

PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE



**Tuesday, April 6, 2021
Virtual - MS Teams**

MINUTES

Present:

Trustee Committee Members: Nancy Beamer, Jonathan Fast, Kevin Maves, Shannon Mitchell and Dave Schaubel (Chair)

Trustee Guests: Sue Barnett, Alex Bradnam and Doug Newton
Student Trustees: Salony Sharma and Karina Tavernese

Administration: Warren Hoshizaki, Director of Education
Helen McGregor, Area 5 Supt. of Curriculum & Student Achievement (9-12)
Marian Reimer Friesen, Area 4 Supt. of Education, Curriculum & Student Achievement (K-8)
Mary Anne Gage, Area 4 Supt. of Education, Curriculum & Student
Michael St. John, Supt. of Special Education & Mental Health and Well-Being

Guests: Melanie Sendzik, Student Achievement Leader
Dr. Amanda Sherman, Mental Health Lead
Jessica Moro, School Social Work Services Lead

Recording Secretary: Debra Dinga, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dave Schaubel called the meeting of the Program and Planning Committee to order at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: Trustee Beamer Seconded by: Trustee Mitchell

"That the agenda be approved as presented."

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

NEW BUSINESS**2020-2021 Mental Health and Well-Being Update** -*Superintendent, Michael St. John, Dr. Amanda Sherman and Jessica Moro*

Superintendent, Michael St. John, along with members of the DSBN Mental Health team presented a comprehensive overview of DSBN's Mental Health Supports and Services which are based on Mental Health Supports, Mental Health Intervention Services and Attendance Intervention Services, utilized to support at-risk students' engagement in learning. DSBN's Multi-year Mental Health and Addictions Strategy guides the work of Social Workers, Youth Counsellors and Teachers to meet the needs of DSBN students and their families.

Dr. Amanda Sherman reviewed the planning and intervention details of the supports that were in place during the summer months and return to school in September. During the school year, Youth Counsellors adapted their programs to effectively deliver programming through a virtual format. A School Social Worker for Indigenous Students was hired and two specialized youth counsellors were hired to support students in the Reducing Incidents of Suspension and Expulsions (RISE) programs. Mental health supports with evidence-based therapies are also in place for students learning remotely to assist with re-engagement for the return to face to face learning next year.

Additional supports were put in place as a result of Covid-19 Enhancement Funding including two new school social workers, a social worker assigned as the Community and Inclusion Social Worker and two new attendance counsellors.

Jessica Moro outlined the Mental Health Promotion Supports available through the school year, highlighting professional development for educators and the collaboration that took place with the Equity Team to provide board-wide staff PD on mentally healthy conversations about race-related issues in classrooms

The DSBN's three-year Mental Health and Addictions Strategy will be renewed in the 2021-2022 school year based on evolving needs including: supporting recovery from impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, trauma awareness and sensitivity, collaboration with the Equity Team, increasing capacity for wellness promotion and social emotional development, mental health leadership, refining DSBN's model of school social work services delivery and continuing to closely work with community mental health partners to develop aligned system protocols.

Moved by: Trustee Maves Seconded by: Trustee Fast

"That the Mental Health and Well-Being Report be received."

CARRIED

Elementary Virtual Tutoring Partnership with Brock University Report -

Superintendent, Marian Reimer Friesen and Melanie Sendzik

Superintendent Reimer Friesen highlighted the thriving partnership that DSBN has with Brock University through tutoring intervention. The pandemic provided the opportunity to creatively keep the program running and support DSBN students' reading intervention and help Brock pre-service students gain valuable experience.

Due to Covid, the tutoring program was re-invented through the creation of a Virtual Tutoring Program. This unique partnership represents the only faculty of education and school district working together to provide learning opportunities for students in both organizations. DSBN is proud of the service offered to our students in 29 schools during this year's unique program.

The current Covid circumstance could have caused DSBN to abandon tutoring for the year. However, through DSBN's Curriculum Services Team and with Brock University's enthusiasm, we creatively persevered thereby allowing students to continue to benefit from one-on-one literacy support using Levelled Reading Intervention Resources and giving Brock students time to plan and implement instruction. As our partnership continues, we look forward to merging the best things about virtual tutoring with rich in-person tutoring opportunities in the coming year.

Moved by: Trustee Beamer Seconded by: Trustee Fast

"That the Elementary Virtual Partnership with Brock University Report be received."

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT MEETING

The next Program and Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.**

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Trustee Maves Seconded by: Trustee Beamer

"That the meeting of the Program and Planning Committee adjourn."

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.