



HASTINGS AND PRINCE EDWARD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD PROGRAM AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

May 13, 2013

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- Members present:** J. Cobb; B. Danes; T. Goodfellow, Vice-chair; D. Inch; L. Kyle;
D. Patterson; J. Williams, Chair
- Student Trustees:** None
- Regrets:** M. Hall
- Guests:** M. Brant, L. Miller
- Resource:** C. DeMille, K. Donnell, T. FitzGibbon, K. MacQuarrie, R. McGall, C. Portt,
J. Rogers, D. Rutherford, M. Savery-Whiteway
- Minutes:** C. Reid, Administrative Assistant

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m.

Delegations/presentations - None

Approval of agenda

Moved: D. Patterson
Seconded: B. Danes

That the agenda be approved.

Carried

Approval of minutes

Moved: T. Goodfellow
Seconded: J. Cobb

That the minutes of the April 8, 2013 regular meeting be approved.

Carried

Business arising from the minutes

An inquiry was made regarding whether any further information had been received from the Ministry of Education regarding the school year calendar. It was confirmed that there has been no additional communication from the Ministry and Superintendent FitzGibbon indicated that she has consulted with colleagues in the province and confirmed they have all used the Ministry template which cannot be manipulated. Boards have inquired with the Ministry about how the unpaid PA days will be delineated. The Ministry is still in the process of finalizing details regarding those days. Superintendent FitzGibbon also noted that no response has been received from EQAO regarding the OSSLT.

It was noted that there was an error in the motion at the last meeting regarding the school year calendar that has been corrected in the Board minutes. The motion referenced "Friday" January 30 and it should say "Thursday" January 30.

Information

Timed item: Adult Education Update

Superintendent FitzGibbon welcomed Julie Jarvis, Adult Education Coordinator to the meeting and commented on the tremendous support that is provided to students within the program and the exceptional service provided by Adult Education staff. Julie Jarvis stated that last year the Adult Education Program enrolled 1940 students and 110 students earned their secondary school diploma.

A handout was provided regarding the Quinte Adult Education eLearning Program. Quinte Adult Education has been recognized as the number one eLearning program in the province. Any adult in the province can enroll and a total of 24 Contact North Centres are exclusively using this eLearning Program for high school completion. Twenty-five to 30 new registrations are being received every week. Currently there a total of 1700 adults registered in Maplewood for this year for Quinte Adult Education. Last year the program made a profit of \$26,000 which was the best year ever and staff anticipate a similar profit this year. It was noted that funding is being reduced next year for continuing education.

The handout was reviewed which provided information regarding eLearning student profiles including gender, age and reasons for taking online courses. Statistics regarding student satisfaction were also provided along with comments obtained through a student survey. It was noted that the number of graduates by school year doubled after the implementation of the eLearning Program. Although there is no money being spent on advertising, students are finding Quinte Adult Education on the internet and through word of mouth referrals.

Comments were made regarding the reduction in Ministry funding and the fees charged by Quinte Adult Education. The program currently charges \$30 per credit and the district is not considering increasing the fee. The Ministry funds continuing education at a certain rate and the mandate of the program staff was to get the district into a break even position, not a profit generating position. The focus of the program is on the success of the students not on generating an income. The Ministry does not support boards charging fees and \$30 per credit is the minimal amount needed to cover administrative costs and resources. It was confirmed that teachers employed by the district are doing the marking. These are teachers who are full time or occasional teachers who mark on evenings and weekends. They get paid \$8 per lesson. The program receives funding of \$19 per lesson from the Ministry which covers the teacher salaries and administrative costs.

There was discussion regarding the 34 credit cap for secondary school students and whether Adult Education could be considered an option for those students needing to obtain credits to enable them to graduate. It was noted that there are certain restrictions that apply to regular day school. Schools would have to request special approval for a student enrolled in regular day school to take an Adult Education course. In some cases, eLearning programs at other boards can also be explored to support the student.

Recommendations

Textbook/novel approval

Superintendent FitzGibbon commented that at the last meeting a summary of novels and textbooks being brought forward for approval was provided. The titles listed in Appendix A to Report No. B-1 were reviewed by the school principal, curriculum services staff or superintendent.

There was discussion and some concerns were raised regarding several of the novels being brought forward, including *Hunger Games* and *Witchlanders*. Several trustees stated that they could not support the approval of those novels at this time. Director McGall commented that novels approved for use in the classroom are managed by the teacher. Comments were made regarding the number of books being brought forward for approval at one time. Some committee members had not had the opportunity to review all the resources. Director McGall requested that a decision be delayed so that he could have an opportunity to read *Witchlanders*. It was agreed that the approval of *Hunger Games*, *Witchlanders*, and *Blood Red Road* be deferred to allow more time for consideration.

Moved: D. Patterson
Seconded: L. Kyle

That the Program and Human Resources Committee recommend that Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board approve the list of textbooks and novels for use in schools described in Appendix A , excluding *Witchlanders*, *Hunger Games* and *Blood Red Road*, as contained in the Program and Human Resources Committee Report No. B-1 dated May 13, 2013.

Carried

Trustee proposals and queries - None

Correspondence – None

The Program and Human Resources Committee moved into closed session at 6:21 p.m.