

UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

MINUTES *

2009 09 15

The Program Committee of Upper Grand District School Board met on Tuesday, September 15, 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, 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 Maggie McFadzen, along with Superintendents Benallick, Boswell, Fyfe, Kelly, and Wright, and acting Superintendent McDonald. Also in attendance were Executive Officer of Human Resources J. Rose, Manager of Capital and Renewal Projects P. Scinocca, and Chief Information Officer J. Shanks.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Schieck 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, June 2, 2009, be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

PANDEMIC RESPONSE PLAN FOR (H1N1) 2009

Director of Education Dr. Martha Rogers provided an overview of the Upper Grand Pandemic Response Plan for H1N1. The H1N1 flu is a respiratory illness caused by a type A influenza virus. Spread of the H1N1 flu virus is thought to happen in the same way that seasonal flu spreads. In a document from the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Arlene King, it was noted that the current status in the province is a mild illness with low risk factors. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has provided guidelines for prevention and management of the H1N1 pandemic in Elementary and Secondary schools (pages 40-43 of the document entitled, "Pandemic Response Plan for (H1N1) 2009 Influenza Virus).

Executive Officer of Human Resources Jennifer Rose reviewed the Plan, which was a modification to an earlier developed Board plan in the event of an Avian Flu pandemic. Ms. Rose provided an overview of the changes and reviewed the Board's Phases. Upper Grand is currently in Phase 6, "increased and sustained transmission to the general public". An outline of Plant Operations within the schools was provided by Manager of Capital and Renewal Projects Paul Scinocca. Recommended strategies from The Public Health Agency of Canada (Appendix "B") are being followed and include multiple cleanings of high risk surfaces. Custodial goals are being refocused, in-services for head custodians have been provided, and schedule reviews have been assigned and are site specific for each school (Appendices "C" and "D"). These

strategies are included on pages 16-21 of the Plan document. Information has been provided to each school and was reviewed by Superintendent of Education Rosemary Fyfe. A sample letter, jointly developed by our Board, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health, and the Wellington Catholic DSB, has been provided to each school (page 35). The Ministry of Education has forward prevention guidelines to all Elementary and Secondary schools. Public Health Unit nurse Glenna Rogers has been assigned the duties of liaison between the Health Unit and schools and Principals are reinforcing proactive measures. Three documents were distributed for review; "Principal and Supervisor H1N1 Guidelines for Staff Meeting Remarks", "General H1N1 Messages for Office Coordinators", and H1N1 Questions and Answers". The Pandemic Response Plan can be found on the Board website.

RECOMMENDATION #1

Trustee Borden moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the report entitled, "Pandemic Response Plan for (H1N1) 2009", be received.

The motion carried.

ELEMENTARY STAFFING

Superintendent of Education Benallick provided a verbal report regarding Upper Grand Elementary staffing. The overall FTE is lower than had been projected in Spring, 2009 therefore, at this time, no additional staff is required. The District Staffing Committee has worked diligently in an effort to minimize disruption but, at the present time, Upper Grand is still overstaffed by 1.5 Elementary teachers.

RECOMMENDATION #2

Trustee Schieck moved that this Committee recommend to the Board that the verbal report regarding Elementary Staffing be received.

The motion carried.

OPSBA REPORT

Trustee Borden reported that the first Board of Directors' Meeting will be held on September 25, 2009. Our Board will be hosting the Central West Regional Council Meeting on September 19, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Dr. Rogers will be presenting the State of the School System speech at the Ariss Valley Country Club on September 17, 2009 at 2:30. Trustees were invited to attend.

RECOMMENDATION #3

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

The motion carried.

REPORT FROM STUDENT TRUSTEES

On behalf of both Student Trustees, Trustee Cooper expressed thanks to staff for the opportunity to represent the Board in their roles as Student Trustee. They anticipate a year of fulfilled duties, learned leadership, and transferable skills. Trustee Steau reported on the OSTA-AECO Conference attended in May, 2009. The conference included elections where Ms. Steau was appointed the Internal Communications Representative for Public Schools of Ontario. Trustees Cooper and Steau have goals, during their term, to encourage unity between the schools, continue the Safe Schools focus on bullying prevention, further encourage alternatives to bottled water in schools, and extend global outreach initiatives.

RECOMMENDATION #4

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

The motion carried.

IN CAMERA

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Waterston moved that this Committee adjourn at 9:10 p.m. to report to the Board.

The motion carried.

* public