BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

"Accepting the Challenge"

BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

May 18, 2011

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TO BE HELD **TUESDAY**, MAY 24, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.

J. L. MILNE BOARDROOM, ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

1031 - 6TH STREET, BRANDON, MANITOBA

G.F. Barnes
Secretary-Treasurer

AGENDA

1.00 AGENDA/MINUTES:

1.01 Reference to Statement of Board Operations

1.02 Approval of Agenda

1.03 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings

a) Regular Board Meeting, May 9, 2011.
Adopt.

2.00 GOVERNANCE MATTERS:

2.01 Presentations For Information

2.02 Reports of Committees

a)	Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee Minutes	(Grey)	M. Snelling
b)	Facilities & Transportation Committee Minutes	(Yellow)	D. Karnes
c)	Personnel Committee Minutes	(Pink)	D. Ross
d)	Other		

2.03 Delegations and Petitions

a) Mr. Howard Hoy, Retired Teacher, providing a Neelin High School Off-Campus Scholarship update.

2.04 Communications for Action

a) Akapelwa Mweemba, PhD, Manager, ACC – Adult Collegiate, May 5, 2011, noting the Assiniboine Community College's Adult Collegiate will be holding its annual graduation ceremony on June 25, 2011 and requesting the Chairperson's presence at the ceremony which will be held at McDiarmid Alliance Church.

Refer Business Arising.

b) Ray McLachlan, Teacher Advisor for Vincent Massey High School Reach for the Top team, May 9, 2011, noting the National Reach for the Top Tournament organization has invited them to attend the 2011 Tournament in Toronto. The total cost of the trip for one supervisor and six students would be $5,943. They would appreciate any financial help that the Board could provide.

Refer Motions.

c) Sixteen letters from parents representing Betty Gibson, Earl Oxford, George Fitton, Harrison, Meadows, O'Kelly, Riverheights, and Valleyview Schools as follows:
- Betty Gibson School:
  - Kara Flamond
- Earl Oxford School:
  - Jill Simmons
  - Lori Grebinski
- George Fitton School:
  - Cynthia Brown
- École Harrison School:
  - Melissa Turner
  - Jill Martine
  - Ramona Coey
  - Karen Slawinsky
  - Andrea Plante
  - Terry-Lynne Hlady
- Meadows School:
  - Lorie Stutsky
- O'Kelly School:
  - Jeff Coull
  - Marc Lavoie
- Riverheights School:
  - Jerry Lovas
- Valleyview/Earl Oxford Schools:
  - Jill Stewart

and noting that nine schools are currently raising funds for play structures. Collectively they are attempting to raise $659,000 and to date have raised approximately $174,000. They ask the Board to consider supporting the schools efforts by allocating some of the operating surplus to the nine schools presently fundraising for a new play structure.

Refer Business Arising.

2.05 BUSINESS ARISING

- From Previous Delegation

- From Board Agenda

d) Akapelwa Mweemba, PhD, Manager, ACC – Adult Collegiate, from Communications for Action 2.04a), noting the Assiniboine Community College's Adult Collegiate will be holding its annual graduation ceremony on June 25, 2011 and requesting the Chairperson's presence at the ceremony which will be held at McDiarmid Alliance Church.

e) Sixteen letters from Communications for Action 2.04c) from parents representing Betty Gibson, Earl Oxford, George Fitton, Harrison, Meadows, O'Kelly, Riverheights, and Valleyview Schools noting that nine schools are raising funds for play structures. Collectively they are attempting to raise $659,000 and to date have raised approximately $174,000. They ask the Board to consider supporting the schools efforts by allocating some of the operating surplus to the nine schools presently fundraising for a new play structure.

- MSBA issues (last meeting of the month)

- From Report of Senior Administration

a) School Reports - NIL

b) Learning Support Services Presentation – Social Workers – B. Bolley, C. Blaine, L. Driedger, B. Howe

c) Items from Senior Administration Report
- Student Accident Insurance – Refer Motions.
- Giving of Notice – Policy and Procedures – Refer Motions.
- Trustee Inquiries
  - Scholarships – Trustee Sumner
  - Student Computer Ratios – Trustee Kruck

2.06 Motions

63/2011 That the Student Accident Insurance Plan provided by Reliable Life Insurance Company, as carrier, as endorsed by the Manitoba School Boards Association, be approved for distribution to the students of the Division for the 2011/2012 school year.

64/2011 That the following policies are hereby rescinded:

- Policy 4002 – "Patriotic Exercises" and Reference 4002 – August 2004
- Policy 4003 – "Religious Exercises" and Reference 4003 – August 2004
- Policy 4004 – "Absence from Religious/Patriotic Exercises"
- Policy 4011 – "Spanish Language Program"
- Policy 4019 – "Challenge for Credit Option"
- Policy and Procedures 4020 – "Dual Credit Options – Advanced Credit Enrollment Scheme (ACES) in Partnership with Brandon University

65/2011 That the request from the Vincent Massey Reach for the Top Team for financial support for six students to attend the National Reach for the Top Tournament in Toronto be approved in the amount of $2,400.00.

2.07 Bylaws

That By-Law 4/2011 being a by-law of the Board of Trustees of the Brandon School Division for the purpose of amending By-Law 1/2011 which regulates the proceedings of the Board of Trustees of the Brandon School Division, originally passed January 24, 2011, as follows:

In Section 3.01, Clause 2.09a – remove the words "last meeting of each month".

Add 6.7 – Any resident, employee, student or parent of the Division shall have the right to, without prior notice, ask a single question of the Board. The question must pertain to an item to the agenda of the current meeting.

Add 6.8 – Public Inquiries will be limited to 15 minutes unless extended by a majority vote of the board members present.

Move Clause 2.09 – Public Inquiries to Clause 2.06 and the following clauses be renumbered.

Be now read for the third and final time, taken as read and approved.

That By-Law 5/2011 being a by-law authorizing the borrowing of moneys upon the credit of the Brandon School Division to meet current expenses for the fiscal year, July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 in the amount of $10,000,000 be now read for the first time.

2.08 Giving of Notice

NIL

2.09 Inquiries

2.09a) Public Inquiries (last meeting of each month – max. 15 minutes)

2.09b) Trustee Inquiries

3.00 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

3.01 Report of Senior Administration

Receive and File.

3.02 Communications for Information

a) Carolyn Duhamel, Executive Director, Manitoba School Boards Association, May 11, 2011, acknowledging receipt of the Board's correspondence dated April 25, 2011 requesting that the MSBA Labour Relations Department undertake a comprehensive review of particular aspects of collective bargaining and school operations and noting that the correspondence will be forwarded to the Provincial Executive for its consideration at the upcoming June 6, 2011 meeting.

Receive and File.

b) Lynne Mavins, Acting Director, Schools' Finance Branch, May 12, 2011, enclosing the *Public Schools Enrolment and Categorical Grants report for the 2011/2012 School Year* instruction booklet. The booklet is available on line at www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/finance/index.html and will assist school divisions in meeting the requirements for the reporting of enrolment and categorical grant information for the 2011/2012 school year.

Receive and File.

3.03 Announcements

a) Facilities and Transportation Committee consultation with school principals – 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 25, 2011, Board Room.

b) Personnel Committee - CUPE Negotiations – 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 25, 2011, Board Room.

c) Finance Committee Meeting – 2:00 p.m., Thursday, May 26, 2011, Board Room.

d) Policy Review Committee Meeting – 7:00 p.m., Thursday, May 26, 2011, Board Room.

e) Scholarship Committee Meeting – 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 31, 2011, Conference Room.

f) Brandon School Division Employee Long Service Recognition Evening – 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 31, 2011, Brandon City Hall Foyer.

g) Friends of Education Committee Meeting – 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 1, 2011, Conference Room.

h) Brandon Teachers Association Retirement Dinner – 6:00 p.m., Thursday, June 2, 2011, Victoria Inn.

i) Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Friday, June 3, 2011, Green Acres School

j) Personnel Committee Meeting – BTA Negotiations – 7:00 p.m., Monday, June 6, 2011, McLaren Room.

k) Policy Review Committee Meeting – 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, June 7, 2011, Board Room.

l) Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee Meeting – 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 7, 2011, École New Era School.

m) Finance Committee Meeting – 2:00 p.m., Thursday, June 9, 2011, Board Room.

n) Brandon School Division Employee Long Service Dinner – 6:00 p.m., Thursday, June 9, 2011, Victoria Inn.

o) Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee Meeting – 11:30 a.m., Friday, June 10, 2011, École Harrison.

p) NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – 7:00 p.m., Monday, June 13, 2011, Board Room.

4.00 IN CAMERA DISCUSSION:

4.01 Student Issues

- Reports

- Trustee Inquiries

4.02 Personnel Matters

- Reports

a) Confidential #1 – Personnel Report.
b) Confidential #2 – BTA/MTS Teacher Negotiations.

- Trustee Inquiries

4.03 Property Matters/Tenders

- Reports

- Trustee Inquiries

4.04 Board Operations

- Reports

a) Confidential #3 – Board Operations/Legal matter.

- Trustee Inquiries

5.00 ADJOURNMENT

Appendix A

Assiniboine Community College
ADULT COLLEGIATE

725 Rosser Avenue
Brandon, Manitoba CANADA R7A 0K8
Ph: 204.725.8735 Toll Free: 800.862.6307
Fax: 204.725.8740
WWW.ASSINIBOINE.NET

RECEIVED
MAY 10 2011

May 5, 2011

Dear Mr.Murray;

The end of each academic year marks a very special time in the life of our institution. On June 25, 2011, Assiniboine Community College's Adult Collegiate will be holding its annual graduation ceremony.

On behalf of the staff and students of the Collegiate, I request the honor of your presence at the ceremony. It will be held at the McDiarmid Drive Alliance Church, 635 McDiarmid Drive, Brandon. The processional will commence at 1:30 PM. You are also invited to join the graduates for refreshments following the ceremony.

Please confirm your attendance by contacting Tracy Trumbley at 725 8735 ext 7134 by June 10th, 2011.

Sincerely,

Akapelwa Mweemba, Ph.D.
Manager
ACC – Adult collegiate

2(B)(a)

715 McDiarmid Drive
Brandon, Manitoba
R7B 2H7

VINCENT MASSEY HIGH SCHOOL

Phone 204-729-3170
Fax 204-729-0365

Appendix B

May 9, 2011

O. ... of the Superintendent/CEO
Brandon School Division

To Whom It May Concern,

After last years' highly successful season in Reach for the Top Provincial and National Tournaments, we find ourselves in the position to attend the National Tournament in Toronto this year.

The Vincent Massey team went undefeated in Tournament play in the Westman division of Reach for the Top. We managed to play our way into the finalist match in the Provincial Tournament against St. Paul's Collegiate and lost by a narrow margin. The National Reach for the Top Tournament organization has invited us to attend the 2011 Tournament based on our competitiveness in last years' tournament.

After losing some key players from last years' team, our current team realized that the task of repeating last years' success would be a formidable one. I am proud of the initiative and determination our players exhibited in practices this year. Our new players have worked hard on their games and have become very confident in their skills. The team is looking forward to the National Tournament in Toronto although again we are presented with financial issues. The total cost of the trip for one supervisor and six students would be $5943.00. We would appreciate any financial help that the board could give us.

I believe this activity is very important to the students involved. They not only compete in an academic competition at the national level, but meet like minded students from across Canada and form lasting and meaningful relationships.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Respectfully

Ray McLachlan
Teacher Advisor for Reach for the Top

2011 05 17

Appendix C

May 16, 2011

Re: Allocation of funds to replace dangerous school playstructures

Dear Members of the Brandon School Division Board of Trustees,

I am a member of the Betty Gibson School Counsil and I chair the Playstructure Fundraising Commitee. We are 1 of 9 schools in BSD currently attempting to raise $659,000 to build a playstructure.

To date as a collective group we have raised approximately $174,000.

We, the members of Betty Gibson Parent Council, have worked very hard at keeping our costs low and have found a Canadian owed manufacturer to design us a playstructure for under $60,000. To date, we have raised approximately $4500.

As you are aware, playstructures encourage physical fitness and safe, imaginative play for our children. A safe and healthy environment for the children in our community is everyones concern.

CHALLENGES:

- our community is saturated with fundraising efforts

- parent councils are one of many organizations raising money (hockey teams, gymnastics, arts programs, etc.)

- many of our families are of a lower socioeconomic status and cannot donate monies or participate in most fundraising activities.

- many of our families are EAL parents which makes it difficult for them to be involved in the parent council and fundraising. (The few families we do have need a translator which is an additional cost to the Parent Council.)

You will shortly be facing difficult decisions about your operating surplus and we need your financial help to replace this unsafe playstructure.

Would you please consider allocating some of the Operating Surplus monies to aide us in improving the safety and well being of the 230 students of Betty Gibson School?

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kara Flamond

Betty Gibson Playground Committee

May 16, 2011

To the Brandon School Board of Trustees;

I am the chairperson of the Earl Oxford Parent Council. When our student body moved to Earl Oxford from Fleming School our parent council identified a need to replace our existing play structure within 5 years. We felt that a safe, modern play structure of the appropriate size for our student body was a critical component of school life. We knew that play is critical in developing community amongst our students, as well as contributing to their physical fitness and health. A 2010 Gallup survey of elementary school principals even linked more recess time with improved test scores!

What we have discovered over these past six years is that CSA approved play structures are very expensive! Models we have investigated from several suppliers that could accommodate our student population of about 300 students average around the $80,000 price range (not including all labour and installation costs). To date, we have only been able to raise $15,000 and we are starting to despair of another decade of fundraising before we can hope to achieve our goal.

Parent councils face many challenges in trying to raise funds. In general, so many groups, including sports teams and choirs, are fundraising that parents and businesses can become "tapped out". Also, a lot of research time is required to investigate grant opportunities and novel fundraising ideas. We have applied for some grants, but have not yet been successful because we do not have adequate resources in the bank – most grants want to be the final piece in the fundraising puzzle. In our specific situation, we have had very small numbers of participating parents to work on the project and thus cannot compete with the fund generating capacity of a larger parent council.

I have recently learned that we are but one of nine schools that are currently working to replace their play structures. Are you aware of the number of schools in this position of need and the challenges that we volunteer parent councils face in accomplishing these goals?

I understand that the time is soon approaching to make decisions on how to allocate any operating surplus and that there are many other proposals that require your consideration. However, I would consider the need for adequate, safe play structures to be a pressing one. Having nine division schools competing for the same community fundraising dollars and government grants is an extraordinary situation and without divisional support, many of those projects will need to be substantially delayed. Unfortunately, the schools most likely to be affected by those delays, or even cancellations, are those with lesser parental resources.

Would you please consider funding play structure replacement funds by a significant contribution of $10,000 – 25,000 per school to help ensure the safety and physical fitness of our students in the coming decade?

Sincerely,

Jil Simmons

Earl Oxford Parent Council Chair

From: [redacted] Lori

Monday, May 16, 2011 10:10:15 PM

Subject: Playground letter

To: [redacted] **Sheri Bailey**

Dear trustees,

I am a parent of a student(s) at Earl Oxford school. We are 1 of 9 schools in BSD currently attempting to raise $659,000 to build a playstructure.
To date as a collective group we have raised approximately $174,000.

Earl Oxford school has been through a lot of challenges of the past few years, it would be great for our school to have something positive happen to it.

POSITIVE THINGS ABOUT PLAYSTRUCTURES:
- combat childhood obesity
- encourage physically activity (in some cases for some children, playing on the school ground playstructure is the only opportunity be physically active)
- enhance community; sense of family

CHALLENGES:
- community is saturated with fundraising efforts
- parent councils are one of many organizations raising money (hockey teams, gymnastics, arts programs, etc.)

- you will shortly be facing difficult decisions about your operating surplus
- exceptional circumstance and we need your financial help.

Would you please consider giving us funds?
Are you aware of this current situation?
Is it accurate that you will be experiencing an operating surplus?Wouldn't it be easier to raise school taxes by 1/2percent and put an end to the struggle these schools are having in raising the money they need to get their play structures? We need your help!

Thank you for your time in this matter.
Lori Grebinski
Earl Oxford Parent Council

Sent from my iPad

From: Cynthia Brown Mon, May 16, 2011 9:26:45 PM

Subject: Questions for the Brandon School Division Board of Trustees

To: **Sheri Bailey**

Attachments: Attach0.html / Uploaded File 2K

To Brandon School Division Board of Trustees

Hello, I am a parent of a student at George Fitton School and a member of one of the 9 playground committees in the Brandon School Division attempting to raise $659,000 to build new playstructures. To date $174,000 has been raised. We appreciate the $15,000 that is shared between our school and Ecole Harrison but feel strongly that more money is needed.

We realize that promoting physical activity and combatting childhood obesity are areas that you as a board are actively involved. We are asking you to allow us to help you in this endeavor by giving our students the tools to work towards this; in this case, a playstructure that is safe and accessible for the community and students.

Is it accurate that you will be experiencing an operating surplus?
Would you please consider assisting us in a greater financial capacity?

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Cynthia Brown

From: [redacted] Mon, May 16, 2011 9:45:53 PM

Subject: Questions for discussion BSD of Trustees

To: [redacted] **Sheri Bailey**

Attachments: [redacted] Attach0.html / Uploaded File 8K

Dear Brandon School Division Board of Trustees,

As the parent of young children in Ecole Harrison school I felt compelled to stress the importance of play structures to our children's school experience and all around health. I understand you have some important decisions to make regarding your operating surplus, and would like to take a few moments to explain why I feel serious consideration needs to be paid to the issue of funding for play structures.

As you may or may not know, Ecole Harrison is one of many schools in your division with aging, unsafe or non-exsistant play structures. While there are some very worthy causes you may give your funding to, such as flood relief or museum space, it is not my belief those are projects that best serve the community at large - as well both are eligible for other sources of funding that may be better suited to their needs.

Our children need outdoor spaces to explore, to play, to exercise. Many children cannot afford organized sports, their only source of play may be at school. We need safe, encouraging places to foster that energy. Our various parent councils throughout the city have dozens of volunteers logging thousands of hours to raise funds to provide such places for our children - all I am asking is that our school division show the same dedication in kind. This year is an exceptional circumstance in that with so many of us saturating the community at large with various fundraisers - and now the overwhelming need for donations and volunteers to aid in the flood fight - we are really beginning to feel the pinch.

Please consider the following:

Is it true that you will have an operating surplus to allocate, and will you please consider allocating it to playground development?

Does the BSD care about our children - both in mind AND body?

Does each board member remember what it was like to hang from the monkey bars, or swing on a swing - hair waving in the breeze - without a care in the world?

This is what we are working so hard to accomplish for our children, and your consideration is

appreciated.

Thank you,
Melissa Turner

Jill Martine

May 16, 2011

Brandon School Division Board of Trustees
Brandon School Division
1031 6th Street
Brandon, Manitoba R7A 4K5

Dear Trustees,

My name is Jill Martine currently I have one child (in kindergarten) attending École Harrison and I will have two more children attending École Harrison in the future. École Harrison is diligently trying to raise money for a play structure. Currently, there is no play structure for the 320 students.

École Harrison is one of nine schools in Brandon School Division currently attempting to raise $659,000 to build a play structure. To date as a collective group we have raised approximately $174,000. For École Harrison, we still have to raise $77, 628.49. This is a very difficult task as the community is saturated with fundraising efforts and the schools are approaching the same businesses, corporations, community groups, and service clubs for support.

When my son comes home he tells me of the adventures he has during recess. They pretend to dig for treasure (he has brought home a broken popsicle stick, a feather, and a broken pencil) and they go on hunts to find, for example dinosaur bones (sticks or objects that have been discarded on the grounds). I do not have the heart to keep telling him he should not be picking up garbage from the ground because I realize how they have nothing with which to play. I am extremely happy with the imaginative play in which my son and his friends are engaged, and I just think of how excited they would be with a playground and how their imaginative play may be enhanced with a play structure.

Furthermore, play structures not only encourage imaginative play, but they help build a sense of community. With regard to École Harrison, during the school hours, the École Harrison Community Park will be utilized by the school's approximately 320 students who come from across the entire city of Brandon and surrounding areas. Outside of school hours, the Park, which will serve 400 plus neighbourhood children, will become a popular destination for an area that has been lacking playground equipment for some time (there is currently no play equipment in the 100 block quadrant banded by Victoria Avenue and Richmond Avenue on the north and south respectively and by First Street and Tenth Street of the east and west respectively). Furthermore, with the Park having picnic facilities, it will be a destination for the entire community. École Harrison also has

before and after school YMCA programs that would utilize the Park. Moreover, community groups utilizing the gym facilities, the baseball diamond on the grounds, or the soccer field on the grounds will also benefit from the new equipment. Finally, accessible components, including upper body challenges, musical components, lowered basketball standards, and picnic facilities, have also been incorporated into the design, thus further expanding the opportunities within the community.

I understand that you will be facing difficult decisions about your operating surplus. With all the benefits that come with play structures and our need for financial support, I ask, would you please consider giving us funds to support our endeavours of building play structures for our children?

Yours truly,

Jill Martine

Ramona Coey

May 16, 2011

Dear Brandon School Division Board of Trustees,

I am writing to you to share with you wonderful news and ask for your assistance.

The Brandon School Division currently has 9 schools communities that have organized Parent/Staff committees charged with mandate of designing and developing playground structures for their students and the surrounding community. Collectively we are attempting to raise $659,000.00 to meet the needs of our students. To date we have raised approximately $174,000.00. Further, two additional schools have been identified as requiring playground upgrades in the short to medium term.

Our commitment remains strong, although we are experiencing difficulty with fundraising efforts. Given the size and number of playground investments required within the community as well as other well deserving groups such as hockey, dance, baseball etc., the Brandon community is saturated with fundraising. Schools are competing for the same grant programs, corporate sponsorships and in kind donations.

We sincerely appreciate the $15,000.00 contribution you made to the joint venture between George Fitton and Ecole Harrison Schools. Further, I understand resistance to fund the entire value of each project. I assure you funding for extravagance is not our goal.

My understanding of your operating budget projections are that you will be ending the year in a surplus position of approximately $300,000 plus. You have many well deserving needs to meet within the community; I predict some of them may include:

EAL Resources – I am of the opinion that this should be funded through your operating budget.

Equity Resources – again, I believe these needs should be addressed at budget time. Further it is within the fundraising scope for a Parent Council to raise funds for equity on an annual basis, not $80,000 for a capitol project.

BJ Hales Museum Collection – I am thankful the Board remains dedicated to the protection and promotion of the BJ Hales Collection and that an estimate of I believe $78,000 has been provided to renovate the Earl Oxford Basement for its proper display. However, given our current reality, I would ask that you remain dedicated to the collections preservation, pare down the scope of the project, and continue to focus on the goal of the collection being housed permanently at the Brandon General Museum.

Flood Expenditures – Please dedicate yourself in this regard to your advocacy roll as a School Board. The City has declared a state of emergency and support guaranteed by the provincial government. Lobby the provincial government on our behalf to cover the additional expenses of the flood rather than reallocating our hard earned tax dollars.

Our projects collectively meet the needs of all many physical areas of the community. We are well deserving of the reallocation of your operating surplus. With your additional financial support you will affect so many community members in a meaningful, positive way.

In closing I ask the following questions be given consideration:

1. Will the School Division be ending this school year with an operating surplus?
2. Would you please assist us be by allocating additional funds to our well deserving projects through your operating surplus?
3. Will you give consideration to Trustee Murray's Inquiry of support for our project through the reallocation of the current year operating surplus?
4. Will you give consideration through your next budget process to address this area in a proactive manner? Perhaps an increase from $15,000 to $40,000.
5. Would you please meet with us as a group? I will make arrangements for a meeting.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter. I hope you accept it with the positive nature it was intended. I believe the reality of the situation is unknown to many, and would be pleased to address any questions or concerns you may have.

Respectfully,

R. Coey

Ramona Coey
Ecole Harrison Community Playground Committee Chair

May 16, 2011

To The Brandon School Board of Trustees,

I am a parent of a student at École Harrison. We are one of nine schools in the Brandon School Division currently attempting to raise $659,000 to build play structures at our respective schools. To date, as a collective group, we have raised approximately $174,000.

In this highly electronic age where children enjoy so much screen time in front of computers and televisions, the need for play equipment is paramount. Play structures help combat childhood obesity while encouraging physically activity - in some cases for some children, playing on the school ground play structures is the only opportunity to be physically active. Also, the existence of play structures enhances the surrounding community and highlights the sense of family, something that I believe the City of Brandon has so proudly promoted in the past.

Unfortunately, quality play equipment seems to be harder to come by, and with the community saturated with fundraising efforts, it is even harder for parent councils to raise the money for the equipment given they are one of many organizations raising money.

I understand you will shortly be facing difficult decisions about your operating surplus and we understand there are many worthy causes that you must consider. However, we feel the lack of play structures at our schools is worthy of consideration – this is an exceptional circumstance and we need your financial help. Would you please consider allocating funds to this worthy cause?

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. While pondering this letter, I compel you to please think about what the school grounds would look like without play structures.

Sincerely,

Karen Slawinsky

From: [redacted]<

Monday, May 16, 2011 11:55:50 PM

Subject: Letter to Trustees

To: [redacted] **Sheri Bailey**

Attachments: [redacted] Attach0.html / Uploaded File 23K

Dear BSD Trustees:
I am the Chair of the École Harrison Parent Council. We are one of at least 9 schools in the BSD currently raising funds to install a new playstructure on school grounds in our city. The cost of these essential recreational spaces in our school communities totals well over half a million dollars.

As school trustees, I don't need to remind you how important physical activity is to raising healthy, active children. Playstructures come in many different shapes and sizes but each one is intended to provide a safe, creative place for children to actively play as an individual, or as a group.

These opportunities, however, come at a price – a very big price. A realistic quote for the average school of 300 students is in the range of $80,000. Parent councils in this city will routinely raise around $5,000 per year to provide their students with various items such as athletic equipment, musical instruments, library resources and subsidized events and field trips in the school. As I mentioned previously, this year, half of the K-8 schools in this Division will be attempting to raise up to 20 times that much. The majority of these funds will come from the local community and parent councils will inevitably be approaching the same businesses and other groups. Our requests will come at the same time as request from other sports teams, arts groups and other children's organizations.

You will shortly be making decisions regarding your operating surplus. Under these exceptional circumstances, would the Trustees consider allocating some of those funds to those groups competing for the fundraising dollars for their playgrounds?

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Andrea Plante

École Harrison Parent Council

From: Terri-Lynne Hlady 17/05/2011 10:14:...

Subject: play structure fundraising

To: **Sheri Bailey**

Attachments: Attach0.html / Uploaded File 8K

Dear trustees

I am a parent of 2 student(s) at Ecole Harrison. We are 1 of 9 schools in BSD currently attempting to raise $659,000 to build a play structure.

To date as a collective group we have raised approximately $174,000.

I am writing this letter not only as a parent of students at this school but also as a member of the community. The area surrounding Harrison/George Fitton does not currently have any type of play structure for kids and families to frequent. Having a play structure would benefit in many different ways:

- help to combat childhood obesity

- encourage physically activity (in some cases for some children, playing on the school ground play structure is the only opportunity be physically active)

- enhance community; sense of family

I think all of the schools have got to a point where they have exhausted their fundraising efforts and have saturated their communities. The schools not only compete with one another for fundraising but as well they have to compete with all of the extracurricular groups that also have to fundraise, and its not about competing for peoples money and who raised more money, its about having a place for our children to go and play!!!

