

PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 22, 2016
6:00 p.m.
Grimsby-Lincoln Room

- PRESENT:** Dave Schaubel (Chair), Sue Barnett, Helga Campbell, Diane Chase, Kevin Maves
- ADMINISTRATION:** Lora Courtois, John Dickson, Paula MacKinnon
- GUESTS:** Student Trustee Justin Dube, Georgie Groat, Wes Hahn, Student Trustee Katelynn Hilborn, Warren Hoshizaki, Karen Leskiw-Janvary, Sue Mabee, Helen McGregor, Marian Reimer Friesen
- SECRETARY:** Erin DeRosario

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dave Schaubel called the meeting of the Program and Planning Committee to order at 6:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Sue Barnett, Seconded by Diane Chase

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 23, 2016

Moved by Diane Chase, Seconded by Sue Barnett

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no new business arising from the Minutes of February 23, 2016.

NEW BUSINESS

EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Superintendent Paula MacKinnon discussed the Educational Research proposals and reports.

PROPOSAL #1

Title of Research: Maker Literacies: Innovating Learning Futures

PROPOSAL #2

Title of Research: Succeed Clean Evaluation Study

PROPOSAL #3

Title of Research: An Examination of the Extent of Food and Beverage Marketing in Canadian Schools

PROPOSAL #4

Title of Research: The Healthy Heart Schools' Program: The EARLY Study-Early Assessment of Risk; Lipids in Youth

Superintendent MacKinnon confirmed for Trustee Sue Barnett that the evaluation of the clinical follow-up will only involve students who previously participated in the Healthy Heart Schools' program.

Moved by Sue Barnett, Seconded by Helga Campbell

"That the report of the Educational Research Committee of February 18, 2016 be received."

CARRIED

GRADE 6 SOCIAL STUDIES CROSS CURRICULAR UNIT: UNCOVERING THE PAST: A JOURNEY FROM RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL TOWARD RECONCILIATION

Superintendent John Dickson introduced Karen Leskiw-Janvary, Student Achievement Leader, Instruction and Learning K-8 and Georgie Groat, Consultant, FNMI. He reviewed the report with the Committee, and Georgie Groat presented a slide show to assist in explaining how the new Social Studies program will be implemented for DSBN grade 6 students. It was noted that after the professional development sessions and teaching resources were provided for the new program, it has been widely accepted amongst the pilot teachers within the DSBN. She further explained to the Committee that reconciliation means having FNMI people stand alongside other Canadians as equals, and that 'equality' for them is having the ability to share and practice their traditions, to help build their culture back up. She added that having them and others learn about their history helps to set FNMI people up for success, as it allows them to balance themselves in both their current and traditional worlds. Karen Leskiw-Janvary added that program in-services are also being offered to French Immersion teachers throughout the DSBN.

Moved by Diane Chase, Seconded by Kevin Maves

"That the Board receives the Grade 6 Social Studies Cross Curricular Unit: Uncovering the Past: A Journey from Residential School Toward Reconciliation."

CARRIED

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL BOUNDARY CHANGES

Superintendent Courtois reviewed the details of a new building development in Niagara Falls. The Oldfield Estates Subdivision and Wilson Crescent proposed boundary change will split the development into two and balances enrolment between two neighbouring elementary and secondary schools. She confirmed for the Committee that there are currently not any students living within the areas that would be impacted by the proposed boundary changes.

The next two boundary changes ensured that grade 8 students would be kept together as they transitioned to secondary school. Superintendent Courtois reviewed the details of the north St. Catharines proposed boundary change plan with the Committee, which involves Laura Secord SS and Governor Simcoe SS. She noted that there will be minimal impact on students, and clarified for Trustee Barnett that any situations involving siblings of affected students will be examined through the Alternate School Request process. It was clarified for the

Committee that when Zone B was created, there must have been significant population growth taking place in that area, and it has since levelled off.

She also reviewed the details of the St. Catharines/Lincoln/Grimsby proposed boundary change report with the Committee, which involves St. Catharines Collegiate, Sir Winston Churchill SS, Beamsville District SS, and Grimsby SS. She confirmed for Trustee Chase that there have not been any issues with students living in St. Catharines who attend Grimsby SS for French Immersion. There are no students impacted by this boundary change for the 2016-17 school year. Superintendent Helen McGregor added that she has not seen any Alternate School Requests from students wishing to attend Sir Winston SS instead of Grimsby SS for French Immersion.

Moved by Helga Campbell, Seconded by Kevin Maves

“That the Program & Planning Committee recommends the Board of Trustees approve the following boundary changes:

- The elementary and secondary boundaries for the Oldfield Estates subdivision be shifted to the east to align with Pender Street and the public walkway within the subdivision as shown on Appendix A.***
- The elementary and secondary boundary to the north of the Oldfield Estates subdivision be shifted to the west, as shown on Appendix A, to include Wilson Crescent and avoid the division of properties on McLeod Road and Wendy Drive into different school districts.***
- The elementary and secondary boundaries in North St. Catharines be aligned by transferring Zone A from Laura Secord SS to Governor Simcoe SS and Zone B and C from Governor Simcoe SS to Laura Secord SS as shown on Appendix B.***
- The elementary and secondary boundaries in West St. Catharines/Lincoln be aligned by transferring Zone A, as shown on Appendix C, from Beamsville District SS to St. Catharines Collegiate/Sir Winston Churchill SS for the English and SSTW programs.***
- That the secondary French Immersion program boundary be defined by establishing Zone A, as shown on Appendix C, as boundaried to Sir Winston Churchill SS.***

And that the approved boundary changes take effect on the day after the Board of Trustees approval, and apply to all future students except the existing secondary students and grade 8 students living in the Zones, as described in this report, who are grandfathered from the boundary changes.”

