



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, THE BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION, HELD IN THE J. L. MILNE BOARDROOM, ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 1031 - 6TH STREET, BRANDON, MANITOBA, AT 7:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2015.

PRESENT:

Mr. M. Sefton, Chairperson, Mr. K. Sumner, Vice-Chairperson, Ms. S. Bambridge, Mr. P. Bartlette, Mrs. P. Bowslaugh, Mr. G. Buri, Mr. G. Kruck, Mr. J. Murray, Dr. L. Ross (by phone).

Mr. D. Labossiere, Secretary-Treasurer, B. Sangster, Recording Secretary, Ms. T. Curtis, Live Streaming Video Operator.

Dr. D. M. Michaels, Superintendent/CEO, Mr. G. Malazdrewicz, Associate Superintendent, Ms. E. Jamora, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Ms. B. Switzer, Director of Human Resources, Mr. Mel Clark, Director of Facilities and Transportation.

REGRETS:

CALL:

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. noting the meeting had been called for the purpose of considering the following:

- a) 2015-2016 Preliminary Budget Discussions.

The Chairperson referred to the Call and welcomed observers to the meeting.

The Chairperson also confirmed the purpose of the meeting was for information only and there would be no decisions or debate taking place at this time. Mr. Sefton then turned the meeting over to the Secretary-Treasurer.

Mr. Denis Labossiere, Secretary-Treasurer, noted the purpose of his presentation was to provide preliminary information regarding the 2015-2016 Operating Budget. Through his presentation, he hoped to assist the Board of Trustees in understanding the budget issues in advance of the February 17, 2015 Budget Meeting.

The following documents were circulated to Trustees:

- 1) Preliminary Budget Discussion 2015-2016;
- 2) Capital & Maintenance Budget 2015-2016.

The Secretary-Treasurer highlighted the factors impacting the budget considerations, including:

- 2014-2015 Budget impact on the 2015 Special Levy;
- Enrollment changes;
- Programs for increasing diversity of student learning needs;
- Provincial legislation;
- Infrastructure and support for program delivery;
- Collective Agreement costs;
- Uncertainty of funding;
- Facility sustainability; and
- Contingency funds and reserves.

He also provided detail regarding the budget development process referencing motions 103/2014 and 04/2015 approved by the Board and the directions provided to Senior Administration. Mr. Labossiere reviewed how the Division compared to the Manitoba Provincial Average using the 2014/2015 Provincial FRAME Budget Report. He provided an analysis review of past budget increases and spoke to enrollment and the development of the staffing budget. Mr. Labossiere provided detailed information regarding the current status of accumulated surplus; the reserve accounts; and a summary of the 2015/2016 Capital and Maintenance Budget.

Mr. Labossiere noted that special needs support has decreased by 10.2% (11 FTE) for level 2 funded students and by 15.7% (11 FTE) for level 3 funded students when compared to last year. This has resulted in a reduction of Educational Assistants for the 2015-2016 budget due to lower grant funding. This is an area of concern for BSD, as the approved for funded special needs students continues to decline even though the division continues to grow. In comparison, in 2008-2009, we had 189 funded Level 2 students; in 2015-2016 we have 98. In regards to Level 3, we had 73 funded students 2008-2009, for 2015-2016 we have 59.5. The total percentage of funded students to our student enrollment in 2008-2009 was 3.87%; for 2015-2016 it will be 1.93%.

Trustee Sefton requested that the Secretary-Treasurer repeat his information regarding funding for Level 2 and Level 3 Special Needs students, which he provided. Trustee Sefton noted that at the meeting with the Minister of Education two weeks ago, one of the points the Board made is that there is concern that over the past number of years, there has been a 15% increase in enrolments, but at the same time BSD has seen a 15% decrease in Levels 2 & 3 funding. The Minister indicated they would look into that and get back to the Board. Dr. Michaels and Mr. Labossiere both indicated they have not had a response from the Minister. Trustee Sefton asked about the funding amounts for Level 2 and Level 3 students, which Mr. Labossiere provided. Trustee Kruck questioned whether the previous Minister of Education had been informed of this decrease. Trustee Sefton confirmed that the past two Ministers had also been asked the same question.

Following the presentation, Trustees asked questions for clarification regarding the Human Resource Request for the At-Risk Youth Program FTE's; resource requests and how would the needs of low income and Aboriginal students be addressed; facilities capital funding; and the \$34 million which was stated in the Ameresco Report.

The Secretary-Treasurer provided the Board with the next steps in the Budget Process. He confirmed the Public Budget Forum would take place on February 11, 2015 at George Fitton School Gymnasium, followed by the All-Day Budget Meeting on February 17, 2015. The Special Board Meeting scheduled for March 2, 2015 would allow for the public to make presentations to the Board regarding the proposed decisions made at their All-Day Budget

meeting. The Board would approve their budget on March 9, 2015 after which the special levy would be forwarded to Municipalities by March 15, 2015.

Ms. Bambridge – Mr. Sumner

That the Board do now resolve into Committee of the Whole In Camera. (8:23 p.m.)

Carried.

IN-CAMERA DISCUSSION:

a) The Secretary-Treasurer and Board discussed the Public Budget Presentation.

Mr. Bartlette – Mr. Sumner

That the Committee of the Whole In Camera do now resolve into Board.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Murray – Mr. Kruck

That the meeting does now adjourn (9:13 p.m.)

Carried.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer