

KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Roy H. Wilfong Boardroom, Education Centre, Peterborough, ON

ATTENDANCE

Present: Trustees S. Russell (Committee Chairperson), D. Lloyd (Chairperson of the Board), S. Bobka (Vice-chairperson of the Board), C. Abraham, C. Dickson and J. Klassen Jeninga.

Regrets: Trustee K. Dupuis.

Also Present: Trustees R. Kitney, A. Lloyd and E. Ojeda; and J. Tompkins, G. Ingram, J. Maliha, J. Ford, K. Norris, D. Whitney, C. Doyle, P. Dowsley, M. Avery, J. Hofstede-Barker and L. Haemel.

In light of the current health advisory and public health measures in place provincially, the meeting was available for committee members to attend in person or virtually using WebEx and livestreamed through the KPR YouTube channel.

Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment

Trustee S. Russell, Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order (7:04 p.m.) and welcomed members and guests to the meeting. It was acknowledged that the Committee was meeting on the traditional territory of the Mississauga First Nations.

Adoption of Agenda

**MOVED BY C. Abraham, SECONDED BY J. Klassen Jeninga
That the agenda be adopted as printed.**

CARRIED

Adoption of Minutes

**MOVED BY C. Abraham, SECONDED BY J. Klassen Jeninga
That the Minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday, June 8, 2020, be adopted as recorded.**

CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

Trustee S. Russell requested that Senior Administration provide a report later in the fall that includes information related to the various reasons for suspensions/, in order to provide trustees with an indication of specific trends, i.e. increases in violence, drug possession, property damage, or other causes.

Suspensions in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3: Updated Factsheets

Superintendent J. Maliha provided an update on suspensions in Junior Kindergarten to

Grade 3. It was reported that as a follow up to the July 2020 announcement of *Ontario's Action Plan to Address Systemic Racism in Schools*, the Ministry has created new regulations that change how student behaviour is addressed in primary grades.

The latest provincial suspension data from 2018-19 shows that over 65,000 elementary and secondary students in Ontario were suspended during that school year. These regulations are intended to provide equal opportunity to education for all students, including Indigenous and racialized students.

It was reported that the new regulations remove the discretion of the principal to suspend students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3 for activities listed in section 306 (1) of the *Education Act*, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year. These behaviours will be addressed with the appropriate positive behaviour supports in the school setting instead. Activities listed in section 310 (1) of the *Education Act* will still be subject to mandatory suspensions, pending the results of an investigation.

The Ministry has updated a number resources to provide information on how staff must handle student incidents that occur at school, at school-related activities, or in any other circumstances where the student's behaviour can have a negative impact on the school climate. These resources are intended to support a shared understanding among school staff, students and parents as they relate to policies and procedures dealing with inappropriate student behaviour.

The Suspensions in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3: Updated Factsheets Report was shared with school administrators via email during the week of September 14, 2020, and a subsequent meeting via the WebEx Platform will be held for a question and answer session.

MOVED BY C. Abraham, SECONDED BY C. Dickson
That the Suspensions in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3: Updated Factsheets report, dated September 22, 2020, be received for information.

CARRIED

KPRDSB Learn at Home Program

Superintendents J. Tompkins and G. Ingram shared information regarding the KPRDSB Learn at Home Program. It was reported that in April 2020, all public school boards in Ontario established Emergency Distance Learning to support students from K-12 as an initial response to the closure of schools resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to support student learning in this distance model, KPRDSB provided many students with technology, internet access and in some cases, paper resources to continue their learning. Teachers primarily engaged with students using digital tools such as Edsby, Desire to Learn (D2L) and Google Classroom. Where the use of a

digital tool was not possible, teachers provided lessons using paper. Teachers also supported students and parents using telephone communication.

In June 2020, recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic would likely continue, the Ministry of Education directed school boards to prepare for three possible scenarios for the reopening of school in September 2020 as follows: full student attendance in school, partial attendance combined with online instruction, and full online instruction.

Parents were surveyed in June to determine their education plans for September and then provided with another opportunity mid-August to formally 'opt out' of the traditional school in favour of attending through the Learn at Home model. This survey closed on August 19, 2020.

The Province introduced *PPM 164 – Requirements for Remote Learning* which provided guidance around the expectations for Learn at Home programs. In response to PPM 164, KPR has created an elementary and a secondary virtual school. The virtual elementary school (VES) has approximately 4330 students registered and the virtual high school (VHS) has approximately 1660 students.

Given the overwhelming choice by parents to enrol their children in the virtual school, an administrator team with support staff has been established with dedicated support from Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Human Resource Services, and other Board departments. The administrator teams for both schools have successfully assigned hundreds of teachers and support staff, placing students in classes and creating timetables.

It was indicated that orientation sessions and resources to support educators in preparing to teach in a virtual school have been provided, and will be a focus for ongoing professional learning. It was also reported that traditional eLearning is continuing for senior secondary students as part of our 25 Board consortium, and that courses are being offered in both the quadmester and semester framework.

Virtual school administrators in attendance responded to questions regarding the implementation of the virtual program, and shared information regarding some of the additional supports that are available to students of the virtual school, and their parents. A virtual elementary Kindergarten teacher and virtual high school teacher in attendance provided trustees with a presentation of their virtual classroom lessons along with a demonstration of Smart Learning Suite, an interactive virtual teaching tool currently being used with students in teaching the subject of secondary Math.

MOVED BY C. Abraham, SECONDED BY J. Klassen Jeninga
That the meeting be extended (9:00 p.m.).

CARRIED

In-depth discussion was held and additional questions of clarification were addressed.

MOVED BY S. Bobka, SECONDED BY A. Lloyd
That the KPRDSB Learn at Home Program report, dated September 22, 2020, be received for information with sincerest thanks.

CARRIED

Future Meeting Dates

Future meeting dates for the 2020-2021 school year were reviewed. The next meeting of the Program Review Committee will be held in the Roy H. Wilfong Boardroom at the Education Centre, 1994 Fisher Drive, Peterborough, at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 2020.

Adjournment

MOVED BY J. Klassen Jeninga, SECONDED BY C. Abraham
That the meeting be adjourned (9:18 p.m.).

CARRIED

Steve Russell
Committee Chairperson