

POLICY AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

Presented to: Board of Trustees
Submitted on: April 28, 2026
Submitted by: Martha MacNeil, Acting Chair
Date: April 14, 2026
Report No.: PP26-04

Members Present: Martha MacNeil (Acting Chair), Alethia O'Hara-Stephenson,
Lynn Topping, Laurie Whyte

Absent: Robin Ross

Other Trustees Present: Jen Edwards, Irene Hanenberg, Ralf Mesenbrink

The Policy and Priorities Committee held a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 7:02 p.m. Acting Chair MacNeil presided over the meeting. No conflicts of interest were declared.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Item 6.1 – Human Rights @UGDSB Update

Alica Ralph, Human Rights, Equity and Accessibility Commissioner provided a PowerPoint presentation respecting Item 6.1 - Human Rights @UGDSB Update. The presentation provided an update on Human Rights work at the Upper Grand District School Board and the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan. A structured implementation phase is the next step and will include: strengthening governance, formalizing advisory and engagement structures, and finalizing the policy. A timeline was shared noting full system implementation and first annual Human Rights report for the 2026-2027 school year.

The Committee recommends:

That the Human Rights @UGDSB Update, be received.

Item 6.2 – Policy Reviews

(a) Policy 307 – Outdoor Play Spaces

Christine de Boer, Policy Development Officer, provided a verbal presentation regarding the policy review for Policy 307 – Outdoor Play Spaces noting that as the content of this policy is guided by Ontario Regulations and included in Canada’s main safety standard for public playground equipment and play spaces, this policy is considered operational in nature and it is recommended that it be rescinded. Updated procedures are recommended to be incorporated under Policy 322 - Safe Operation of Schools and Board Sites. Proposed updates to Policy 322 include an added clause that pertains to the closure of school playgrounds when there are safety concerns, reference to communicating the rules regarding playground access annually, and added text that defines the closure period for playground equipment at UGDSB schools.

The Committee recommends:

1. That Policy 307 Outdoor Play Spaces, attached as Appendix A to the report dated April 14, 2026, be rescinded.
2. That Policy 322 titled Safe Operation of Schools and Board Sites, attached with revisions as Appendix B to the report dated April 14, 2026, be approved as amended with the deletion of the following line under Section 2 Definition of Authorized Visitor, it being:

“a person or persons using the school grounds for recreational purposes during non-school, daylight hours.”

(b) Policy 605 – Cooperative Education

Christine de Boer, Policy Development Officer, provided a verbal presentation regarding the policy review for Policy 605 – Cooperative Education noting that Cooperative Education in Ontario is governed by the Ministry of Education’s 2018 curriculum policy, which outlines program structure, expectations, and safety requirements. As a result, Policy 605 and its procedures are considered redundant and are recommended for rescission.

The Committee recommends:

That Policy 605 titled Cooperative Education, attached as Appendix A to the report dated April 14, 2026, be rescinded.

Item 6.3 – Policy Review Plans

(a) Policy Review Plan 509 – Health Support Services

Christine de Boer, Policy Development Officer, provided a verbal presentation regarding the policy review plan for Policy 509 – Health Support Services noting that policy is under review to ensure alignment with PPM 81, which establishes how health support services are to be provided to students in Ontario. The policy supports Upper Grand District School Board's Multi-Year Plan and the priorities of championing health and well-being and equity of access and outcomes. The policy and its procedures outline the coordinated efforts for the provision of health support services in schools shared by the school board, Ontario Health atHome, and partner agencies. Proposed revisions are detailed in the Policy Review Plan and upon Board approval of the review plan, will undergo a 30-day public consultation period before returning to committee and Board for consideration.

The Committee recommends:

That the Policy Review Plan for Policy 509 – Health Support Services, attached as Appendix A to the report dated April 14, 2026, be approved.

(b) Policy Review Plan 205 – School Volunteers

Christine de Boer, Policy Development Officer, provided a verbal presentation regarding the policy review plan for Policy – 205 School Volunteers noting that school volunteers in Ontario are governed by the *Education Act* and its supporting regulations. Effective February 1, 2026 school boards are required to collect a police record check from all school volunteers. Individuals in a position of trust or authority in relation to children or other vulnerable persons require a Vulnerable Sector Check and all other individuals require a Criminal Record and Judicial Matters Check. A new police record check is required every five years and offence declarations are required annually in the years that a new check is not required. The draft policy has been updated to reflect these requirements and is recommended for public consultation after which it will return to committee and Board for consideration.

The Committee recommends:

1. That the Policy Review Plan for 205 School Volunteers, attached as Appendix A to the report dated April 14, 2026, be approved.
2. That Policy 205 titled School Volunteers, attached with revisions as Appendix B to the report dated April 14, 2026, be released for public consultation for a period of 15 days.