



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

Education Committee Minutes

Thursday, October 29, 2015 11:30 a.m.

Boardroom, Administration Office

Present: S. Bambridge (Chairperson), P. Bartlette (arrived at 11:50 a.m.), G. Buri, P. Bowslaugh (Alternate), Mr. M. Gustafson, Assistant Superintendent.

Guest: K. Sumner

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Education Committee Meeting was called to order by Trustee Bambridge at 11:42 a.m.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as circulated.

4. PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

The Committee minutes from September 21, 2015, were received as information.

5. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

6. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

A) Public Consultation on French Immersion Kindergarten Registration

The October 22, 2015 Public Consultation on French Immersion Kindergarten Registration was discussed. Trustee Bambridge noted that she gathered the following from discussions at the consultation:

- Do not go to a lottery system
- Ensure that it is clearly explained to the public that the curriculum at École New Era School and École Harrison is the same
- Have an information night and possibly have 3 or 4 different nights at different schools
- Look at the possibility of having line-ups in a location with a big enough space for parents to line-up at midnight – the Keystone Centre and Crocus Plains were suggested
- In favour of siblings being automatically registered when an older sibling already attends the school

Line-ups for Kindergarten Registration at École Harrison beginning at midnight and earlier was discussed. It was noted that this year the Principal opened the doors at midnight. This matter was discussed by the Principal and the Superintendent of Schools in mid-January. It was noted that registration dates are not the same at the two French Immersion schools and the other K-8 schools.

People at the consultation stated that “in life” it’s the same, with line-ups for lunch programs, after school programs, concert tickets.

High School registration model was discussed. It was noted that the basis of the selection process for French Immersion registration isn’t the same as High School Registration. The grade 8 parent presentations were discussed as a potential model for providing parents with registration information.

Trustee Bartlette asked if EAL families are selecting French Immersion. Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Mathew Gustafson responded that École Harrison has six EAL students, and École New Era School has twenty-five EAL students.

Trustee Buri reminded the Committee members that the École Harrison and École New Era School Principals indicated in 2014-2015 that they liked the process, and didn’t think a change was needed.

Trustee Sumner noted that something should have occurred to avoid the line-ups in the first place.

Trustee Bartlette discussed a larger window of time for registration other than one day. The conclusion was that it wouldn’t matter if the registration time was longer as people would still line-up early to register their children on the first day of registration.

To address the public concerns regarding availability of information and the registration process, it was recommended to align Kindergarten Registration dates as well as provide Kindergarten orientation evenings. The orientation evenings should provide clear and concise information on the French Immersion Kindergarten Registration process.

Trustee Sumner indicated that he does not believe that the current registration process is a good solution. He stated he will take the names of those in line next year and send them home and stay all night for them and ensure their children are registered.

Trustee Bambridge noted that what she heard from French Immersion Principals and the public was that lottery is not an option. Trustee Buri stated that the Committee has to consider the feedback it received.

Mr. Gustafson stated that it is possible to align registration dates to avoid confusion, and that the pre-registration information can be provided on information evenings for all parents. Such would communicate the French Immersion program and registration process.

Recommendation:

The Education Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees maintain the status quo procedure for French Immersion Kindergarten Registration. Secondly, it is recommended that Kindergarten registration dates be aligned; and the Kindergarten information evenings be scheduled to provide parents with information on Kindergarten programming and the registration process.

B) Sub-Committee Reports

Brandon Urban Aboriginal People’s Council (BUPAC)

Trustee Bowslaugh provided a brief update on the Brandon Urban Aboriginal People’s Council and asked about the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee. Mr. Gustafson asked if it is the Committee’s desire to provide an overview of the purpose of the following committees:

- Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee
- Aboriginal Steering Committee
- Brandon Urban Aboriginal People’s Council (BUPAC)

The Committee agreed that it would like an overview on the purpose of these groups

Brandon Community Drug and Alcohol Education Coalition – Defer

Friends of Education Committee – Meeting has been rescheduled for November 5, 2015

7. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

8. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, November 26, 2015, 10:00 a.m., Boardroom.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. Bambridge, Chair

P. Bartlette

G. Buri

P. Bowslaugh (Alternate)