

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, THE BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION, HELD IN THE J. L. MILNE BOARDROOM, ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 1031 - 6TH STREET, BRANDON, MANITOBA, AT 7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2009.

PRESENT:

Mr. G. Buri, Chairperson, Mr. D. Karnes, Vice-Chairperson, Mr. P. Bartlette, Ms. R. Coey, Mrs. B. Jolly, Mr. B. Mayes (entered 7:05 p.m.), Mr. J. Murray, Dr. L. Ross, Mr. M. Snelling.

Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. G. F. Barnes and Recording Secretary, Ms. S. Bailey

Senior Administration: Dr. D. M. Michaels, Superintendent, Mr. G. Malazdrewicz, Associate Superintendent, Mr. K. Zabowski, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

The Chairperson welcomed all visitors to the meeting acknowledging the presence of Mr. G. Storie, Dean of Education at the Brandon University and a number of Faculty of Education students in attendance to observe a Board of Trustee meeting.

AGENDA

1.00 AGENDA/MINUTES:

1.01 Reference to Statement of Board Operations

1.02 Approval of Agenda

Trustee Snelling noted he had one In-Camera item for discussion.

Trustee Buri noted he had one In-Camera item for discussion.

Ms. Coey – Mr. Snelling

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried.

1.03 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- a) The Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held September 28, 2009 were circulated.

Mr. Bartlette – Mr. Murray

That the Minutes be received and filed.

Carried.

2.0 GOVERNANCE MATTERS:**2.01 Presentations For Information****2.02 Reports of Committees**

a) Divisional Futures Committee Meeting

The written report of the Divisional Futures Committee meeting was reviewed as circulated.

Discussions were held regarding the possibility of including the Healthy Families Coalition as an organization to meet with during the 2009/2010 school year. It was also suggested that the new Lt. Governor be invited to tour one of the schools during "Winterfest" in February, 2010.

Mrs. Jolly – Mr. Snelling

That the Minutes be received and filed.

Carried.

b) Policy Review Committee Meeting

The written report of the Policy Review Committee meeting was reviewed as circulated.

Discussions were held regarding timelines for the development of the proposed sustainability policy and the equity policy and the possibility of any budget implications that may result from the development of the proposed policies. Equity of resources and how the matter would be addressed through policy was also discussed.

Mr. Bartlette – Mr. Snelling

That the Minutes be received and filed.

Carried.

c) Education Committee Meeting

The written report of the Education Committee meeting was reviewed as circulated.

Discussions were held regarding how student potential would be identified. It was stated Senior Administration would be looking at a number of methodologies that would be used which were considered ethically sound, including teacher assessment. It was noted that wholesale I.Q. testing would not be used in determining a child's potential.

Ms. Coey – Mrs. Jolly

That the Minutes be received and filed.

Carried.

d) Other

- Trustees Jolly and Buri reported on the MAST Workshop they attended in Winnipeg on October 1 and 2, 2009 regarding maximizing resources.
- Trustee Snelling circulated at the Board Table and spoke about the Brandon Community Resource Guide.
- Trustee Snelling also circulated an Invitation to the Board to attend the Earl Oxford School Eco Club Waste Reduction Week Reception to be held on October 19, 2009 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

2.03 Delegations and Petitions

Mr. Darren Hardy, President, Brandon Teachers' Association, spoke to the Board about BTA members' concern regarding class size and composition. He noted the beginning of the school year had seen many large classes with staff working to provide the best possible education for the students. He confirmed requests to the Division Office from schools were responded to but the hiring of staff can take up to six weeks in some cases. He requested data from Senior Administration regarding the number of classes in K-8 that have more than 25 students and the number of classes in Grades 9-12 with more than 30 students. Mr. Hardy also expressed concerns regarding the increase in EAL students and what supports are in place to assist in dealing with class composition in this regard.

The Board acknowledged the concerns of the BTA. It was noted that the pupil/teacher ratio has been reduced over the past three years. Senior Administration confirmed that a full staffing report would be presented to the Board of Trustees at their Regular Meeting to be held on October 26, 2009. It was also noted that Ms. Joanna Ford, the Division EAL Consultant does work with staff and provide professional development with respect to EAL students. Mr. Malazdrewicz confirmed that 90% of the K-8 classes have 26 students or less while 90% of the high school classes have fewer than 30 students per class. Discussions were held regarding the possibility of reviving the Teacher/Division Liaison Committee. Mr. Hardy noted the BTA was 100% in favour of reviving this Committee. It was agreed that arrangements would be made to reinstitute this Committee in the near future.

2.04 Communications for Action

- a) Honourable Peter Bjornson, Minister of Education, Citizenship & Youth, September, 2009, noting the launch of this year's *Minister's Awards* to celebrate excellence in teaching by outstanding Manitoba educators. The awards recognize innovative and exemplary practices that contribute to student engagement and achievement. Complete information on the nomination process and all necessary forms are available online at www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/excellence/.

Referred Business Arising.

- b) Honourable Kerri Irvin-Ross, Minister of Healthy Living, October 1, 2009, appreciating the Board of Trustees' advocacy efforts on behalf of school-based addictions services for adolescents in the Brandon region. She notes that Manitoba Health and Healthy Living (MHHL) provides funding to the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba (AFM) based on their annual request and the government's ability to fund. The AFM allocates this funding according to the priority needs as defined by the organization.
Referred Business Arising.

2.05 BUSINESS ARISING

- From Previous Delegations

- From Board Agenda

- a) The correspondence from Honourable Peter Bjornson, Minister of Education, Citizenship & Youth, from Communications for Action 2.04a) noting the launch of this year's *Minister's Awards* to celebrate excellence in teaching by outstanding Manitoba educators was discussed. It was agreed to direct the correspondence to Senior Administration for distribution to all the schools.
- b) The correspondence from Honourable Kerri Irvin-Ross, Minister of Healthy Living, from Communications for Action 2.04b), appreciating the Board of Trustees' advocacy efforts on behalf of school-based addictions services for adolescents in the Brandon region and noting that Manitoba Healthy and Healthy Living (MHHL) provides funding to the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba (AFM) based on their annual request and the government's ability to fund was discussed. It was agreed to refer the matter to the Divisional Futures and Liaison Committee for consideration. Senior Administration provided clarification regarding the allocation of AFM counselors in the three high schools.

- MAST issues (last meeting of the month)

- From Report of Senior Administration

- a) School Reports – NIL

b) Learning Support Services Report

Marsilah Peirson and Veronica Adams, Division Program Facilitators, spoke to the Board about their responsibilities and diverse work in the School Division with respect to providing program development and implementation for students with exceptional needs. They noted their work with school teams to develop Individual Education Plans for students. Preparing funding applications; liaising with various community groups; assisting resource teachers and providing professional development were highlighted as well.

Discussions were held regarding organization and time management with respect to the intense workload of the facilitators; the importance of parent involvement when working with the school teams; and the pros and cons of "labeling" a child. The Chairperson thanked Ms. Peirson and Ms. Adams for their presentation.

c) Items from Senior Administration Report

- Tender for Cargo Van – Referred Motions
- Trustee Inquiries:
 - Safety for Minority Groups – Trustee Mayes.

2.06 Motions

170/2009 Dr. Ross – Ms. Coey

That the sole Tender of Murray Chev Cadillac in the amount of \$25,799 (plus applicable taxes) for a new 2010 Chevrolet Express Cargo Van in accordance with general conditions and specifications and trade-in, be accepted.

Carried.

171/2009 Mr. Snelling – Ms. Jolly

That the Divisional Futures and Liaison Committee proceed with meetings with identified community groups and the Board of Trustees to identify questions of interest for discussion with identified community groups.

Carried.

172/2009 Dr. Ross – Ms. Coey

That a Divisional membership for the Manitoba Association of Parent Councils (MAPC) in the amount of \$720.00 be purchased on behalf of all active parent councils in the Brandon School Division with the clear understanding that any further costs (such as travel to MAPC meetings) would be the responsibility of each individual parent council.

Carried.

2.07 Bylaws

2.08 Giving of Notice

2.09 Inquiries**2.09a) Public Inquiries (last meeting of each month – max. 15 minutes)****2.09b) Trustee Inquiries**

1. Trustee Mayes thanked Senior Administration for their report regarding his inquiry about safety for minority groups. He asked if the Education Committee would consider reviewing the possibility of recognition of International Anti-Homophobia Day for Grade 9 to 12 students held during May, 2010.

A discussion was held and Education Committee Chairperson, Ms. Coey, noted the Education Committee would be willing to review the matter.

2. Trustee Bartlette asked the Board of Trustees the following:

“What suggestions do Board Members have to resolve the arrival time of the funding announcement from the Province?

- Ask the Department of Education to explain their need for January?
- Explain to the Department our need for a December 1 arrival date?
- Ask MASS (MSBA) to support such an idea in the form of a letter?
- Ask each division for their support in the form of a letter?”

Trustee Murray noted that there is an MSBA resolution on the books regarding this matter that is renewed on a regular basis. He suggested the possibility of the Board sending their own letter to the Minister of Education and copy all other Divisions requesting their support and encouraging them to also send a letter. Further discussions were held noting similar conversations had taken place at the Finance Committee meeting; the need to meet with the new Premier, once chosen, and suggesting the question be asked directly of the politicians when meeting with both the government and the opposition.

The Board agreed that a letter would be forwarded to the Minister of Education, regarding this matter and arrangements would also be made to meet with the government and opposition party representatives as well.

173/2009 Mr. Murray – Mr. Bartlette

That correspondence be forwarded to the Minister of Education, Citizenship & Youth requesting the Provincial Funding announcement be presented and forwarded to School Divisions by late November each year.

Carried.

It was agreed that carbon copies would be sent to other Divisions requesting their support, as well as MSBA and the opposition critics.

3. Trustee Mayes noted the City of Brandon was decommissioning a number of playgrounds throughout the City and asked Senior Administration to contact the City regarding the condition of the play structures and the possibility of the Division using the play structures. It was agreed that the Director of Facilities and Transportation be directed to follow-up on this matter.

3.00 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

3.01 Report of Senior Administration

Point of Privilege: Trustee Jolly congratulated Dean of Education, Mr. G. Storie, on receiving the Nicholas Michelli Award for Promoting Social Justice in partnership with the Brandon School Division with the award to be presented on October 16, 2009 in Bellevue, Washington.

Superintendent, Dr. Michaels, highlighted the Senior High Review; provided updated information on the implementation of the Single Track French Immersion Program and recent meetings held with the parents and staff of Harrison, George Fitton and Green Acres Schools as well as École New Era School and École O'Kelly School; and also noted that the Drug and Alcohol Coalition Co-ordinator position interviews have been completed and they are in the process of offering the position to a candidate.

Trustees requested clarification regarding the registration process, forms and dates for the French Immersion programs. It was noted that registration would take place from October 20 to 28, 2009 and would include New Era, O'Kelly and Harrison Schools. Senior Administration confirmed the registration form would account for all current French Immersion students and would ask them to select the program they wish to take. A final report would be presented to the Board on November 9, 2009.

Trustee Bartlette asked Senior Administration if they will look at the current course/program summary to assist in the development of a Sustainability policy. He also asked Senior Administration what types of Senior High Education will be considered when reviewing the programs? It was noted that a number of models would be considered including year round schooling; extending the school day and not the work day; community based partnerships; distance education; career education and preparation and how schools are organized.

Mrs. Jolly – Mr. Bartlette
That the report be received and filed.
Carried.

3.02 Communications for Information

- a) David Yeo, Director, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth, received September 30, 2009, and announcing the release of the 6th edition of *A Statistical Profile of Education in Manitoba September 2003 to June 2008*. The document can be obtained in electronic format as follows:
<http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/strategy/index.html>.

