services – Trellis noted that the DVD was created as a tool to help transition special needs children from preschool to Kindergarten. Ministry funding has allowed for this pilot project.

Divided into three areas; Inclusion, Successful Transition to Kindergarten, and Seamless Transition from Autism, the DVD displays the unique connection between teacher, student, and parent, and the supports available. Ms. Szpular reviewed "Next Steps" which include a review of the Dufferin area schools and community.

RECOMMENDATION #1

Trustee Busutil moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the presentation entitled, "Toward Seamless Transitions: Successful Transitions For Children With Special Needs From Preschool Supports/Services To School Based Supports/Services", be received.

The motion carried.

OPSBA

Trustee Borden highlighted the February 26-27, 2010 OPSBA Board of Directors' meeting:

- Geoff Williams has been appointed the new Director of Labour Relations. Bargaining groups are expected to reconvene soon
- Gorick Ng, OSTA-AECO President provided highlights of Student Trustee activities that include engaging in politic issues and focusing on student mental health
- The financial team reported on a recent meeting with the Ministry relative to the upcoming budget
- Discussions around Full Day Early Learning are ongoing relating to bargaining units, recruitment, professional development and training, and accountability. The Assistant Deputy Minister for the Early Learning Program Division has issued a memo to Directors of Education regarding Bill 242
- Changes may be imminent to the format of the Audit Committee
- Recommended guidelines have been developed around the election process at the AGM

Trustee Borden has the "School Fundraising, Corporate Partnerships, And Student Fee" document for those interested.

RECOMMENDATION #2

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

The motion carried.

STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

Student Trustees Cooper and Steau displayed a PowerPoint presentation of their activities over the month of February. Ms. Steau highlighted discussions and presentations from the OSTA-AECO conference in Ottawa, held February 18-21, 2010. Student Trustees were also able to help at a local homeless shelter in Ottawa. Ms. Cooper advised that the Student Super Council Meeting was held on February 16, 2010. Presenters included Dr. Stephen Lewis of YooMagazine, and Anita MacFarlane of Food and Friends who provided information on the "Live Free" program. Other initiatives that Student Trustees are involved in include the Ontario Youth Volunteer Challenge, and promotion of anti-bullying. T-shirts and pamphlets will be available in support of the April 14, 2010 "Stand Up to Bullying" day.

RECOMMENDATION #3

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

The motion carried.

OTHER

At the February Board Meeting, a recommendation to form a Committee of Trustees, staff, and parents of students in the Immersion French program at Princess Elizabeth PS, to examine the organization options for the program, was approved. Trustees Borden and Topping agreed to provide Trustee representation on the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION #4

Trustee Gohn moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that Trustees Borden and Topping be appointed as Trustee representatives for the Orangeville Immersion French Program Sub-Committee.

The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Busuttil moved that this Committee adjourn at 8:35 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.