



"Accepting the Challenge"

Education Committee Minutes

Monday, April 18, 2011, 10:30 a.m.

Board Room, Administration Office

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

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Education Committee Meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by the Committee Chairperson, Trustee Sefton.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Education Committee agenda was approved as circulated.

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES

A) **Review of Committee Minutes – March 9 and March 10, 2011**

The Committee reviewed the minutes of March 9 and March 10, 2011. Trustee Sefton noted he had spoken to Ms. Pam MacKay of the Sexuality Education Resource Centre and she would be attending the June Committee meeting to speak to Trustees on the topic of Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual and Transgender issues.

4. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

GOAL 1: *To increase grade 12 graduation rate to 85%+ over the next four years through an emphasis on the quality of student engagement in learning.*

GOAL 2:

- a) *To conduct program reviews to determine efficacy, quality of engagement and outcomes of student learning in electives & required courses and programs.*
- b) *To develop transition programming for senior high (9-12) "high risk"/behaviourally-challenged students based on a comprehensive assessment of those students' needs.*
- c) *To develop alternative programming to accommodate 16-18 year old students through sustainable partnerships with community agencies.*

A) **Grade 7 and 8 Electives Programs**

Bob Lee, Principal of Waverly Park School, Rick Stallard, Principal of J.R. Reid School, and Lena Boisjoli, Vice-Principal, New Era School, entered the meeting at 11:00 a.m. to speak about the work of the Sub-Committee which is reviewing the Middle Years practical arts/home economics programming.

Mr. Lee provided a brief background and history on the work conducted to date by the Sub-Committee. He noted student engagement, relevancy, what other Divisions are doing in this

area and the value of the programming had all been reviewed by the Committee. Discussions focused on absenteeism concerns in practical arts, HALEP programming and school wide enrichment in the practical arts, funding, transportation, consultation with students and staff; and possible partnering with outside organizations.

It was agreed Senior Administration would conduct a program review under Policy and Procedures 4050 – “Evaluation of Instructional Programs and Services” and report back to the Education Committee in the fall prior to budget.

Mr. Lee, Mr. Stallard and Ms. Boisjoli exited the meeting at 11:45 p.m.

5. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

A) Grad Proposal re: Financial Incentive Initiative

This matter was referred to the Committee from the Regular Board meeting April 11, 2011. Trustee Bowslaugh spoke to the proposal together with her vision for its possible implementation. She asked the Committee members for their views on the matter. It was agreed a number of questions needed to be explored before the matter could move forward, including: What is the Division’s intent? What would be the student’s motivation? What is the Division’s belief? How much will it cost? Is it offered on a needs only basis? Who would sit in judgment regarding needs? It was agreed language is very important and must be carefully worded should this proposal move forward. Discussions were held regarding the possibility of establishing a Foundation and whether or not the Division would be competing with itself with respect to scholarship funds. The Committee agreed the proposal was worth exploring further before making any final decisions.

Recommendation:

That Trustee Bowslaugh be authorized to explore further a financial grad incentive with the information to be presented to the Education and Finance Committees for consideration.

6. BRIEFINGS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION

The following was received as information:

- Edmonton Public Schools – Media Release – February 9, 2011 – “Board Seeks to Address Issues of Bullying and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans-Identified and Questioning/Queer (LGBTQ) Youth.
- Towards Resiliency for Vulnerable Youth – Report April, 2011 – United Way of Calgary and Area.

7. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

The Committee requested discussions regarding delivery of alternative programming for 16 to 18 year olds, including possible facility requirements be placed on the next agenda. The Senior High School principals are to be invited to the meeting to provide their perspective on the matter.

8. **NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, May 19, 2011, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.,
Board Room.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Sefton, Chair

P. Bartlette

P. Bowslaugh

K. Sumner (Alternate)