CARRIED

SCHOOL SIZE PRESENTATION

Superintendent Courtois stated that when school boards are faced with declining enrolment, boundary changes, school consolidations, and closures are considered. There are student programming, financial, and facility benefits to these decisions. She noted that the school size presentation was created to highlight the programming benefits of larger schools as compared to smaller schools for both elementary and secondary school students.

Superintendent Marian Reimer Friesen presented the elementary school portion of the presentation and noted that the benefits of having larger (500 students and above) elementary schools include, but are not limited to: flexibility in creating classes that meet students' individual academic and social needs, the elimination of triple grade splits, the opportunity to have dedicated teachers provide specialized programming, the expansion of choices for students to participate in extra-curricular activities and sports, and greater opportunities for same grade teachers to collaborate on professional development.

She clarified for Trustee Barnett that having split-grade classes in larger schools is sometimes a strategy used to accommodate differing personalities amongst the students, and it also provides for flexibility with co-planning and co-teaching amongst the teaching staff. She also clarified for Chair Schaubel that based on the LTAP, there are currently seven elementary schools within the DSNB that have less than 150 students.

Superintendent Courtois shared the benefits of having larger (1000 students and above) secondary schools. The benefits include, but are not limited to: the range of programming and the variety of courses available increases substantially, it eliminates combined courses by grade level and academic level, it significantly reduces student timetable conflicts and allows for more flexibility in timetables, mandatory courses that students need to graduate are offered in both semesters, it expands the choices for students to participate in extra-curricular activities and sports, it increases opportunities for teachers to teach in their area of expertise and it provides for a broader, more diverse student population, possibly making it easier for students to find their niche. She also highlighted the significant increase in course choice available in the senior grades for students who are attending a school with enrolment over 1000.

Superintendent Courtois clarified for Trustee Barnett that all required secondary courses are offered at each school within the DSBN, but for students who wish to take courses or programs that are offered at alternate schools, the DSBN offers e-learning, magnet bussing, and sometimes students have the option to transfer schools. She also noted that smaller schools use a strategy of offering courses every other year in order for students to obtain their pre-requisites for college or university, therefore proper course selection planning is essential. It was widely agreed upon amongst the Committee that the culture that the administration and teachers within a school create together is what gives a school a “community feel”, regardless of size.

The Committee members expressed their appreciation in receiving the school size facts and comparisons, and shared that having a solid background in the effect of school size on high quality programming and opportunities for students helps to support their understanding when making boundary change, consolidation, and school closure decisions.

PROPOSED PLANNING GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Superintendent Courtois reviewed the report with the Committee, stating that the purpose of the report is to provide Trustees with proposed Planning Guiding Principles that reflect the ideal attributes of elementary and secondary schools, and to seek the Committee’s input on the Guiding Principles. She informed the Committee that the document is intended to provide a consistent and clear framework to guide planning, decision making and facility construction.

Committee members discussed the principles related to transportation, portables, and optimal school size. Superintendent Courtois and other DSBN staff provided additional information to the Committee for each principle.

Moved by Sue Barnett, Seconded by Helga Campbell

“That the Board endorse the (amended) Planning Guiding Principles attached as Appendix A.”

CARRIED

ACCOMMODATION REVIEW POLICY F-2 UPDATE

Superintendent Courtois noted that the DSBN’s Accommodation Review Policy F-2 was updated in accordance with the Ministry’s new Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines (2015), and approved by Trustees in October 2015. She explained to the Committee that the purpose of the report is to present an updated Accommodation Review Policy F-2 to the Board of Trustees for approval, noting that administrative updates are required periodically to ensure that the policy is clear and its intent is maintained. After completing two accommodation reviews using updated Policy F-2, attention was drawn to the specific areas where the policy can be improved upon, as identified in Appendix A. The amended revisions are attached.

Superintendent MacKinnon suggested having the students of the school included as part of the definition of “School Community”, and the Committee accepted this proposed modification.

Moved by Kevin Maves, Seconded by Sue Barnett

***“The Board receives the Report to Program and Planning regarding the updates to Accommodation Review Policy F-2; and,
That the Board approve the updates to Policy F-2 as described in this report and as modified by the Program and Planning Committee, attached as Appendix A.”***

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

Trustee Helga Campbell suggested that a presentation on both the role of Learning Resource Teachers and the concept of play-based learning in Kindergarten programs, particularly with the academic outcomes expected with literacy and numeracy would be beneficial for Trustees.

NEXT MEETING

The next Program and Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 5, 2016** at 6:00 p.m. in the **Grimsby-Lincoln Room**.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Sue Barnett, Seconded by Helga Campbell

“That the meeting of the Program and Planning Committee adjourn.”

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.