Report of Senior Administration to the Board of Trustees

October 13, 2009

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A. Business Arising for Board Action

I. PRESENTATIONS

FROM INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Ms. Marsilah Peirson, Program Facilitator, Student Support Specialists

II. HUMAN RESOURCES

III. SECRETARY-TREASURER

1. TENDER FOR CARGO VAN

For Action ..... K. Zabowski

That the sole Tender of Murray Chev Cadillac in the amount of $25,799 (plus applicable taxes) for a new 2010 Chevrolet Express Cargo Van in accordance with general conditions and specifications and trade-in, be accepted.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

V. SENIOR ADMINISTRATION RESPONSE TO TRUSTEE INQUIRIES

1. TRUSTEE INQUIRY – SAFETY FOR MINORITY GROUPS – TRUSTEE MAYES

For Information ..... D. Michaels

At the August 24, 2009 Regular Board Meeting, Trustee Mayes inquired about the issue of safety in the increasingly diverse schools for various minority groups including race, religion and sexual orientation. Senior Administration was asked to provide a report on this matter.

The inquiry was discussed with the Senior High School Principals and Vice-Principals. The responses stated that there are few safety issues related to the diversity of cultures in the high schools. When problems emerge they are addressed by teachers, counsellors, school administration. Overall, the diversity of peoples within the schools is well respected in safe and secure environments.

B. Administrative Information

I. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. PERSONNEL REPORT

For Information ..... B. Switzer

Included in the agenda package as Confidential #1 is the Personnel Report, a listing of resignations and employment approved by the Superintendent of Schools and Secretary-Treasurer since the last meeting.

II. SECRETARY-TREASURER

III. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

1. SCHOOL INFORMATION

For Information ..... D. Michaels

A. SUSPENSIONS

SCHOOL	NO./STUDENTS	NO./DAYS	REASON
Crocus Plains	16	3, 3.5, 5, 10, 30	Assaultive, Drug and Alcohol, Unacceptable
Neelin	2	5	Unacceptable Behaviour
Vincent Massey	1	5	Unacceptable Behaviour

B. SCHOOL MATTERS

Since the last Board of Trustees meeting I have visited New Era, Linden Lanes and J.R. Reid Schools. Each School was operating very well with a clear focus on student engagement in learning. This was evidenced in classrooms and throughout the school.

School Development Plans (K-12) are in the process of being finalized for 2009/2010. Several Schools have prepared two to three year development plans. The focus of the School Development Plans is the continual growth of students and improvement in their achievement. Active and full engagement of students in learning is essential to their achievement.

2. DIVISIONAL INITIATIVES

For Information ..... D. Michaels

HIGH ABILITY LEARNER ENRICHMENT PROGRAMMING (HALEP) STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING – SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

The initial HALEP Steering Committee meeting for 2009/2010 was held on September 23, 2009. The meeting began with a review of year one's implementation progress and accomplishments. Kathy Brigden addressed this progress with reference to the initial assessment processes, appropriate educational programming strategies, and ongoing student assessment processes. This progress provides a very good foundation for our work this year in furthering initial assessment/identification processes together with programming that enables students to explore learning opportunities beyond the classroom in the community.

Bob Lee and Bruce Shamray spoke to the HALEP teachers' professional development and learning plans and activities. The continued focus of the teachers' work/professional development is on differentiation of instruction and assessment. The teachers are very active in learning about different models of programming for high ability learners. Students are being involved in many engaging activities.

Five HALEP teachers attended the Confratute Conference, July 2009, sponsored by the Renzulli Institute on Gifted and Talented Education. These teachers have indicated that they found this Institute to be of considerable value. They indicated that the emphasis on gifted and talented education as school-wide enrichment was very beneficial. Most recent and prevalent research on gifted and talented addresses the importance of such programming to enable the talents, abilities of all students to be identified and addressed.

A report from the Confratute 2009 Conference will be made by the participant teachers to the Board of Trustees at the regular Board meeting on November 23, 2009.

The next HALEP Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for November 30, 2009.

SENIOR HIGH ACCESS COMMITTEE MEETING – SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

The first regular meeting of the Senior High Access Committee (SHAC) was held on September 25, 2009. In attendance were the senior high principals and vice-principals, superintendent, association superintendent. The following is a summary of the meeting's deliberations:

Senior High Review

Further discussion was held on this matter. At the September 1, 2009 SHAC seminar we established parameters. To achieve these parameters and the Board's direction in this area, three major initiatives are underway:

a. student engagement survey through participation in the Canadian Education Association;
b. current course/program summary
c. identification of models for senior high education; organization and use of time; program/course offerings.

Reports will be brought forward on a regular basis during the school year.

Management Items

The following items were discussed:

a. Trustee requires for information re: safety issues for the minority groups in senior high school.
b. Building Community Project – initiated by Vincent Massey High School to work with respective feeder schools.
c. Brandon University proposal (Faculty of Science) re: Mme. Marie Curie living history presentation.
d. Programming for extremely high risk (multi-agency) students and protocols to be followed for admission.
e. Implementation of BRHA Teen Clinic and review of proposed brochure.
f. Information from Mr. Trevor Chambers, inspirational speaker.
g. Implementation problems with SIRS and need for coordination of technological and educational services.
h. Implementation of grades 11 and 12 physical education.
i. New grade 9 orientation procedures proposal.
j. Suspension of students – protocols for return.
k. AFM services – none at Vincent Massey High School and Neelin High School.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2009 re:

- Senior High Review
- Grade 12 ELA and Math (2008/2009) Student Achievement Results

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING – OCTOBER 5, 2009

The initial meeting of the Strategic Leadership Council (SLC) was held on October 5, 2009. In attendance were school principals and vice-principals, specialists, senior administration.

The purpose of the SLC meetings is to consider matters of draft policies and procedures in review prior to further consideration by the senior administration for recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

The focus of this meeting was the draft policy on literacy. Three questions related to: required changes in the presentation of the concepts; ramifications arising from the direction of the concepts, and required fundamental programming in each K-12 classroom.

This feedback was very instructive and will be incorporated into the next draft.

Updates were provided on the school-based feedback received for the proposed policy on "Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting of Students Learning"; the development of procedures for the proposed equity policy and review of policies in progress.

UPDATES ON IMPLEMENTATION OF SINGLE TRACK FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM: MEETINGS FOR PARENTS AND STAFF OF HARRISON, GEORGE FITTON AND GREEN ACRES SCHOOLS; AND ÉCOLE NEW ERA SCHOOL AND ÉCOLE O'KELLY SCHOOL

Since the last meeting of the Single Track French Immersion Steering Committee on September 23, 2009, the Committee has focused its work on meetings with staff and parents of affected schools. The following meetings have occurred:

- Meeting for staff of George Fitton, Green Acres, and Harrison Schools (September 29, 2009)
- Meeting for staff of École New Era School (October 1, 2009)
- Meeting for parents of George Fitton, Green Acres, Harrison Schools (September 30, 2009)
- Meeting for parents of French Immersion students at École New Era and École O'Kelly Schools (October 6, 2009)

Summaries of the meetings are attached as Appendix A.

Upon completion of this first series of fall meetings a complete list of questions and answers will be posted on the Brandon School Division website. This will include questions posed in correspondence and in public presentations made to the Board of Trustees.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled for October 7, 2009.

3. COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

For Information ..... D. Michaels

ENTERPRISE DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM – SEPTEMBER 28, 2009

Brandon School Division and Xerox Canada were pleased to host this year's symposium to foster learning among organizations intent on improving efficiencies in managing information, records and decision making. This symposium is unique in that all attendees had the valuable opportunity to learn from their peers. The presenters were from a variety of organizations who have already implemented various document management strategies aimed at forming solutions for critical objectives and applications.

The goals of the symposium were to:

- profile actual practices on the implementation of electronic document management solutions;
- engage users in sharing implementation strategies that lead them to successfully expand their network of contacts;
- build a community of practice for ongoing inter-organizational support; and
- build the Vision and provide a forum for reviewing new technologies (scanning and workflow).

