



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee Minutes

Wednesday, April 10, 2013 (12:15 p.m.)
Crocus Plains Regional Secondary High School

Present: P. Bowslaugh, Chairperson, M. Snelling, K. Sumner,
Ms. L. Jago, Mr. B. Richards and approximately 16 AP Students

A) **Equity and Sustainability in Education (Meeting with Crocus Plains Regional Secondary High School Advance Placement Students)**

Mrs. Bowslaugh thanked all in attendance for their participation. She noted the Committee had met with the Advanced Placement Students (AP) students at Vincent Massey High School and looked forward to receiving feedback on the program from the Crocus Plains students.

Students were asked to discuss and provide feedback on the following question:

"How effective is the Advanced Placement Program in addressing learning needs?"

The discussions held are attached as Appendix "A" to the minutes.

Trustee Bowslaugh thanked the students for their participation.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Bowslaugh, Chair

M. Snelling

K. Sumner

D. Karnes (Alternate)

Meeting with Students of Crocus Plains Regional Secondary High School Wednesday, April 10, 2013

How effective is the Advanced Placement (AP) Program in addressing learning needs?

- Prepares me for University or any other form of post-secondary education;
- It is a cost saving strategy – as I can get a university credit for it and won't have to pay to take the course in University;
- AP prepares me for the real world and how to communicate more effectively;
- AP is challenging;
- It helps me to keep my options open;
- It teaches me to think for myself;
- People in AP are there because they want to be there and not because they are "forced to stay in school" like in a regular classroom;
- The classes are smaller and there is more one to one learning;
- My work habits have improved;
- The AP courses are relevant to what I want to study later on;
- AP classes have a better learning environment;
- This is the first time in my school career I have actually had homework and it prepares me for University where you are not given "class time" to do your work;

Why is AP better than the regular classroom?

- I am challenged to work harder;
- The learning environment is better than the average classroom environment;
- Teachers realize we want to be there and are more helpful;
- The classroom atmosphere is better and we all learn together at the same rate;
- No one brings you down or is holding you back – there are no distractions;
- Everyone arrives on time;
- We learn more than in a regular class;
- Nothing is "dumbed" down;
- We can get more involved in class discussions and move at a faster pace;
- Through AP I can get scholarships;
- I feel better about my marks because I feel like I had to work to get a good mark;
- Even if you don't pass AP course, you will still do better at University because you have the background knowledge you don't receive in a regular classroom.

Suggestions for Board of Trustees:

- Consider an on-line blog. In Ontario there was a Province wide blog for students to participate in and discuss their courses and interact with other students;
- Refine the Computer course – it's a little repetitive;
- Students need to hear about AP courses sooner, like in Grade 8;
- AP courses are all offered in one time slot so you can only take one AP course;
- Timetabling is an issue and other courses such as band, choir, etc., have to be dropped in order to take AP course;
- It would be nice to have an EA in the AP course the help understand some times;
- Need to introduce AP courses earlier and provide an introduction;
- AP courses are mentioned in registration books but would have been nice if we had heard more about them when we had the high school principals speak to us about their schools;

What can be done to improve the Regular Classroom?

- Class sizes are often too big;
- Attendance is an issue;
- Standards need to be raised; if the standards of learning are decreased it rubs off on others in the classroom;
- It is also an issue that needs to be handled at the home as well.