



"Accepting the Challenge"

Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee Minutes

Tuesday, October 11, 2011 – 11:30 a.m.
Conference Room, Administration office

Present: P. Bowslaugh (Chairperson), G. Kruck, M. Snelling,
K. Sumner, (Alternate), Dr. D. Michaels.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m. by the Chairperson, Trustee Bowslaugh.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as circulated.

4. REVIEW OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the Minutes of the meeting held September 20, 2011. It was agreed the research requested regarding the benefits of exercise equipment in the classroom related to performance of student achievement would be forwarded to the Education Committee for review.

5. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

A) Determine List of Stakeholder Meetings for 2011/2012

The Chairperson reviewed the discussions which have taken place at the previous Committee meeting regarding the possibility of continuing to meet with students during the lunch hour. It was concluded that the meetings had been beneficial and the Committee would continue to meet with students. It was further noted the school principal and/or a school vice-principal would be asked to attend the meeting with their students. Students would also be encouraged to bring suggestions and concerns from their classmates who were unable to attend the meeting. The Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee agreed to meet with the following eight schools over the course of the 2011/2012 school year: Kirkcaldy Heights, Alexander, O'Kelly, Spring Valley, King George, Betty Gibson, Earl Oxford and Meadows. Senior Administration was directed to arrange these meetings for the last Thursday of each month during the students' lunch hour.

6. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

A) 2012/2013 Proposed Budget Discussions

The Committee reviewed their proposed program needs request immediately following the review of the Committee Minutes.

i) Aboriginal Education School Support Assistant :

Superintendent, Dr. Michaels, reviewed the proposed program needs request, noting she had incorporated the suggested requirements, purpose and responsibilities of the position as outlined in meetings held with representatives of the Aboriginal community. Discussions were held regarding the proposed salary and how it would be determined; how many hours a week the position might receive; qualifications required; specific duties of the position; feedback from principals and teaching staff; and what further steps will be taken before the item is presented as a budget item. Dr. Michaels confirmed that the proposed responsibilities allotted to the position outlines all possibilities as suggested by the Committee's meetings with Aboriginal representatives. She recommended discussions with Aboriginal

representatives on this position revolve around what they would see as the "actual" responsibilities of the position. Senior Administration was instructed to invite the principal of New Era School, together with one member of the teaching staff to the meeting with Aboriginal representatives on October 18, 2011.

ii) Communications Technology Specialist:

Superintendent, Dr. Michaels, reviewed the proposed program needs request. The Committee noted the position should enhance communications between the Division and the parents. The Superintendent confirmed this would be done through the revised Communications Policy but agreed the statement could be added to the job description. The Committee also requested a sample of constituency groups be added to the responsibilities of the position to ensure the position facilitated communications with groups other than parents. Discussions were held regarding access to community computers; the Community Access Program grant; the possibility of evening facility usage to access computers; the possibility of incorporating some of this responsibility as it relates to community access of computers, with the Aboriginal Education School Support Assistant responsibilities; the newly created Director of Communications position at the City of Brandon. Senior Administration was directed to contact the City of Brandon to obtain information regarding their newly created Director of Communications position for the Community to review.

B) Minutes – BSD/BTA Liaison Committee Meeting

Trustee Sumner reviewed the Committee Minutes noting that he and the President of the Brandon Teachers Association have held casual conversations regarding what future meetings would look like; who would attend; and where they would meet. The Committee accepted the Minutes (Appendix "A").

C) Minutes – Joint City Task Force Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting

Trustee Bowslaugh reviewed the Committee Minutes noting the Committee had since met on October 6, 2011 and would be meeting again on November 2, 2011. The Committee accepted the Minutes (Appendix "B").

7. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

- The CBC News Articles regarding exercise equipment in the classroom had been discussed under "Review of Committee Minutes".

8. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, November 2, 2011, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Conference Room.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Bowslaugh, Chair

G. Kruck

K. Sumner

M. Snelling (Alternate)



BSD/BTA LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Conference Room, Administration Office

Appendix A

Present:

Trustees:	Kevan Sumner
Brandon Teachers' Association:	Darren Hardy, Ali Johnson, Tammy Tukuluk, Peter Buehler
Senior Administration:	Dr. D. Michaels

Regrets:

Trustees:	M. Snelling, G. Kruck, P. Bowslaugh (Alternate)
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The joint meeting was convened at 4:20 p.m. as per Article 28.01 of the Collective Agreement between the Brandon School Division and the Brandon Teachers Association.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee Kevan Sumner thanked everyone for attending and stated that the Board was glad to have this meeting happen. He indicated that the Board was very eager to hear where the improving relationship with the Brandon Teachers Association (BTA) can go. Currently the relationship appears to be healthy and as such requires on-going attention. He expressed the hope that participation in these meetings would be frank and forthright in their communications.