Diane Fontaine, Mathematics teacher at Neelin High School and Chair of the DocuShare Steering Committee, and Cathy McLaren, Technology in Learning Specialist, made a presentation at the Manitoba Symposium on Brandon School Division's partnership with Xerox in implementing a document management system. They emphasized the focus on instruction in the Division's use of DocuShare, and recounted the processes and protocols associated with bringing document management support services to teachers, while planning for eventual expansion to administrative use. They discussed the benefits of document management for professional learning and for differentiating instruction, as well as the vision for the use of DocuShare as a business tool in Brandon School Division. The audience, which included representatives from business and educational institutions, warmly received their presentation.

COMMUNITY DRUG AND ALCOHOL EDUCATION COALITION MEETING – SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

Present:

Addictions Foundation of Manitoba	Shirley Kendzierski
	Julie Hockley
Assiniboine Community College	Caley Strachan
Brandon Ministerial Association	Reverend Paul Sakasov
Brandon Police Service	Chief Keith Atkinson
	Inspector Ian Grant
Brandon Regional Health Authority	Susan Hunter

Brandon School Division	Dr. Donna Michaels
	Trustee Bea Jolly
	Terry Osiowy
	Mathew Gustafson
	Michael Adamski
	Craig Laluk
Brandon University	Karen Doty -Sweetnam
City of Brandon	Mayor Dave Burgess

Regrets:

Brandon Chamber of Commerce	Nathan Peto
Brandon Friendship Centre	Gail Cullen
Brandon School Division	Greg Malazdrewicz
	Stephane Touzin
	Chad Cobbe
CFB Shilo	Corrie Syganiec
Child and Adolescent Treatment Centre	Jill Brown
	Liz McLeod
Child and Family Services	Art Asham
City Recreation Department	Cora Lee Baker
Family Services and Housing	Kathy Wightman
Probation Services	Carlson Onischuk
Teen Challenge	Reverend Jim Paulson
	Ron Yacuik

Welcome and Agenda Review

Dr. Michaels welcomed everyone to the meeting. Regrets were communicated from other members unable to attend. Caley Strachan, Assiniboine Community College and Chad Cobbe, Principal Harrison Middle School, Brandon School Division were welcomed to the Coalition.

Review of Coalition Meeting of Thursday, June 17, 2009

T. Osiowy reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting.

Student Gambling Report Presentation – Jackie Lemaire, Addictions Foundation of Manitoba

Jackie Lemaire presented on a student gambling report from Addictions Foundation of Manitoba. Key points of her presentation included:

- survey started in 1990's when counselors were in the schools – schools with counselors were the only ones that participated;
- last 5 years have surveyed random schools to get a provincial snapshot;
- grade 7 and 8 students were the key age groups;

- questions were asked in a wide variety of categories including: drugs, alcohol, parental monitoring, student attitudes, etc.; and
- Jackie shared the results of the survey for 2007.

Mr. Adamski agreed that cannabis use increases the end of grade 10 and into grade 11.

How is the information gathered shared with students? Jackie said that copies of the results were sent to superintendents and partnering principals with an offer for AFM to present information to the students. There were no resources for AFM to become involved with schools.

For the schools that have school based staff, the information is passed on more directly to students.

Right now there is one AFM Prevention Education Consultant, for the Western Region.

Jackie agreed to be a resource contact for our Education Coordinator when hired.

It was noted that Police Officers have had more training to recognize drug/driving situations.

Student Gambling Report

Jackie reviewed the Student Gambling Report Summary, as well as a summary report entitled Manitoban Students Report More Gambling Via Internet and Computer/Video Games.

Jackie explained internet gambling more in depth.

It was asked if the survey was clear that the gambling was for real money. Jackie said it asked "how often do you bet money on the following activities…".

Drug Strategy Community Initiative Fund

Dr. Michaels reviewed with Committee the report that had gone to the Board of Trustees stating that Health Canada has increased our grant amount to $174,000 to end March 31, 2012.

Update: Hiring of Drug and Alcohol Education Coordinator

Terry Osiowy reported that two rounds of interviews have been completed. A candidate was selected and recommended but declined the offer.

Terry Osiowy, Mathew Gustafson, Greg Malazdrewicz, and Dr. Michaels met to discuss restructuring the position – a large part of the position is presenting/speaking to students

and curriculum delivery coordination. The positions was changed and reposted as an Education Coordinator with different qualifications.

Mr. Osiowy said he has four or five new applications to review. By mid October the Hiring Committee would like to be able to put forth a recommendation.

