

Trustee Report to School Councils October, 2019

1. It has been a busy period for me. One of my goals as Chair has been to promote and advance the cause of public education throughout the Board. To this end, I have met with the following in the last several months:
 - Editorial Board at the Glengarry News
 - Visits with MPP's Clark, Hillyer, McDonnell and Simard and M.P. Michael Barrett
 - Mayor and Deputy Mayor of South Dundas
 - Education Forum sponsored by South Dundas Township
 - Township of Rideau Lakes
 - The United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry
 - A guided tour of the Tweed plant in Smiths Falls
 - Cornwall and District United Way
 - More are planned
2. The UCDSB and Queen's University signed a **Letter of Understanding** two weeks ago which will be a benefit to both parties and, in particular, schools in the western region of Ward 4. The essence is that this partnership will allow the exploration of opportunities between the two institutions that will put an emphasis on rural and remote education for apprenticing teachers.

Through this collaboration and partnership, student teachers in the Queen's program will eventually have the opportunity to receive their program of instruction on-site, in select UCDSB elementary schools. This will allow student teachers to spend more time in classrooms, working with children and apprenticing under qualified and experienced teachers.

For the university, this creates a unique experiential learning opportunity for teacher candidates. For the UCDSB, it enhances the local labour pool, develops a deep understanding of the unique climate of rural schools, and establishes connections between teacher candidates and the local community.

3. **Planet Youth Icelandic Prevention Model:**

On September 25th, 2019, Dr Paula Stewart, Medical Officer of Health, Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit and David Somppi, Chair, Planet Youth Lanark County Steering Committee, made a presentation to the Board regarding the "Planet Youth Icelandic Prevention Model". The delegation requested that the UCDSB staff be delegated authority to collaborate in bringing The Icelandic Model for Prevention of Problematic Substance Use to Lanark County and potentially across the entire UCDSB district.

UCDSB participation in the Planet Youth Project would include allowing for the surveying of our grade 10 students to gain local, timely information on the risk and protective factors influencing youth substance use. It would also provide opportunities to collaborate on community led initiatives to prevent substance use among youth served by the UCDSB. Planet Youth Lanark County has full responsibility for fundraising to cover costs of survey, data analysis, distributing community specific reports and supporting communities in developing action plans.

4. Parent Involvement Committee:

The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) achieved a number of key outcomes during 2018-2019 school year. These achievements for 2018-2019, as detailed by the out-going PIC Chair, Andrea Carpenter, included:

A. Succession planning to sustain the presence of PIC in the Upper Canada District School Board.

- Many of the Committee's core members "graduate-out" of PIC, after many years of participation in the committee throughout their children's UCDSB education.
- Despite the loss of these core members, PIC sought to rebuild its membership and participation through some very successful "outreach" meetings. Also doubled the size of our executive (the sole member stepped down but was replaced by two new people).
- While PIC still faces challenges recruiting members to physically attend our regular PIC meetings, we have grown a significant group of parents who have expressed interest in dialing-in or being included in our group emails.
- Areas to explore for continued growth and participation of the PIC membership includes meetings on-line using available technology (skype/zoom/etc) as travel throughout the large school district that is the UCDSB is both unappealing and inconvenient on school nights for parents.

B. Providing advice and feedback on key program activities within the Upper Canada District School Board.

PIC activities this year included:

- Consultation session regarding Special Education in the Upper Canada DSB;
- A community information session with our board psychologists regarding the impact of decriminalization of marijuana and possible impact on our schools as it relates to

student health and well-being;

- Consultation and feedback to the board regarding the Board's policy on Safe Schools, and;
- Successful advocacy work that resulted in the provincial government committing to reinstate funding of the Parent Reaching Out / PRO grants.
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C. Serving as a resource and support for school councils throughout the Upper Canada District School Board.

- Areas for continued debate: Should the role of PIC be as a sounding board for parents, or an information conduit? How do we continue to reach out to new/more parents? How can we facilitate the sharing of best practices between school councils and improve support within our families of schools?

Areas of interest for next year: Having PIC members make 'guest appearances' at a variety of school council meetings to share information and solicit input, as well as exploring technology that could simplify and improve our current practices.

5. Mental Health Plan:

Fulfilling the Board's mission of preparing all students for a successful life requires attention to not **only academic growth, but personal wellness as well**. This is reflected in the Trustee / Director Work Plan: To increase capacity of students to deal with stress. These work plans inform the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Wellness, as well as the Mental Health Strategic Plan.

We continue to focus on the following areas:

Building mental health literacy in students and staff

Enhancing access to supports for stress and coping using evidence-based programming in all of our schools

Articulate pathways to care, and ensure appropriate levels of support for our vulnerable students

Enhance staff, student and family access to reliable, evidence-based and evidence-informed information and resources

How? Focus for 2019-2020

*Teachers in all grades to implement Everyday Mentally Healthy Classroom activities, or the to-be-announced senior-grade equivalent.

*At minimum, one grade in each of Junior, Primary, and Secondary panels to implement MindMasters2 (K-3) or Stress Lessons / Kids Have Stress Too.

*Wellness Bulletin Boards continue to be installed and populated as a way to enhance educator's awareness of wellness initiatives and pathways to care.

*The work that has continued throughout the strategic plan will be sustained, including provide training and support as per the Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Risk Review protocol and Supporting Minds training.

Delivery of mental health is everyone's responsibility

6. District-wide timetable

- Uniform rotation of periods
- Synchronous e-learning
- Designated e-learning periods – chat rooms, large and small groups face-to-face using Skype, Zoom, individual discussions and presentations, collaborative spaces
- Students and teacher in different school
- Students and teachers connecting on a daily basis
- Capacity for daily coaching and monitoring
- Being piloted last year in 6 schools, 8 schools this year (ADHS) and 7 next year using the D2L program

7. STEO transportation efficiencies:

- a. Bell-time realignment
- b. Walk zone refinement
- c. Out of School Boundary refinement

One bus, one road – North zone first – 35 buses eliminated – East-West next

BELL TIME CHANGE UPDATE – PHASE ONE

- First step toward district wide alignment of bell times: NORTH ZONE complete
- With support of ongoing communication strategy, implementation has been very successful

- Projected NORTH ZONE efficiencies of \$1,575,000 (approximately 35 vehicles) are on target to be achieved, with potential to exceed projections

Phase two for 2020-2021 EAST-WEST ZONE bell time planning: fulsome area reviews to begin in November for implementation at September 2020. Parents should expect fairly early in the new year to receive communication from STEO and to be invited to public forums.

I hope everyone enjoyed the blessings of this Thanksgiving.

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