



Education Committee Minutes

Thursday, January 19, 2011, 11:00 a.m.
Board Room, Administration Office

Present: M. Sefton (Chairperson), P. Bartlette, P. Bowslaugh, Dr. D. Michaels,

Guest: Linda Grossart and Roger Bright – Brandon Schools Instrumental Music Association (BSIMA).

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Education Committee Meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by the Committee Chairperson, Trustee Sefton.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Education Committee agenda was approved as circulated. The Committee held brief discussions regarding the Division's proposed All-Day/Every-Day Kindergarten MSBA Resolution as well as the information regarding "Student Responsibility Guidelines for Assessment and Evaluation" which was circulated to the Committee by Superintendent, Dr. Michaels.

3. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

NIL

4. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

A) **Review of Committee Minutes**

The Committee reviewed the Minutes of December 16, 2010.

B) **Bill 13 – "The Preparing Students for Success Act (Various Acts Amended)"**

The Committee reviewed the letter from the Minister of Education dated December 6, 2010 announcing Bill 13, "The Preparing Student for Success Act" which amends various existing acts. The Committee also reviewed the Minister's comments on this matter when she met with the Board of Trustees on January 13, 2011. Superintendent, Dr. Michaels reviewed pertinent sections of Bill 13 and the implications these amendments would have on the delivery of education in the Brandon School Division. The need for further clarity with respect to definitions; the role of the principal vs. the expectations of parents; the possible posing of executive limitations on school boards; staffing needs; and legal and ethical implications were all discussed by the Committee. The Committee agreed the whole Board needed to be apprised of the possible implications of this Bill as discussed at the Committee meeting. Superintendent, Dr. Michaels was asked to provide a brief report reviewing the implications for the Board. However, it was further agreed it was too early to begin any policy work at this time since the Bill has only received second reading in parliament. Superintendent, Dr. Michaels recommended some discussions be held by both the Education Committee and the Policy Review Committee with the Division's legal counsel regarding the proposed school age leaving and potential issues which may arise regarding human rights and the rights and freedoms of the child. The Committee agreed that some preliminary and anticipatory discussions on the matter needed to take place.

C) Meeting with BSIMA Representatives (Timed Event: 12:00 – 1:00p.m.)

Ms. Linda Grossart and Mr. Roger Bright, representing the Brandon Schools Instrumental Music Association (BSIMA) entered the meeting.

Ms. Grossart circulated documentation to the Education Committee which provided background information regarding the Instrumental Music Program, the issues they face and the BSIMA's proposed solutions to achieve a successful program both in the short term and in the long term. The Committee Chairperson asked the BSIMA representatives what they see as the optimal relationship between the School Division and the BSIMA. Referring to the Division's Mission Statement, Ms. Grossart noted they would like to see the BSIMA augment what the School Division already does. She confirmed the BSIMA's role would be one of advocacy and support rather than "hands on". They would continue to provide instrument rentals, clinicians, workshops, support for students in the Honour Band program other support initiatives to expose students to various learning opportunities. She also confirmed the BSIMA would be an advocate for the program and work with the Brandon community to help support the program. She agreed in the short term the BSIMA could continue collecting fees but in the long term, because band is part of school-based programming, registration fees should be handled by the Division. The Committee Chairperson apprised the BSIMA of the information which had been obtained by the Division regarding the organization's corporate status. The BSIMA spoke to transportation issues, staffing and space issues that the program currently faces. They asked the Division to look into alternative delivery of the program and examine what other Divisions are doing across the Province and country. The Committee Chairperson concluded the discussions by thanking Ms. Grossart and Mr. Bright for meeting with both the Finance Committee and the Education Committee. He noted the Education Committee needs to spend time reviewing the matter including the Division's role in this area. He noted the Committee had listened and will continue to listen. He stated the Board would not be able to make any decisions quickly as any decision made needs to be for the long term.

Ms. Linda Grossart and Mr. Roger Bright exited the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Agreed:

The Committee requested Senior Administration provide an updated progress report on the Quality Teaching Steering Committee's examination of the matter related to Grade 7 and 8 optional programming.

5. BRIEFINGS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION

NIL

6. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

The following was received as information:

- 21st Century Learning: Research, Innovation and Policy - Directions from recent OECD Analyses.
- Summary Information for Presentation to Poverty Forum 2009.

Superintendent, Dr. Michaels, noted she had a variety of reading materials to provide to the Committee regarding All-Day Kindergarten and would ensure the information is available to the Committee for review.

7. **NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, February 17, 2011, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Board Room.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Sefton, Chair

P. Bartlette

P. Bowslaugh

K. Sumner (Alternate)