Partner Updates

Addictions Foundation of Manitoba

- going through challenging times fiscally;
- recruiting staff for Massey/Neelin position;
- working on preventions framework – focus on harm reduction; and
- AFM wants to make sure that people's needs are met at whatever level they are at with addictions.

Brandon School Division Schools –

High Schools

- Crocus Plains
  - impression of building: amazing facility, amazing group of students – friendly, accepting, no large groups (students blend together) and staff are very student focused – recognize student challenges;
  - a lot of work is being done to support students;
  - there are a lot of struggling students and at risk kids; and
  - very busy start up – one suspension for possible trafficking in school, a few assault suspensions, and insubordination suspensions for use of cell phones.

- Neelin
  - pretty good start to school year;
  - one third turnover in Neelin staff this year including new Vice Principal and Principal;
  - had no suspensions related to drugs and alcohol but have had a few on insubordination;
  - have noticed a reduction in tobacco use in the school; and
  - good start and hope trend continues.

- Neelin Off Campus
  - Neelin Off Campus are in their third year;
  - Mr. Adamski explained what the Off Campus is – over 220 students registered this year to date;
  - students can obtain either their regular or mature student diploma;
  - four teachers assigned to Off Site Campus; and
  - there will be an Open House early October – everyone is welcome to attend.

- Vincent Massey
  - quiet start up – re: student discipline there has been only one suspension;
  - Mr. Gustafson sees a need for student support – spike in high needs of students; and
  - Overall very good start up.

Elementary Schools

- New Era
  - smooth start up;
  - increase of student population for EAL;
  - implementing change of single track French Immersion to Harrison next year;
  - EAL population has doubled; and
  - no suspensions yet this year.

- Harrison – no report

Student Support Services – no report

Board of Trustees

- three new high school principals this year;
- enrollment is up due to EAL students – estimated to get approximately 400 EAL student next year;
- Board has directed that BSD staff work toward 80% of children reading at Grade 3 level by the end of Grade 3;
- welcomed Teen Clinic in the schools;
- looking to possibly use Off Campus to assist at risk students in middle years; and
- the School Division/Parent Liaison Committee will be holding a Parent Conference on October 17 at Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School; there is no fee to attend and everyone is welcome.

Senior Administration

- nine percent of enrolment numbers this year are EAL students.

Brandon Regional Health Authority (BRHA)

- very busy with Pandemic Planning;
- on October 15 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Royal Oak Inn, BRHA will be holding a forum on Pandemic Preparedness;
- hired for new Health Promotion positions – have additional space in the Town Centre;
- in the process of writing Community Health Assessment – pulls together information from Community members; the Child Health Atlas will be part of this; and
- Teen Health Clinics will be implemented in October.

Child and Adolescent Treatment Centre – no report

Child and Family Services – no report

Brandon Police Service

- drug trafficking, impaired driving and common assault charges are up;
- fight club was discovered – three students were seriously injured. Chief Keith Atkinson thanked the School Division for their assistance with this. The message sent out to parents was good; and
- vandalism has increased starting in August. Parents need to start asking more questions of their children.

City of Brandon

- proper education was put out on the fight club to get a positive outcome;
- 1800 – 2000 new citizens will be coming to Brandon over the next 12 to 18 months; and
- housing is and will be a bit of a stress. The city is working with different levels of Government to get more support.

Brandon Ministerial Association

- there has been a large demographic change in denominations.

Teen Challenge – no report

Probation Services – no report

Brandon Chamber of Commerce – no report

Family Services and Housing – no report

CFB Shilo – no report

City Recreation Department – no report

Brandon Friendship Centre – no report

Brandon University

- Dr. Deborah Poff is the new President of Brandon University

Assiniboine Community College

- in the process of moving from Victoria Avenue to the North hill;
- hiring a new President; and
- ACC is very focused on school and employment and not really other issues at this time.

