

UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

MINUTES

2009 11 03

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, November 3, 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, Busuttill, 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, Communications Officer McFadzen, and Chief Information Officer Shanks, along with Superintendents Benallick, Boswell, Fyfe, Kelly, Rose, and Wright, and Acting Superintendent McDonald.

AGENDA

Trustee Schieck 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, October 6, 2009 be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTRE CURRICULUM

Principal of Ken Danby PS, Karen Acton, provided an overview of changes to the Ministry of Education's directive on Environmental Education. An expert panel, chaired by Dr. Roberta Bondar, was given the mandate to research successful approaches to teaching and learning about the environment in elementary and secondary schools. The panel's report, *Shaping Our Schools, Shaping Our Future*, was published in June 2007, and the government is now moving forward, in the three areas of leadership, curriculum, and resources, and on the report's thirty-two recommendations. Upper Grand has several initiatives and a committee of principals and teachers are committed to implementing them at the school level.

Curriculum Leader Mike Anderson presented a PowerPoint display of the Island Lake Environmental Learning Centre. The Centre is used to incorporate environmentally friendly concepts into the classroom. Various ways in which

this curriculum directly connects with students was outlined. A live feed of the Centre was accessed and Mr. Anderson detailed the resources available for students through the site. Upper Grand will have the potential to engage more students as four other Centres open within the Board in the near future.

RECOMMENDATION #1

Trustee Gohn moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the presentation entitled, "Environmental Learning Centre Curriculum Resources", be received.

The motion carried.

POLICY/PROGRAM MEMORANDUM No. 149

Coordinator of Speech and Language Services, Bonnie Burgess, provided an introduction to the Ministry of Education's Policy/Program Memorandum 149 (PPM). Ms. Burgess referred to the Ministry document "Protocol for Partnerships with External Agencies for Provision of Services by Regulated Health Professionals, Regulated Social Service Professionals, and Paraprofessionals", a framework for developing relationships with community agencies. Upper Grand will continue to provide and improve upon the delivery of these resources, programs, and services, for students and their families in collaboration with bargaining units, community agencies, SEAC, SERC, and neighbouring school boards. Coordinator of Special Education & Collaborative Projects Lead, Sandra Szpular, provided a successful example of the integrated services for students and families through community partnerships.

A summary of how the services work together was distributed and detailed by Student Support Leadership Liaison, Brenda Courtney. Ms. Courtney works jointly with Dufferin Child and Family Services, Dufferin Peel School Board, Wellington Catholic DSB, Trellis, and Upper Grand. Elizabeth Van Ryn, Manager of Child & Adolescent Services at Trellis, noted the shared objectives and strategic goals of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

RECOMMENDATION #2

Trustee Borden moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the presentation entitled, "Policy/Program Memorandum No. 149", be received.

The motion carried.

FAMILY TRANSITION PLACE: VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

Trustee Borden drew attention to the distributed Family Transition Place newsletter. The women's shelter, located in Orangeville, provides safety and support to abused women and their children, in the community.

OPSBA

Trustee Bailey attended the OPSBA Central West Regional Council Meeting on October 24, 2009, in Grand Erie. The main topics of discussion included regional input around OPSBA priorities and improvement plans, the proposed election process changes, and an update on the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Regarding Technology in Schools, Trustee Bailey advised that the Ministry has agreed to further examine the use of technology in the classroom. OPSBA is recommending a Central Steering Committee to clarify any questions and have final discussions on priorities.

RECOMMENDATION #3

Trustee Schieck 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 Trustees on recent events through an interactive presentation. The first Student Senate Meeting was held on October 20, 2009. Notes of discussion were highlighted. The next meeting will be held on December 8, 2009. The Student Trustees attended an OSTA-AECO conference October 16 - 18, 2009 in Toronto. Among the topics presented was the mandatory Civics and Careers Course, of which five recommendations have come forth. Trustees Cooper and Steau expressed their appreciation to staff for the opportunity to attend the conference.

RECOMMENDATION #4

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

The motion carried.

OTHER

The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) will be holding a presentation at John F. Ross on Wednesday, November 4, 2009 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. This event, entitled, “You Can’t Make Me” will feature former teacher and crisis intervention counsellor Jane Bluestein. Dr. Jean Clinton, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, from McMaster University, will deliver an address on the teenage brain at an Education, Career, and Resource Fair on November 25, 2009 at John F. Ross.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Moziar moved that this Committee adjourn at 8:50 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.

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