



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

Education Committee Minutes

Wednesday, February 25, 2015 1:00 p.m.

Boardroom, Administration Office

Present: P. Bartlette (Chairperson), S. Bambridge, G. Kruck,
Dr. Michaels, Superintendent

Regrets: P. Bowslaugh (Alternate)

Guests: Chad Cobbe, Sandy Harrison, Cory Nevill

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Education Committee Meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Committee Chair Peter Bartlette.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as circulated.

3. PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

The Committee minutes from January 14, 2015, were received as information.

4. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

A) Multi-Age Education Presentation – Chad Cobbe, Principal, New Era School, Sandy Harrison, Principal, Valleyview Centennial School, Cory Nevill, Literacy Specialist

Some of the highlights of this presentation are as follows:

- Multi-Age Education philosophy focuses on the social, emotional, academic, cognitive, and physical development of each child.
- There is a need to teach processes and skills and to teach what the students need to know. Gone is a solid emphasis on content teaching.
- Multi-Age Education does not compare children.
- At the end of the day, quality instruction is the most important thing.
- A pamphlet has been created to explain the concept of Multi-Age Education.
- Provides for student voice and choice - research points to student engagement as essential for growth.
- Multi-Age Education is a solid philosophy and a means of educating kids. If a child is learning and happy to go to school that is all that matters.

Trustees asked questions for clarification on whether all classes are multi-age. Dr. Michaels responded that there are both single age and multi-age configurations in our Division. Dr. Michaels also noted that these three professional staff members are instrumental in providing PD for multi-age education and they educate other teachers on this philosophy.

Trustee Bambridge asked if the Brandon University teaching graduates are familiar with this way of teaching. Ms. Nevill responded that BU teaching students are required to take a multi-age education course and they seem very well versed with the concept. There is a strong focus on student-centered education and backward by design in curriculum planning. Also they understand formative assessment.

Ms. Harrison noted that the planning for multi-age education has to be simultaneous with our teaching and needs to take place when we know the kids and can respond to their needs.

Trustee Bambridge asked about the band and shops programs moving to Multi-Age Education. Dr. Michaels indicated that it is being looked into and would possibly include rotating students in trimesters.

Trustee Bartlette thanked the group for their presentation and information and for the clear description of what Multi-Age Education means.

Trustees discussed whether it would be beneficial to have this presentation done for the full Board. Dr. Michaels suggested perhaps a video that includes interviews done with teachers, parents, students, and administrators. Trustee Bartlette thought an interactive session with the Multi-Age Education representatives in person would be a better option.

5. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

At the previous meeting, Trustee Kruck suggested having Education Committee Meetings every two weeks as there are quite a few topics to review that are not being covered. He now asks that the Committee hold off on this idea as the Multi-Age Education questions he had have now been resolved and answered.

Further Agenda Items:

Year-Round Schooling:

Dr. Michaels noted she is working on a Master Coherence Chart in regards to Board Goals and Divisional Initiatives. She asked the Committee how they would like to research the implementation of year-round schooling as there is much preparatory work to do.

Trustee Bambridge suggested a presentation covering: where there is currently year-round schooling in Canada; what the programs look like; historical background, and the receptiveness of year-round schooling in those communities. Follow-up for the future would be consultations, travel to the Divisions. Dr. Michaels may be able to gather some preliminary information on year-round schooling for the next Education Committee Meeting.

Bullying:

Trustees requested information on the current anti-bullying programs in the schools. Dr. Michaels will provide an update and outline the intervention problem solving and de-escalation that occurs.

6. STRATEGIC PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Strategic Leadership Council Meeting of January 20, 2015.

Trustee Bambridge asked questions for clarification regarding these meeting minutes. Trustee Kruck asked questions for clarification regarding the HALEP program. Trustee Bambridge explained that this is programming for all children to be challenged to their highest achievement/ability. It includes a planning process with teachers as far as the strategies and skills we want students to have.

The Committee discussed Home Liaison and BSSAP workers and their roles.

7. BRIEFINGS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION

No briefings included.

8. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

9. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 11:30 a.m., Boardroom.

The meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Bartlette, Chair

S. Bambridge

G. Kruck

P. Bowslaugh (Alternate)