<u>Next Meeting Date</u>

Tuesday, December 8, 2009, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

For Information ..... D. Michaels

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM
HONOURABLE PETER BJORNSON, MINISTER OF EDUCATION, CITIZENSHIP AND YOUTH

The following correspondence has been received from Honourable Peter Bjornson, Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth:

> *I am writing to provide you with information regarding legislation that will be coming into effect later this fall with direct implications for Manitoba school divisions. This is further to correspondence you would have received in March 2009 from David Yeo, Director of Education Administration Services Branch.*
>
> *In spring 2008, Bill 232 (Anaphylaxis Policies), a Private Member's Bill, was introduced in the Manitoba Legislature. It was subsequently given Royal Assent, but not proclaimed, on October 9, 2008. While school divisions routinely address a number of student health care conditions through the Unified Referral and Intake System (URIS) and have, since 2004, been required to have policies around anaphylaxis which are consistent with the policy framework outlined in the URIS manual, the purpose of the Bill was to formalize the obligation of a school board to develop an anaphylaxis policy to meet the needs of pupils who have serious allergies.*
>
> *I am writing to inform you that the proclamation date for Bill 232 has been set for November 1, 2009 at which time all school divisions will be required to have anaphylaxis policies in place. Though this new legislation simply formalizes the policies and practices that school divisions have had in place for many years, it may present a good opportunity to revisit your anaphylaxis policies to ensure consistency with the framework outlined in the URIS policy manual.*
>
> *I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for the work done to ensure that schools have policies to protect students with life-threatening allergies.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Donna M. Michaels,
Superintendent of Schools/CEO

Date: October 6, 2009

Re: Updates on Implementation of Single Track French Immersion Meetings for Parents and Staff of Harrison, George Fitton and Green Acres Schools; and École New Era School and École O'Kelly School.

The purpose of this report is to summarize key matters that were raised by both staff and parents respectively at meetings held this past week. At each meeting the implementation plan was reviewed in detail, followed by a period of discussion, questions, and answers. The following is a summary of the respective meetings.

I Meeting with Staff of Harrison, George Fitton and Green Acres Schools

1. Communication

- Concern expressed that prior consultation did not occur regarding the possibility of changes in Harrison, George Fitton and Green Acres schools.
- Some concerns/innuendoes that French Immersion teachers were being treated better than they were regarding communication.
- Appreciation expressed for publication of regular bulletins.

2. Establishment of Enrolment for Single Track French Immersion School

- Much concern over perceived lack of planning in determining what numbers will actually constitute single track school.
- Similar concerns for registration process to be held end of October (too fast and too uncertain an outcome).
- Concern about the impact of single track school on the identity and future operations of three other schools (lack of equity and fairness for all expressed).

3. Establishment of New School Configurations

- Much concern with what appears to be lack of planning for projected enrollments and catchment areas.
- Similar concern for implementing timelines (seen as too fast and too quick), too much change too fast.
- Expression of concern from some CUPE staff members regarding costs of relocations and questions as to whether this would cost CUPE jobs.

4. Preparation of Schools' Instructional Plans; and
5. Reassignment of Staff

- Concerns regarding future placement of LAC and SSP classes.
- Much concern expressed about the loss of Harrison School identity and all of the good programming that is happening for high risk students.

6. School Facility Restructuring

- Many concerns expressed regarding the redistribution of resources eg: Would there be proper desks and chairs? Would there be SmartBoards available? Would there be computers available?
- What will happen to Industrial Arts and Band programs if they remain at Harrison School and English speaking students are in the building? The purpose of the single track school is defeated. Then what is the purpose of all of this?
- Concerns regarding timing with roof repairs at Green Acres School and movement of students, staff, equipment, and supplies.
- Many, many concerns regarding inadequacy and lack of safety in gymnasium at George Fitton and Green Acres Schools.
- Concern, too, with inability to provide proper physical education program without suitable gymnasium.
- Many concerns expressed regarding timelines regarding building of gymnasium at George Fitton (three to five years is too long to wait.)

Overall concern with change process being put upon the staff without prior notice or adequate consultation.

As Senior Administration we addressed each of these concerns. However, they will continue to exist as the process moves forward until all is completed to staffs' satisfaction. The overall atmosphere was very respectful and professional with intense emotions on the part of some staff members being managed very well.

II Meeting with Parents of Harrison, George Fitton and Green Acres Schools

Trustees Ross, Karnes, Murray were in attendance at the parent meeting.

