



# BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

## Education and Community Relations Committee Minutes

Monday, October 16, 2017 – 1:00 p.m.  
Boardroom, Administration Office

Present: G. Buri (Chair), P. Bartlette, P. Bowslaugh (arrived at 1:05 p.m.)  
M. Casavant

Guest: S. Bambridge (arrived at 1:31 p.m.)

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Education and Community Relations Committee Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Committee Chair Trustee Buri.

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as circulated.

### 3. PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

The Minutes of September 18, 2017 were received as information.

### 4. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

#### A) School Fees and Fundraising

Dr. Casavant, Superintendent/CEO, reviewed the Draft School Fees and Fundraising Administrative Procedure. He noted that for the School Fees section, two (2) options were provided for review by the Committee and will be presented at the November Divisional Leadership Team meeting to request Principal feedback.

Dr. Casavant indicated that he will be seeking feedback on the Draft School Fees and Fundraising Administrative Procedure from Principals, Senior Administration and the Committee before having it officially adopted by the Board.

Trustees asked questions for clarification regarding who would pay for field trips. Dr. Casavant responded that if the trip is part of the course curriculum, where grading would occur, the School Division should pay. If it is an external activity, the onus is on parents/guardians to pay. Dr. Casavant added that the number of trips covered by the school budget would need to be left to the Principals.

Budget considerations were discussed.

The Fundraising section of the Draft Administrative Procedure was reviewed by Dr. Casavant. He indicated that this information will be shared with Principals in November. The feedback received on the Draft School Fees and Fundraising Administrative Procedure and Middle Years Program Review will be provided to the Committee.

Trustee Buri asked questions for clarification on whether Senior Administration has looked at what other Divisions are doing. Dr. Casavant noted research was done regarding other School Divisions.

B) Middle Years Program Review

Dr. Casavant reviewed the Draft Middle Years Program Review presentation to be presented at the upcoming staff and public consultations. Table/chair setup and room layout was reviewed. Table discussion and note taking was discussed.

The Committee agreed that Trustee Buri, Committee Chair, would welcome the public, make introductions and explain the purpose of the consultation. It was decided that Senior Administration would present the PowerPoint to the public.

Next Steps were discussed and it was decided that the Committee will review the feedback from the consultations and look at a recommendation to the Board within the next two months.

Notification to parents/guardians/students/staff regarding the consultations was discussed. The following communication methods will be used:

- Divisional News Story on each school website
- Calendar entries on each school website
- Media Release – Wednesday, October 18, 2017
- Synervoice – email to parents/guardians – Wednesday, October 25, 2017
- Advertisement in Brandon Sun – Saturday, October 28, 2018
- Twitter and Social Media
- School Principals

C) Trustee Budget Requests

1) \$40,000 for Increased Anti-Bullying Initiatives

Trustees reviewed and discussed the Trustee Budget Request from Trustee Glen Kruck, which requested that \$40,000 be budgeted for increased Anti-Bullying Initiatives in response to the results of the last Tell Them From Me survey, which indicated that 34 – 36% of students do not feel safe in Division schools.

Trustees discussed this request and noted a lack of detail and focus regarding what to do with the funds requested. The Committee did not support this Trustee Budget Request.

**5. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS**

A) Parent/Guardian/Division Advisory Committee

Dr. Casavant spoke to this item and asked where the Committee would like to go with this sub-committee. The Committee discussed the upcoming Finance and Facilities Committee Stakeholder Meeting with the Parent/Guardian/Division Advisory Committee, scheduled for October 17, 2017.

The Committee decided to hold these meetings with the Parent/Guardian/Division Advisory Committee as part of their Board Engagement Meeting two (2) times per year. These meetings will take place in October and March.

B) Election Year – 2018

Dr. Casavant asked questions for clarification regarding new Trustee induction into the Division.

Trustee Bartlette responded that there are Trustee training sessions provided through the Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA). Bambridge suggested an informational evening for potential candidates regarding what is involved in being a School Board Trustee, including what is a Trustee, what do they do, and the time commitment involved.

Dr. Casavant will contact Janis Arnold of MSBA regarding the Division needing her services prior to and after next year's election.

C) Lunch with High School Students in January

The Committee discussed speaking with high school students and requesting their feedback on curriculum. It was decided that a date mid-February will be chosen and that the student groups from all three high schools will meet at the same time. The Committee will request that 6-8 students from grades 11 and 12 attend from each high school.

D) Update on Curriculum for 2017-2018 in January

Dr. Casavant requested to bring a specialist in to present to the Committee in January regarding the English Language Arts and French Immersion curriculums. The Committee agreed to this request.

E) Research Proposal – Students Teaching Students: Introductory Coding using Scratch (Dr. Michael Nantais, Brandon University)

Dr. Casavant reviewed the Brandon School Division Research Advisory Committee memorandum to the Education and Community Relations Committee. Dr. Nantais' research study is focused on examination of attitudes and engagement of high school and middle school students in relation to computer science courses (coding). This research will investigate the effects of having high school students teach middle school students how to code using Scratch computer language.

Trustees asked questions for clarification. The Education and Community Relations Committee supported the recommendation to approve the research.

**Recommendation:**

That the Board approve the research request from Dr. Michael Nantais, Brandon University, for the study entitled "Students Teaching Students: Introductory Coding Using Scratch".

**6. OPERATIONS INFORMATION**

**7. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, November 20, 2017, 1:00 p.m., Boardroom**

The meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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G. Buri, Chair

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P. Bartlette

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P. Bowslaugh

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K. Sumner (Alternate)