



School Division/Parent Liaison Committee Minutes

Wednesday, June 9, 2010
Conference Room, Administration Office

Present: Brandon School Division:
B. Jolly, Dr. Michaels, S. Lehman
Parents:
Eva Cameron, Judy Sieb, Karen Colquhoun,
Joanne Paskewitz-Holder
Regrets: G. Barnes

1. WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

The School Division/Parent Liaison Committee Meeting was called to order by Bea Jolly, Trustee. The agenda was accepted as circulated.

2. REVIEW OF APRIL 21, 2010

Clarification was sought and given regarding elementary school minutes: teachers are required to discuss with principals and principals with school parent councils.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

i) Student Information Sessions (Grades 5-7)

To be scheduled in November.

ii) Healthy Schools Committee Representative

There are no parents able to attend the afternoon Healthy Schools meetings.

iii) Board Policy for Committee Operation Parent Council Feedback

In response to Trustee Bea Jolly's request for feedback, Eva Cameron, President Brandon Group Parent Council provided the following feedback:

Questions – How will the goals be achieved? Is this not already a Divisional mandate?

Who pick the parents? Criteria?

Answer – Clarification required as to how the nine parents selected from all the schools should be selected. Trustee Jolly advised that the nine representatives should be selected by parents – three per each of the three learning communities.

Ms. Cameron, Mrs. Colquhoun, Ms. Paskewitz-Holder advised that the parents should be selected by the Brandon Group Parent Council and names forwarded to the Board.

Dr. Michaels noted that this feedback would be forwarded to the Board's Futures and Community Relations Committee.

Ms. Cameron advised that some parents considered this process to be too much work. There are questions and concerns related to selection criteria; timeliness of meeting notification for; lack of equity for parent representation of; too many Trustees and not enough parents; needs to be "members at large" not just parents on Committee; need to continue workshops and sessions as in the past.

Trustee Jolly will take the responses/feedback to the Futures and Community Relations Committee for consideration in the final draft policy to be forwarded to the Board of Trustees.

See Appendix A for Brandon Group Parent Council feedback as presented.

4. NEW BUSINESS

i) Canadian Home and School Association

- a) Passed resolution to ban energy drinks from schools; lobbying Federal Minister of Health.
- b) Letter has been sent to Prime Minister of Canada lobbying for appointment of Minister of State for Children and Youth.

5. UPDATE REPORTS

i) Brandon Group Parent Council

No Report

ii) Board of Trustees

Trustee Jolly provided a detailed update on recent student and staff accomplishments and highlights on new program developments.

iii) Schools

S. Lehman, Principal, reported on the May 21, 2010 School Planning Day. Each school develops a School Development Plan congruent with Strategic directions – Quality Learning, Quality Teaching, and Quality Support Services.

He commented on the year end activities and the Divisional work being done on student assessment tools in the Quality Teaching Strategic Committee.

Teachers are focusing on completing the implementation of curricula. Proposed Policy 1001.2 regarding student achievement is considered to be a very good idea and necessary for our work with students.

iv) Senior Administration

Dr. Michaels, Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer provided an update report on Divisional work – teacher staffing; operational budget implementation; policy development work; and EAL enrolment.

6. WRAP UP AND ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Jolly adjourned the meeting, thanking everyone for their contribution.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: tba

Respectfully Submitted

B. Jolly, Trustee

Parent/Division Liaison Advisory Committee Parental Comments

1. Really different from what is currently on the website. (Brandon School Division)
2. How will the goals be achieved? Is this not a mandate for the Division already?
3. Who picks the parents to be on the Committee? What is the criteria?
4. Parent Councils would probably not submit a “nomination” to be on this committee. Parents are very busy and this would add more work for them – do up the nomination, submit it, etc.
5. Special Meetings – parents need to be called more than one week in advance (we are busy)
6. What happened to parents coming from Group Council?
7. If education is a “shared” responsibility, why are parents having to be nominated? The other committee members are not having to go through this process. It does not seem equitable/fair.
8. I think there are too many trustees and not enough parents. Also, the original government recommendation for these sorts of committees, asked that there be members at large on them ie, people without children in school. They felt that those members would not have personal agendas, axes to grind, etc. nor would they be worried about repercussions on their children because they took a stand.
9. Will workshops, presentations, etc. still happen? I enjoyed the ones that have been done in the past.