On behalf of the BTA, Mr. Darren Hardy, President, stated that the BTA was eager to meet as well. They considered the relationship with the Board of Trustees to be positive and one that has evolved to be able to have trusting discussions. The BTA sees its increased communications with the Board such that there will be no surprises for either party. The BTA will have suggestions or advice for the Board over time. It is Mr. Hardy's intent to get other BTA members involved in the discussion of proper matters.

It was agreed that these liaison meetings needed to focus on specific issues as well as ideas and future considerations. It was further agreed that participants would speak freely and that a summary of the overall discussions would be provided as per requirements of the Collective Agreement.

In the time remaining for this meeting two issues were addressed in detail:

- 1) Mentoring of Teachers;
- 2) Upcoming Provincial Elections (October 4, 2011).

1) Mentoring of Teachers

It was agreed that the peer coaching model of adult development is most effective and that this should be the focus of our work in this area. The current Joint Division/BTA Professional Development Initiative was referenced. It was agreed that this venue should be explored further to incorporate teacher mentoring on a larger scale.

2) Upcoming Provincial Elections (October 4, 2011)

Upon a lengthy discussion of this matter, it was agreed that the Board and the BTA should work together to advocate for the advancement of public education as part of the public processes. It was agreed that Trustee Sumner would recommend to the Board's Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee that a jointly sponsored public forum be held in mid-September. The purpose of the forum would be to invite candidates running for Provincial elections to express their views on joint questions related to public education. It was further agreed that the cost of holding such a forum would be shared jointly.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

P. Buehler
Co-Chair – Brandon Teachers Association

K. Sumner
Co-Chair – Brandon School Division

Appendix B

Joint City Task Force Committee Meeting Minutes

September 9/11 at 8:00am at City Hall

Present: Jan Chaboyer (until 8:35), Stephen Montague, Murray Blight, Marty Snelling, Kevan Sumner, Pat Bowslaugh

Note: This was a meeting originally believed to be scheduled for September 8 for which Glen Kruck had been available.

- Pat was assigned as Chair and reviewed the following topics from the previous term.
- Joint use of schools: Gerry Barnes has worked on the policy as per government request. The bookings are to go through City Hall (deals as per last year until updated.)
- EAL children: The BSD will serve at least as many EAL students as last school year (approximately 1000) as approximately 60 have registered for the Fall Term already. It was suggested that we pursue having the Hospital, Municipalities and Schools work together so each knows the focus and contributions of the others. In this way the needs of the new families could be met without duplication of services. (Use a "Team Brandon" approach.) It was also noted that the Government T.I. G. was insufficient to meet current costs and was thus rejected by the Board.
- Brandon School Division use of Sportsplex ; Swim lessons, for example, became too costly and were thus eliminated from the Grades 2, 4 and 6 Physical Education activities. BSD seeks consideration of the fees for use by our students' school programs to reflect the cost concessions being established by the Division for use by community groups.
- Discussion took place regarding the plight of schools needing new playgrounds, the costs involved, the difficult challenges of parent groups and the use of playgrounds by children from beyond the school catchment areas thus suggesting that the City be encouraged to support on a cost sharing basis. The report on school playground structures provided by Keith Thomas will be shared with councilors.
- Aboriginal People: BSD shared that we are in the early stages of planning for budget in which we would propose hiring an Aboriginal Liaison person. The job description for this proposed position will be pursued on September 20 at New Era at our next meeting with the Aboriginal people. It was noted that we should consider working closely with the City so we do not duplicate services.
- It was announced that the City is planning on hiring a Communications Officer.
- Discussion also involved consideration for a second joint forum similar to the one approximately six years ago "Youth 2" in which we would seek supportive input from student to address issues facing our student/schools .
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The suggested agenda for the Joint City/BSD Meeting on September 21 at the BSD Board Room at 12noon was proposed as follows:

(Lunch will be provided by Brandon School Division.)

Chair: Mark Sefton

- Topics:
- Joint use of schools including policy, costs, booking arrangements
- Recreation including use of the Sportsplex, Funding and Playground costs
- Update on supports for the Aboriginal Community

Update on the numbers and the supports for the English Additional language students