



**HASTINGS AND PRINCE EDWARD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
PROGRAM AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 9, 2009**

Members present: T. Goodfellow, M. Hall, H. Marissen, C. Pitman, J. Williams, Chair
Student Trustee: Samantha Willman
Absent: None
Regrets: M. Walker
Guests: None
Resource: T. FitzGibbon, R. McGall, J. Montgomery, B. Nielson, M. Norton, C. Portt, J. Rogers, K. Soule
Minutes: D. Knights, Administrative Assistant

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Delegations/presentations - None

Approval of agenda

Moved: M. Hall
Seconded: H. Marissen

That the agenda be approved.

Carried

Approval of minutes

Moved: T. Goodfellow
Seconded: M. Hall

That the minutes of the regular meeting of October 19, 2009 be approved.

Carried

Business arising from minutes

None

Recommendations

Textbook/novel approval

The titles attached as Appendix "A" to Report No. B-1 have been reviewed by the school principal, curriculum services staff, superintendents and trustees on the Program and Human Resources Committee.

Trustee Hall commented on "*The Book of Negroes*" indicating that she had received an e-mail of concern from Trustee Walker.

Superintendent Montgomery, advised that the recommended grade for this particular book is Grade 12 and University English level, therefore reaching the mature reader. Director Soule commented that she has read the book and believes that the content provides the reader with hope and the ability to overcome hardships.

Trustee Hall requested that the motion included in report no. B-1 be split into two motions in order to provide for discussion of "*The Book of Negroes*" separately.

Moved: T. Goodfellow
Seconded: H. Marissen

That the Program and Human Resources Committee recommend that Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board approve the list for use in schools, excluding "*The Book of Negroes*", as described in Appendix "A" as contained in the Program and Human Resources Committee Public Session Report No. B-1 dated November 9, 2009.

Carried.

Moved: T. Goodfellow
Seconded: C. Pitman

That the Program and Human Resources Committee recommend that Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board approve "*The Book of Negroes*" for use in schools as described in Appendix "A" as contained in the Program and Human Resources Committee Public Session Report No. B-1 dated November 9, 2009.

Carried.

Information

Premier Software demonstration

Superintendent Fitzgibbon spoke of the implementation of Premier Software as a pilot project last year. The software empowers students to teach themselves and can be customized to meet individual needs. The board is very pleased with the results of the pilot project and is looking forward to providing students with technology that increases academic success.

Matt Norton, Senior ITS Officer introduced the software as a tool that assists both students and staff with a number of academic applications. He noted that he uses the software to turn digital documents into audio files.

Cathy Portt, System Principal, introduced Brett Nielsen, System Educational Technical Support, and Wendy Goodman, teacher at Pinecrest Memorial Elementary School. She commented that she believes this software will serve all students that require assistive technology and will support students in all academic areas.

Brett Nielsen, demonstrated the features of the software and explained the various tools such as the talking calculator, universal reader, talking word processor, text to audio, talking dictionary, pdf equalizer, and scan and read.

Wendy Goodman, teacher at Pinecrest Memorial Elementary School has been involved in the pilot project and reported on how the technology has helped students build individual strengths, self esteem, confidence and independent skills. She noted that the software is installed in all computers at the school and therefore does not create a barrier to the use of the technology. She noted that there has been an increase in the students' ability to read and write more effectively.

Due to the success of the pilot project every desktop in the system has Premier software included. Initial training sessions will focus on students in Grades 6 –10 and will also include training for Educational Assistants and teachers. The cost of the software is \$10,000 per year for all computers in the board's jurisdiction.

Early Learning update

Superintendent Montgomery and Director Soule provided an update regarding the Ministry of Education's Early Learning Program initiative. A regional meeting was held last week where the board received more information about the implementation of full-day early learning for four-and five-year-olds and the fee-based extended day for those same children. Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board has been allocated 11 classes for the 2010-11 school year. The program will be delivered by a blended staffing model comprised of one teacher and one Early Childhood Educator delivering the program to an average class size of 26 students. The goal is to have early learning fully implemented in all schools by 2015-16.

Boards have been asked to submit a list of proposed schools by the end of November and once approved by the ministry in mid-January, boards can begin student registration for September 2010. A communication plan for mid January 2010 must be developed to inform parents, the child care sector and the broader community of the plan for implementation of Year One.

To achieve the Early Learning Program initiative each board must ensure that it is assigning sufficient resources to planning, management and reporting activities. This includes providing leadership at the board level by appointing a senior official as its Early Years Leader. No additional funding has been received for staffing purposes which means additional board funds must be used. Additional meetings will be held next week and program updates will be brought forward to the board in December with a full report in January.

Literacy supports

Superintendent, Jan Montgomery reported on the various levels of supports required to access the additional funding received as part of the Education Programs – Other (EPO) grants. The new initiatives to support student learning have involved moving staff, organizing training and hiring new coordinators. These initiatives are all part of moving the board improvement plan forward by improving instructional effectiveness.

It is anticipated that a comprehensive report will come forward to the committee in the new year.

Correspondence – None

At 6:30 p.m. the Program and Human Resources Committee moved into closed session.