1. Communication

- Very dismayed about how decision was made without consultation with parents and staff and that it was read about in the newspaper. This is interpreted by some as a lack of respect for them.
- Concerns expressed that there is a separate meeting with parents of French Immersion students (rationale explained regarding focus of meeting is French Immersion programming; assurance given that everyone is welcome to attend).
- "Seems like we're being railroaded; don't need any more French Immersion and we don't know numbers yet" (situation of overcrowding at New Era explained by Senior Administration).
- Concerns expressed that this meeting should have been held last year so the Board could hear how parents felt.
- Concerns regarding lack of due process; and "this looks like the Board pushed through the single track decision to appease a few parents".
- "Lack of communication from the Board is at the heart of our emotions and anger".
- Concerns expressed regarding obtaining consistent information from Committee (posting of progress bulletins explained together with information provided by school principals).
- Concern and anger about absence of Board consultation with Harrison, George Fitton, Green Acres Schools and with Superintendent's response to such.

2. Establishment of Enrolment for Single Track French Immersion School; and
3. Establishment of New School Configurations

- "The cart is being put before the horse" – with no known numbers how can planning be done; concern regarding soft registration numbers for single track.
- What will happen if two dual track schools are needed instead of one single track?
- What is the minimum number of students to determine a single track French Immersion school?
- Concerns expressed regarding lack of planning as short-sighted and irresponsible.
- Prior consultation indicated only 48% interested in single track. That means majority or 52% not interested. Why is the Board not listening to the majority? Was there a purpose to the consultations?
- Concerns expressed about destruction of three schools to fix one problem at New Era.
- Idea of adding on to New Era raised and addressed by Senior Administration.
- Suggestion that Shilo be used as single track school and questioned whether Shilo students would be allowed to attend French Immersion. (Senior Administration answered both questions).

4. Preparation of Schools' Instructional Plans; and
5. Reassignment of Staff

- Concerns expressed about scheduling challenges for Band, Physical Education and Home Economics, especially if Harrison gymnasium will need to be used.
- Concerns about relocation of LAC classes.
- How many teachers would have to be added to George Fitton? (Five to George Fitton and two to Green Acres, approximately).
- Concerns that middle years teachers who are currently subject specialists may not have qualifications to teach other subjects (Senior Administration explained teacher certification

and meaning of a K-12 Certificate and Director of Human Resources explained staffing process).

6. School Facility Restructuring

- Gymnasiums at George Fitton and Green Acres are too small for some areas of the program; safety concerns expressed.
- Concerns expressed regarding availability of lockers for Grade 7 and 8 students at George Fitton and Green Acres.
- Serious concerns expressed for length of time (3 to 5 years) it will take to get new gymnasium at George Fitton together with renovations for more space.
- Concerns expressed regarding playground equipment and the need to fundraise for a new one and lack of clarity regarding boundaries between the two schools.
- Concerns expressed regarding lack of classroom space at George Fitton and Green Acres for returning students.
- Worry that a look at catchment areas may necessitate current Harrison students going back to home schools other than George Fitton and Green Acres.
- Several concerns expressed regarding small gym sizes at George Fitton and Green Acres.
- Concerns regarding library technology – Will it remain? (Principal assurance that it would).
- "We envision portables, insufficient gymnasiums, insufficient classrooms and playground graffiti." (Senior Administration gave assurances that George Fitton and Green Acres would be treated as fairly as other schools in the Division).
- Concerns regarding lack of appropriate washrooms for increased number of students at Green Acres (Senior Administration explained more washrooms would be added).
- Concerns regarding heights of water fountains – will need to be made bigger.

In closing, we thanked the parents very much for coming out and assured all comments would be accurately recorded and answers would be posted to the Division webpage. I commented about April consultations and noted that initially it was thought that there might not be any impact on schools in this area. Parents were assured further meetings would take place in February as planned with ongoing communications between now and then.

III. Meeting with Staff of École New Era School

1. Communication

- Questions posed regarding the information to be provided to parents from MECY Consultant.
- Would the BSSAP (Building Student Success with Aboriginal Parents) initiative be able to go to the single track school?

