



"Accepting the Challenge"

Education Committee Minutes

Monday, January 4, 2010 – 1:30 p.m.
Board Room, Administration Office

Present: R. Coey (Chairperson), P. Bartlette, B. Jolly, Dr. D. Michaels

Regrets: G. Buri (Alternate)

Guests: T. Flannery, Earl Oxford & Nicole Warwaruk, Betty Gibson,
Resource Teachers

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Trustee Coey called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Education Committee Agenda was approved as circulated.

3. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

NIL

4. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

A) "Ready, Set, Go ... to Kindergarten" Presentation

Ms. Flannery and Ms. Warwaruk provided a very thorough presentation on the "Ready, Set, Go to Kindergarten" initiative currently being implemented in four elementary schools – Earl Oxford, New Era (French and English), Valleyview and Betty Gibson.

In their presentation emphasis was given to the preparatory and preventative nature of the program and its essentiality for all Brandon School Division elementary schools. Please see Appendix A for presentation document. Discussion ensued with consideration being given to the need to coordinate and consolidate this initiative with the current kindergarten/early years work in the Division; the costs of implementing the initiative in Brandon School Division elementary schools and the need for a Board policy on kindergarten and junior kindergarten services in the Division.

Ms. Flannery and Ms. Warwaruk were thanked for their fine presentation.

Agreed: That the Board of Trustees request the Education Committee to develop a proposed policy for kindergarten and prekindergarten educational services in the Brandon School Division.

B) International Anti-Homophobia Day – May 17, 2010

This item was brought forward from the October 13, 2009 Board Meeting and the December 14, 2009 Education Committee meetings. The matter arose from a Trustee inquiry at the October 13, 2009 Board Meeting: "if the Education Committee would consider reviewing the possibility of recognition of International Anti Homophobia Day for Grades 9 – 12 students held during May 2010".

The Committee discussed this matter from several perspectives including the scope of discrimination being faced by today's students, the extent of possible recognition, the Senior High Schools' roles in such recognition, the involvement of student voice, community perspectives.

It was decided that prior to the possibility of recognizing this day the Committee required further information on:

- what other Manitoba school divisions are doing to recognize the day;
- the views of the Senior High Principals; and
- the views of the Student Councils.

This information will be sought with Senior Administration to bring a report back to the February, 2010 Education Committee.

C) Implementation of Middle Years Assessment of Key Competencies in Math, Reading Comp, Expository Writing and Student Engagement

This item was brought forward from the Education Committee Meeting of December 14, 2009, being referred from the Board Meeting of October 13, 2009.

Chair Coey emphasized the importance of this Ministry document as it forms the basis of the proposed Policy 5042 on "The Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting of Student Learning". It will be circulated to all Trustees as background information for the forthcoming consideration of Policy and Procedures 5042.

D) Ongoing Development of High Ability Learner Enrichment Programming (HALEP)

This was brought forward from the Education Committee Meeting of December 14, 2009. Previous discussion had taken place on the need for policy development in this area. A Board policy from Bethel, Oregon on Gifted and Talented Programs for all students was reviewed. It was noted by Trustees that this was one of several such policies.

Agreed: That current Board Policy/Procedures 4044 "Appropriate Educational Programming" requires amending to include direction on the matter of appropriate education for high ability learners. Such an amendment is to include:

- the identification process, including tools;
- teacher professional development and education;
- programming considerations;
- preparation of IEPs;
- the inclusion of the requirement for HALEP in the teachers' annual growth plans

In preparation of this amendment the input of the Principals and current HALEP teachers will be sought. Dr. Michaels, Superintendent, will bring a proposed amendment to Policy/Procedures 4044 at the March 2010 Education Committee Meeting.

E) Brandon RHA Regional Report

This item was brought forward from the Education Committee Meeting of December 14, 2009.

Agreed: Given the importance of this report it was agreed that representatives of the Brandon Regional Health Authority (BRHA) be invited to a forthcoming Education Committee meeting to present the report and discuss the implications, actions, follow-up taken by the BRHA and its partners on the findings and recommendations.

F) Breakfast for Learning Manitoba Chapter

A request has been made by the Breakfast for Learning Manitoba Chapter for Trustee Ramona Coey to become a member of the Chapter. Committee members agreed to present this request to the Board of Trustees at the January 11, 2010 meeting for approval.

Recommendation:

That Trustee Coey be approved to become a member of the Breakfast for Learning Manitoba Chapter.

5. BRIEFINGS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION

Nil

6. **OPERATIONS INFORMATION**

Nil

7. **NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, February 1, 2010, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., Board Room.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Coey, Chair

P. Bartlette

B. Jolly

G. Buri (Alternate)

READY, SET, GO TO KINDERGARTEN

Monday, January 4th, 2010

Helping all children start school
ready to learn is critical to their
future success and to the well-
being of society as a whole.

-Research and Policy Committee of the
Committee for Economic Development

Guiding Principle

*Research shows that children are
born ready to learn but not all
children arrive at school ready to
learn. Starting school with
developed skills means our
children have the right tools for
school.*

Why did Ready, Set, Go start?

- ▣ Attendance at the National Child Day Conference in Winnipeg
- ▣ Declining EDI Scores
- ▣ A desire to form partnerships with parents before school starts
- ▣ We felt that every child can benefit from this program

How many schools?

- ▣ Last year, we piloted four schools:

- ▣ Earl Oxford
- ▣ New Era - English and French
- ▣ Valleyview
- ▣ Betty Gibson

We also had families from other catchment areas attend

Canadian taxpayers pay \$2.5 billion every year for remedial education due to delayed interventions and/or negative early years experiences.

- Charles Coffey, 2002

Among G7 countries, Canada has the second-lowest public expenditure on education-oriented programs for children aged 3 to school-age.

-Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

EDI Developmental Areas

- ▣ Physical health and well-being
- ▣ Social competency
- ▣ Emotional maturity
- ▣ Language and thinking skills
- ▣ Communication skills and general knowledge

Your brain is sculpted by a lifetime of experiences.
The most important time in brain development is the first few years of life.



- Fraser Mustard, 2008

Ready, Set, Go to Kindergarten

The program was divided into three sessions that focused on:

- ▣ Physical Health and Well-being, and Fine Motor
- ▣ Communication Skills, General Knowledge, Social Competency and Numeracy
- ▣ Language & Thinking Skills, Emotional Maturity and Literacy

There is a sense that parents should just do the job until grade school, and then [our society] will have an interest in supporting that child.

Why do we think that children under the age of five – and their parents – don't need any support before then?

- Dr. Ray D. Peters, Queen's University

Session Structure

Each session was divided into individual parts:

- ▣ Presentation to the parents while the children stayed with the Kindergarten Teacher
- ▣ Parents and children participated in planned activity centres focusing on specific skills
- ▣ Song and story
- ▣ Snack
- ▣ Take home Kinder Bags

Session One

Parent Focus:

- ▣ Need to Know, Important Know, Nice to Know
- ▣ Physical Health and Well-Being
- ▣ Fine Motor Skills
- ▣ Gross Motor Skills

Parent & Child Activities:

- ▣ Focus on Fine Motor

Kinderbag

- ▣ Filled with supplies to support fine motor and gross motor development at home

Session Two

Parent Focus:

- ▣ Communication and General Knowledge
- ▣ Social Competency
- ▣ Numeracy

Parent & Child Activities:

- ▣ Focus on Numeracy Skills

Kinderbag

- ▣ Filled with supplies to support numeracy skills at home

Session Three

Parent Focus:

- ▣ Language and Thinking Skills
- ▣ Emotional Maturity
- ▣ Literacy

Parent & Child Activities:

- ▣ Focus on Literacy Skills

Kinderbag

- ▣ Filled with supplies to support literacy at home

Kinderbags

- ▣ Support session skills
- ▣ Extend session skills
- ▣ Support development of EDI areas
- ▣ Encourages skill building at home
- ▣ Provides materials

Parents Thoughts

- ▣ "we play together more"
- ▣ "Just the unknown of kindergarten and the scary not knowing is no longer an issue. We can pass the school and he is excited and can't wait until school starts"
- ▣ "The kids loved the 'homework' and took pride in doing it"
- ▣ "This is money well spent. This was fabulous, The girls and I all enjoyed it"
- ▣ "It makes us feel more prepared. I loved the activity centers and take home bags to continue at home."
- ▣ "A tangible goal what's necessary/ nice etc. to know at the start of year. Lets you know if you're on track."
- ▣ "They were good and was very informative on ideas for helping our kids develop different skills."
- ▣ "The Daycare coordinator at BUELC thinks the program is a PHENOMENAL bridge to Kindergarten. She loved it, as did we."

Spring 2010 Schools

- Earl Oxford
- Betty Gibson
- New Era - English and French
- Valleyview

The following schools would like to participate this spring:

- Riverview
- O'Kelly
- Kirkcaldy Heights
- King George



Never underestimate your ability to make a
difference in the life of a child.

- Fred Penner
