



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

Education Committee Minutes

Wednesday, December 3, 2014 2:00 p.m.

Board Room, Administration Office

Present: P. Bartlette (Chairperson), S. Bambridge, G. Kruck, P. Bowslaugh (alternate) Dr. D. Michaels, Superintendent

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Education Committee Meeting was called to order at 2:09 p.m. by Chair Trustee Bartlette.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Kruck added three items from the last meeting that are to be added to the agenda and left on the agenda.

The topic of multi-age classrooms was added to the agenda (note was made that there would be a presentation in January re: Multi-Age Classrooms).

The agenda was approved as amended.

3. PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

The Committee minutes from November 12, 2014, were received as information.

4. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

5. STRATEGIC WORK IN ACADEMIC PRESENTATION – Joanna Ford, EAL (English as an Additional Language) Specialist

Ms. Ford's focus was on grades K-8, where EAL students are best served in classrooms with peers. Servicing them in a co-teaching classroom is being addressed. Stage 1 students (beginners) need to have "pull-out" at times as they have little to no English. There are no hard and fast guidelines provincially regarding the EAL report card – one has been developed at Brandon School Division. This report card clarifies 4 components:

- 1) Linguistic Competency
- 2) Contextual Application
- 3) Strategies
- 4) Intercultural Competency – social studies curriculum

Children learn differently and this depends on their past learning.

Translators are used by the Division for communication as it can take one to three years for conversational English and five to seven years for academic proficiency.

Curriculum tools and the continuum documents were distributed and reviewed, as well as the Teacher Appendix.

Trustee Bambridge asked if there are EAL teachers in schools.

Ms. Ford responded that significant cuts have taken place, and she thought it was 4 – 4.5 teachers total.

Dr. Michaels noted that reductions are made as far from the classrooms as possible. Principals would change allocations outside the classrooms, and although teaching positions were initially reduced by 11, four temporary classroom teaching positions were brought back. Trustee Kruck asked as to how many EAL teaching positions were reduced. Dr. Michaels advised that approximately a total of four throughout the Division.

Trustee Bambridge asked if the Division has designated EAL Education Assistants.

Dr. Michaels responded that there are not specifically designated EAL EA's – most are in the General and Lifeskills category.

Trustee Bambridge asked questions for clarification regarding the EAL intake centre.

Ms. Ford noted the Teacher EAL Appendix and Co-Teaching folder are available on the Brandon School Division Portal.

6. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

2015 Recognition and Awards Programs – MSBA

Discussion was held and this matter will go In-Camera as an item at the January 12, 2015, Board Meeting.

7. BRIEFINGS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION

No briefings included.

8. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

9. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, January 14, 2015, 1:30 p.m., Boardroom.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Bartlette, Chair

G. Kruck

S. Bambridge

P. Bowslaugh (Alternate)