Ordered Filed.

- b) Darryl Gervais, Acting Director, Instruction, Curriculum and Assessment Branch and Florence Girouard, Director Educational Support Services Branch, September 2009, addressed to Grades 7 and 8 Principals, noting the Middle Years Assessment Policy defines key competencies in which schools much assess student achievement. The policy and support documents are available on the Department's website at: www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/assess/myreporting.html. Professional Learning sessions to support classroom implementation of the Middle Years Assessment will be held in September and October 2009 and those wishing to participate may register at <www4.edu.gov.mb.ca/workshops/>. Parent brochures regarding the assessment are no longer being printed, however the web addresses for parents could be included in school newsletters. An information sheet regarding the Collection of Assessment Results (CAR) has been included.

Referred to Education Committee.

- c) Naomi Kruse, Executive Director, Manitoba Association of Parent Councils, September 29, 2009, reminding the Division that the 2009-2010 membership is now due.

Ordered Filed.

- d) Carolyn Duhamel, Executive Director, Manitoba School Boards Association, October 1, 2009, enclosing two copies of *The Superintendency: A Resource Document to Guide Shared Leadership by Boards & Superintendents*. This replaces an earlier document on the same topic that was prepared in the early 1990's. The document will be posted on MSBA's and MASS's websites and downloads are encouraged.

Ordered Filed.

- e) Vivian Gray, October 1, 2009, noting she attended the information session held at Harrison Middle School on September 30, 2009 and that she was both distressed and angered by the lack of answers the Committee and Dr. Michaels were able to provide. A lack of pre-planning prior to the decision to turn Harrison School into the Single Track French Immersion School was evident. She was even more angered when Dr. Michaels responded to one parent's concern by stating the Board had not felt it necessary to consult the parents as they did not think they would be affected. She asks how this decision was reached. She has read the surveys, watched Access 12 and read the Brandon Sun and cannot find any mention of Harrison until it was a done deal. She feels it appears the Board kept this decision to themselves to avoid dealing with any opposition to this decision. She states the purpose of her email is to express how deeply disappointed she is in the Brandon School Division and their apparent lack of respect for the students, parents and public to whom they are responsible.

Ordered Filed.

3.03 Announcements

- a) Finance Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 13, 2009, Conference Room.
- b) Brandon School Division/Parent Liaison Committee Parent Conference, 9:15 a.m., Saturday, October 17, 2009, Crocus Plains Regional Secondary High School
- c) Personnel Committee Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Monday, October 19, 2009, Conference Room
- d) CUPE Conciliation Meetings – 9:00 a.m., Monday, October 19 and Tuesday, October 20, 2009, Admin. Office.
- e) MSBA Region 1 Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Monday, October 19, 2009, Victoria Inn, Brandon, MB.
- f) Workplace Safety and Health Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Thursday, October 22, 2009, Conference Room.
- g) NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – 7:00 p.m., Monday, October 26, 2009, Board Room.

Mrs. Jolly – Ms. Coey

That the Board do now resolve into Committee of the Whole In Camera.

Carried.

IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN CAMERA**4.00 IN CAMERA DISCUSSION:****4.01 Student Issues**

- Reports

- Trustee Inquiries

4.02 Personnel Matters

- Reports

- a) Confidential #1, Personnel Report was noted.

- Trustee Inquiries

- b) Trustee inquiries regarding availability of substitute teachers were addressed.

4.03 Property Matters/Tenders

- Reports

- Trustee Inquiries

- a) An inquiry on a property matter was discussed at length.

4.04 Board Operations

- Reports

- a) A Board operations matter was raised and discussed.

- Trustee Inquiries

Mrs. Jolly – Mr. Bartlette

That the Committee of the Whole In Camera do now resolve into Board.

Carried.

IN BOARD

5.00 ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Snelling – Mr. Karnes

That the meeting do now adjourn (9:55 p.m.)

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer