



# Education Committee Minutes

Monday, October 5, 2009 – 1:30 p.m.  
Conference Room Administration Office

Present: P. Bartlette, R. Coey, B. Jolly, Dr. D. Michaels  
Regrets: G. Buri (Alternate),

## 1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Committee Chairperson, Ms. R. Coey

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Education Committee Agenda was approved as amended with the addition of verbal updates to be provided by Superintendent, Dr. Michaels, regarding a proposed student assessment policy and proposed literacy development policy.

## 3. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

NIL

## 4. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

### A) **POLICY 1004 – DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS IN THE SCHOOLS**

The Committee reviewed Policy 1004 – “Distribution of Materials in the Schools”. Discussions were held regarding the definition of commercial gain; the definition of educational value; fundraising activities; and the need to safeguard students against exploitation and indoctrination as part of “duty of care” responsibilities of the Board of Trustees. Changes and revisions were proposed and it was agreed the policy would be brought back to the Education Committee for further discussion prior to forwarding to the Board of Trustees for final approval.

Point of Privilege: Trustee Coey asked that the Education Committee study and review the “Westman Parent Magazine” and “Brandon Sun” newspaper at a future meeting as they relate to Policy 1004.

### B) **ABORIGINAL EDUCATION**

Trustee Jolly referenced several articles she had reviewed on the subject of Aboriginal education and the importance of parent involvement in the Aboriginal child's education. She noted the Division, through the work of Mr. Kevin Tacan, Native Elder, addressed many of the issues identified in the articles she had reviewed. Discussions were held regarding what the Division's current Aboriginal programming offers and if it was an area that the Board of Trustees would consider show casing as part of the Xerox Innovative Award at the Manitoba School Boards Association Annual General Meeting. Further discussions were held regarding the “Finding My Way” program, Building Student Success through Aboriginal Parenting, student achievement and parent involvement.

### AGREED:

It was agreed that it was too early to determine if the Division's Aboriginal Education work fits the criteria for the innovation showcase held at the Manitoba School Boards Association Conference in the spring. The Committee agreed to review the guidelines and criteria for this MSBA Innovation Award at a future meeting.

**5. BRIEFINGS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION**

The Committee reviewed in detail the article "Thinking Differently" – Recommendations for 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Board/Superintendent Leadership, Governance, and Teamwork for High Student Achievement. Discussions were held regarding the parallel work of the Policy Review Committee currently developing a proposed policy regarding sustainability and student achievement; the need to identify each child's potential and teaching to a child's ability which may be higher than the standard; Board leadership and focus; and measurement versus tools with respect to assessing and analyzing student achievement.

**AGREED:**

Senior Administration was directed to review and expand/revise Policy 4044 to include identifying each child's potential and the importance of each child achieving to his/her ability. It was also agreed that a request would be made to the Trustee Professional Development Committee to hold a Board Development Dinner/Professional Development Session regarding student learning and achievement. It was further agreed that the document "Thinking Differently" be brought back to the Education Committee for further discussion at the next Education Committee Meeting.

**6. OPERATIONS INFORMATION**

- Verbal update regarding Student Assessment Policy and Literacy Policy Development was deferred until the next meeting.

**7. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, November 2, 2009, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., Conference Room.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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R. Coey, Chair

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P. Bartlette

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B. Jolly

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G. Buri (Alternate)