2. Establishment of Enrolment for Single Track French Immersion School

Questions posed as to timelines of establishing school re:

- Is it doable for September 2010? (Plan provides for such)
- Can registrations be done after staffing decision so that parents can have a selection in teachers (this is not possible due to staffing policies and timelines)
- How many students are expected to enroll for single track school? (approximately 125-150)
- What happens if there are not enough students for single track school? (Senior Administration will study registration numbers and make recommendations to the Board re: possible alternatives)
- Question posed related to the kindergarten registrations

3. Establishment of New School Configurations

- Are other configurations possible that do not require the movement of students from Harrison School to avoid ill-will and possible harassment of French Immersion students who come to Harrison? (Due to the over-enrolment of students at New Era Board has decided to relocate some students; providing a choice of single or dual track environment for French Immersion students. Out of options possible Harrison School has the most accommodation possibilities. It is located in a safe, respectful neighbourhood/area and harassment of French Immersion students by others is not considered to be an issue.)
- What can we say about the two tracks re: which is better/recommended to other parents? Friends?

4. Preparation of Schools' Instructional Plans; and
5. Reassignment of Staff

- Concerns expressed about current staff having to apply for positions in single track FI school. "Having to compete with other staff members not good."

6. School Facility Restructuring

- Several concerns expressed regarding the distribution of resources; availability of technology (SmartBoards and computers)
- What will happen to Industrial Arts and Band programs if they remain at Harrison?
- Concerns regarding timing of physical moves and if staff will be given the time to do so; inventories need to be done
- Questions related to the costing of the initiative (explained that required funds to be incorporated into the recommendation for 2010/2011 operating budget)
- Would it be possible to have "Before and After" school program in French at single track school?

IV. Meeting with Parents of École New Era School and École O'Kelly School

Trustees Coey, Karnes, and Murray were in attendance at the parent meeting.

1. Communication

- Can parents visit Harrison School?
- George Fitton parents told two years ago – new playground needed.
- Initially French Milieu; now referenced as Single Track – why?
- How are O'Kelly students impacted?
- Do we have the demand for the move of FI students to a dual track? Why wasn't there a survey?
- How do you see the interaction of parents in STFI?
- Very pleased with New Era and staff
- Thanks to all for time and energy
- Earlier presentation from French Consultant would have been more helpful
- Outstanding service at New Era
- The reality presented to us last spring – FI outgrown its building; leadership you were asked to deliver was interfered with by fear. "Politics have taken over the logic; courage not applied; could have had the English students moved out"

2. Establishment of Enrolment for Single Track French Immersion School

- Very different parental decision; want to make sure support is there for children; "my children don't want to leave New Era"
- "You're asking us to enroll our children now but full decisions not made until June. What happens if we change our mind and want to come back to New Era?"
- Registration is more of a survey; we may not get the choice we want (re: single track)
- What are the numbers needed for various grades? Configurations?

3. Establishment of New School Configurations

- Thanks to the Board for the hard work in making this possible
- Is there a risk to fracturing the current robust program at New Era?
- Do we have the resources to make this change?
- What is the contingency plan if the STFI school is over-subscribed?
- What happens if there is not enough for STFI? Who leaves New Era in dual track scenario?
- If my child (currently in FI dual track) flounders in single track, can he go back to dual track?
- Could the single track be grades 6-8?
- Why utilize Harrison when we (parents) had no input?
- What happens to expected over-crowding at Harrison in four years?
- Was it proposed that New Era be added onto?
- Can single track be capped?
- Will my children be provided transportation to single track at Harrison from "core" Brandon?

4. Preparation of Schools' Instructional Plans; and
5. Reassignment of Staff

- Will bilingual substitute teachers be recruited?
- Will band, music, industrial arts staff be bilingual?
- Current reality for single track – needs to be communicated
- Can Harrison be a truly single track school with industrial arts, music in English?
- Are there enough French teachers to staff two schools?
- Will there be split-grade classes if one of the two schools has a lower enrolment?

6. **<u>School Facility Restructuring</u>**
   - Concern re: availability of resources for library, music, band; extra curricular; playground equipment (at Harrison for single track) (new playground at New Era)

In conclusion, overall the meetings went well within the two hours provided. They were generally respectful with consideration shown for others. Issues expressed were at times very intense.

Each of the parent meetings was recorded. For your information, a detailed summary of questions and answers posed at the meetings will be available shortly on the BSD website.

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