



"Accepting the Challenge"

## **Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee Minutes**

Friday, May 6, 2011 – 11:30 p.m.  
George Fitton School

Present: M. Snelling, Chairperson (entered at 11:50 a.m.) P. Bowslaugh,  
K. Sumner, G. Kruck (alternate).

Regrets: Dr. D. Michaels.

Invited Guests: 28 Grade 7 and 8 George Fitton Students

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### **1. CALL TO ORDER:**

As the Chairperson would be late, Trustee Bowslaugh assumed the position of Acting Chairperson for the meeting. The Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee Meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m. by Acting Chairperson, Mrs. Bowslaugh.

### **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee Agenda was approved.

### **3. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS**

NIL

### **4. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS**

- A) Equity and Sustainability in Education (Meeting with Grade 7 and 8 George Fitton Students.

Acting Chairperson, Mrs. Bowslaugh, thanked all in attendance for their participation and reviewed the role of the Brandon School Division Board of Trustees' Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee. The students were broken up into four discussion groups. Students were asked to discuss a number of questions regarding how they felt about their school. Following the break-out discussions, students were asked to report out on their discussions. A summary of the points raised by students is attached to the Minutes as Appendix "A".

At the conclusion of the meeting Mrs. Bowslaugh thanked all present for participating noting that student feedback was vital.

### **5. OPERATIONS INFORMATION**

NIL

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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M. Snelling, Chair

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P. Bowslaugh

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K. Sumner

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G. Kruck (Alternate)

# Meeting with Advanced Placement Students

## George Fitton School

### Friday, May 6, 2011

#### Questions:

#### 1) Many schools in Brandon have changed from a K-5 school to a K-8 school. How do you feel about this?

- "We don't like being in a K-8 School. It is way too crowded."
- "We enjoyed the big field that the older kids get to themselves."
- "We wish we could still have the choice to stay in at recess or go outside."
- "We should have a half hour free period."
- "We should be able to have cell phones at recess and lunch."
- "Gym is too small."
- "Walking to gym is difficult."
- "Can't go on our own play structure."
- "There were a lot of disagreements at the beginning of the year because the Grades 7 and 8 were upset about the changes."
- "School is more crowded. Need more playground space, more washrooms, bigger gym and bigger lockers."
- "Library needs more teen books."
- "All renovations should have been completed before we got here."
- "Grade 8's underprivileged and blamed for everything."
- "Web pages are blocked when we try to do our school work – why is it blocked?"

#### 2) What can Trustees do to fix things?

- "Improve the teen section in the library."
- "Need air conditioning or to be able to open the windows in classrooms."
- "Let us use the patio area."
- "We need more room."
- "New gym equipment."
- "Give grade 6, 7 and 8 students their own little area without little kids."
- "Foundation needs to be fixed."
- "Trustees should meet with the students in their classrooms."
- "Lockers and gym underfunded."
- "French students got all the extras."
- "Address concerns about teacher taking phone and reading text messages."
- "Microwaves in each room."
- "Need more drills."
- "Newer desks – individual desks."
- "Better anti-virus system for the computers."

**3) What do you like about the school?**

- "Awesome teachers."
- "We have some SmartBoards."
- "We have lockers (but they are too small.)"
- "The lights work."
- "The carpets are clean."
- "Teachers good with kids."
- "Recess."
- "Friends – no matter what we go through we go through together."