



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

Finance and Facilities Committee Minutes

Monday, December 14, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.
Boardroom, Administration Office

Present: S. Bambridge C. Ekenna
K. Fallis B. Foley
J. Gobeil D. Kejick
L. Letain J. Murray

Also Present: D. Labossiere M. Casavant
M. Gustafson E. McFadzen

Regrets: L. Ross

1. COMMITTEE ITEMS

A. Stakeholder Meetings/Budget Feedback

The Committee received as information the meeting minutes and Budget Feedback from the stakeholder groups, which included Brandon Teachers' Association (BTA), CUPE Local 737 and the Brandon Chamber of Commerce.

Discussions took place regarding French Immersion recruitment and the current shortage of teachers. Trustee Ekenna asked if there are any Divisional goals to recruit a diverse percentage of teachers/employees into the active pool. Dr. Casavant responded that the Division does not have a statement around its Human Resource practice regarding employment equity/representative workforce.

The Committee agreed to bring this matter forward to an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting.

B. Trustee Budget Request

The Committee reviewed Trustee Murray's Budget Request for the addition of eight (8) new school counsellors and the addition of \$1.2 Million for school nutrition programs. The Board discussed the requested items and asked questions for clarification regarding whether school nutrition is still available in the schools.

Ms. Elaine McFadzen, Assistant Superintendent, responded that the nutrition program Food for Thought is still fully in effect in 18 schools, with Maryland Park School being added in January. Schools may offer a breakfast or snack program. The Board of Trustees' staffing allocations for the Breakfast Program (3.0 hours at École New Era School) and the staffing allocation for the Food for Thought programs (2.0 hours each at Betty Gibson, George Fitton, King George, and Meadows Schools) is still in place.

Ms. McFadzen added that the Families Minister established a \$2.5 Million Home Nutrition and Learning Pilot Project (Breakfast Box) that provides breakfast to school-aged children. The Samaritan House in Brandon was included in this pilot which was to run from early July to the end of September. This project was later extended to the end of November and as of December 14, 2020 the Home Nutrition and

Learning Program has been extended to March 2021. Schools have received support and resources from a number of sources including grants, donations and through fundraising:

- Child Nutrition Council Grant
- Breakfast Clubs of Canada Grant
- Community Schools Grant
- President's Choice Children's Charity

Trustee Letain asked if conversations have occurred with staff, to find out whether student needs are being met. Ms. McFadzen indicated that there has been no notification from School Counsellors that needs are not being met.

Trustee Bambridge asked if there are less food programs currently or a reduction due to COVID-19. Ms. McFadzen responded that the programs are the same as pre-COVID-19.

Trustee Murray's request for the addition of eight (8) School Counsellors was discussed. Trustee Bambridge asked if School Counsellors are being moved to classroom teaching positions.

The Superintendent/CEO responded that yes, the School Counsellors are being moved to teaching positions as schools have had to split classrooms/programs to reduce class sizes, which means more teachers are needed.

Ms. McFadzen provided the following information regarding Counsellors and Social Workers:

School Counsellors:

- 18.275 FTE in counselling support in BSD
- 6.875 FTE is at the high schools and 11.4 FTE is at K-8 schools
- Three schools do not have school counsellors
- Providing Tier II and some Tier III supports
- School leaders determine how much time they will allocate to counselling services in their school as part of their School Instructional Plan

Social Workers:

- 13.0 FTE in Social Worker support in Division schools
- 4.5 FTE is at the High School level and 8.5 FTE is at K-8 Schools
- Can be assigned to 1 to 3 schools within their cluster of schools
- Providing Tier III supports

Trustee Murray asked if there was information on the Social Worker caseloads. Ms. McFadzen indicated she did not have these numbers, as there is currently no mechanism in place to track them, but added that they would vary from employee to employee.

Trustee Fallis asked questions regarding Tier II and Tier III levels and who those students would go to for support.

Ms. McFadzen provided the following information on Social Emotional Supports in Schools:

- Tier I (school-based focus) i.e. Calm Connect, Zones of Regulation, Positive Behaviour Intervention 7 Support (PBIS), programs like Strong Kids, Beyond the Hurt, wellness events, etc.
- Tier II (more targeted interventions/programs) i.e. We Day, social skills training, anger management, trauma informed practices, etc.
- Tier III (student specific interventions/supports) i.e. clinical supports, community agency involvement: Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS), Child and Adolescent Treatment Centre (CATC), Children's Disability Services (CDS), Community Mobilization, Enhanced School-Based Mental Health and Addictions team, etc.

- The Youth Revolution projects within the school and in the community focus on emotional wellbeing, feeling connected and involved, relationships, and being part of a community. i.e. SPIN Gr. 9 Wellness Day. Middle Year Wellness Day, Bell Let's Talk, etc.
- BSD COVID-19 Bulletins were used to share information about community resources that are available.
- School counsellors and social workers work closely with students, families, and community agencies to provide the necessary resources and supports.

The Committee supported Trustee Murray's budget requests being included for discussion during Budget Deliberations.

C. Confirm Payments of Account (November)

The payments of account for the month of November were provided for information.

The reports were accepted as circulated.

D. Review Monthly Reports (October)

The Monthly Reports for the month of October were provided for information.

The reports were accepted as circulated.

Summary of Forecasted variances

The Secretary-Treasurer reviewed the Summary of Forecasted Variances for the 2020-2021 School year as of October 31, 2020. COVID-19 has impacted several revenue sources, specifically First Nations Students, International Students, fees for students from other divisions, vocational revenue and interest earned. The Division is waiting for confirmation of Provincial funding, which typically occurs in January.

COVID-19 has also resulted in several over-expenditures. The Secretary-Treasurer answered Trustee questions.

COVID-19 update:

The Secretary-Treasurer provided an update on additional COVID-19 Expenditures that have already been incurred or will be incurred going forward. Current incremental expenditures for COVID-19 is \$2.5M.

Trustees asked questions for clarification. Discussion took place regarding teacher workload, the current shortage of teachers, substitute teachers, and remote learning.

2. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

- The Secretary-Treasurer provided updates on the following:
 - Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School – Roof Replacement
 - Maryland Park School – Construction update
 - Vincent Massey High School and École Harrison – Lighting Retrofit Project
 - Vincent Massey High School – Exterior Panel Replacement
 - Outdoor Basketball Backstop Replacement Project
- The Secretary-Treasurer provided additional updates on the following:
 - Brandon Schools Instrumental Music Association (BSIMA)
 - Response to Trustee Ekenna's Inquiry – Grooming Rooms in Elementary Schools:
 - 11 (55%) schools currently have grooming rooms

- 9 (45%) schools do not have grooming rooms, of which 4 schools are on the 5 year capital priority list

NEXT MEETING: Monday, January 11, 2021, 6:00 p.m., Boardroom.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Ross