Education Committee Minutes

Thursday, January 12, 2012, 11:30 a.m.
Board Room, Administration Office

Present: P. Bartlette (Chairperson), D. Karnes, K. Sumner, Dr. D. Michaels.
Regrets: P. Bowslaugh
Guest: Dayle Hughson, Career Connections/

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Education Committee Meeting was called to order at 11:45 a.m. by the Chairperson, Trustee Bartlette.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as circulated.

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Committee received the Minutes of December 8, 2011 without comment.

4. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

A) Board Governance Goal Regarding Equity of Inclusion and Protection of Human Rights for Individual Differences

Discussions were held regarding how the Committee would implement this goal. It was agreed the Committee would need to discuss this matter over several meetings. Further discussions were held regarding the definition of "honour" as it relates to the Governance Goal. The Committee agreed they would like to meet with various groups as well as a representative of the Human Rights Commission regarding this matter. The Committee requested the matter be placed on the next agenda for further discussion and to determine the direction any consultations would take.

5. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

A) MSBA Convention - 2012

The Committee reviewed the list of suggestions for the MSBA Premier Award for School Innovation which had been discussed at the previous meeting. It was agreed the Committee would recommend the Neelin High School Off-Campus Program for the award. The Committee considered that the increasing student numbers; the diversity of the students attending the program; the verbal and political support received from the Minister of Education; and the fact the program services more than just the Brandon School Division area should be highlighted when proposing this program for the award. The Committee also requested the research conducted by Dr. Peter Morrisette be included when presenting the program at the MSBA Innovation Showcase.

Recommendation:
That the Neelin High School Off-Campus Program be nominated for the Manitoba School Boards Association 2012 Premier Award for School Board Innovation.

B) Manitoba Education – Strengthening Partnerships

Due to time constraints this matter was deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

C) Career Connections – Timed Event (11:30 a.m.)

The Chairperson noted that with the implementation of the Government's requirement that students remain in school until the age of 18, the Division needed to look at alternate ideas to keep students engaged. It was in this context that the Chairperson had invited Ms. Dayle Hughson, from Career Connections Inc. to attend the Education Committee and speak to the Committee about the services which could be provided by Career Connections.

Ms. Hughson spoke to the Committee about the Professional Vocational Assessment conducted by Career Connections. She noted the purpose of the assessment was to determine a person's strengths, interests, aptitudes and abilities as they relate to the choosing of a career or profession. She confirmed that by gathering pertinent information they can assist a person in making a vocational or educational plan. She provided a sample of a Vocational Assessment Report noting the range of assessments conducted. She confirmed pilot projects had been conducted in Southwest Horizon and Turtle Mountain School Divisions and provided statistical results for the pilot projects. Ms. Hughson concluded her presentation by providing the costs of the assessment. Trustees asked questions for clarification regarding funding; what qualifies as a disability; students the Division currently refers to Career Connections; the range of people who have been assessed through this program; and the work of the Division's student support services in this area. The Chairperson thanked Ms. Hughson for her presentation.

Ms. Hughson exited the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Trustees requested Senior Administration compare the assessment report provided by Career Connections with the assessment protocol followed by the Division.

6. BRIEFINGS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION

The document regarding *Equity, Social Justice and a Canadian Professional Development School* was received as information.

7. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

NIL

8. <u>NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, February 9, 2012, 11:30 a.m. Board Room.</u>

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Bartlette, Chair	P. Bowslaugh
D. Karnes	K. Sumner (Alternate)