I understand that the school division is currently operating at a surplus and will be facing some difficult decisions in the next little while. I ask that you consider disbursing the funds amongst the schools doing the fundraising for these costly play structures. Raising enough money to purchase these structures could take a very long time without this additional aid. Is it in the best interest of the children to be without a play structure, without the physical activity they all need and that we should all encourage???

Thank you for your consideration.

Terri-Lynne Hlady, CGA

Assistant Controller

Dear Trustees,

I, Lorie Stutsky represent Meadows School as a member of the Parent Council. We are 1 of the 9 schools in the Brandon School Division collectively attempting to raise $659,000.

We would love to provide a safe accessible playground for all to use. There are really no playgrounds around the Meadows area so we feel it is important to build one to satisfy the needs of our students and that of the community. Meadows school is looking at building a playground that is accessible for all – wheelchairs, visually impaired, etc. We are all aware of the child obesity in our society and are strongly encouraging physical activity. Many students depend on play structures as their only form of physical activity.

The cost of playgrounds these days is unbelievable. There are so many safety issues involved with designing a new playground plus the actual play structure itself your funds are soon eaten up. Because we are looking at accessibility, we have to put special ground cover down which will increase our cost as well.

Our community is saturated with fundraisers. Not only are these fundraisers coming from schools, they are also coming from many other organizations such as hockey, gymnastics, dance, and so on. Also, these 9 schools are applying for all the same grants and bottom line there just isn't enough money to go around.

Are you aware that a play structure for 300 students is estimated at approximately $80,000?

We need your financial support, would you please consider helping us with our community accessible playground by giving us some dollars from your operating surplus budget?

Thank you.

Lorie Stutsky

Dear Trustees

I represent the O'Kelly Parent Advisory Council (OPAC). We are currently raising funds in order to build a new playground. We have just over 5000 dollars in our fund and it has taken us a very long time to do so. We have a very small council 5 parents for our school of 190 students. As stated we have a terrible time trying to fundraise. I understand that there may be a surplus in the operating budget this year and that it may be available to be utilized by Parent councils. We as i stated have a limited base to fundraise. We are not supported by CFB Shilo in a financial way. It has taken over 3 years to raise just over 5000 dollars. Every council that has come before our current group has tried and contributed to our funds. As one of 9 schools in the division who are also in the process of playground planning we are having difficulties in both the planning and participation in fundraising. As we are a part of the 9 schools and many other volunteer groups such as hockey and gymnastics and Brandon is a small area the local business support is very saturated with requests for donations we have troubles in obtaining either funds or product support. This causes us to rely on our very small parent base for contributions. Shilo is a very small community and the population is transient as we are predominantly military families. Some of our families are not very affluent and cannot constantly contribute. We also in the past have been asked by the staff to help with projects which also diminish our funds. We are trying very hard to make money and need about 50 thousand for our plan. We have a very old wood structure that has in the past been the cause of injury to a few students, these range from splinters to broken bones. We also are fighting childhood obesity and feel a new structure would benefit us. I understand that you may experience difficulty with decisions about your operating surplus. There are many causes such as EAL and repairs to infrastructure. The recent high water events as well. As for the water I understand the province will back up the city and assist in offsetting the unexpected costs. We have discovered that a new play structure will cost us in excess of 50 thousand and that's without labour costs. Are you aware of the prices for equipment? Is it accurate that there will be a surplus and would you consider funding us to some degree? Can you imagine a school without a playground?

All of these factors can contribute to a healthy community filled with happy healthy children.

For Your Consideration

Jeff C Coull Vice Chair OPAC

From: Marc Lavoie Mon, May 16, 2011 11:42:29 PM

Subject: operating surplus

To: **Sheri Bailey**

Dear trustees

I am the Chair person for the O'Kelly School Parent council. We are 1 of 9 schools in the BSD currently attempting to raise $659,000 to build a play structure. To date as a collective group we have raised approximately $174,000. This is result of hard work from a small devoted group of parents, all of whom are volunteers.

Playstructures in a school play ground offers a great deal to our students.

1. it encourages team work
2. fair play
3. physical fitness
4. motor skills development
5. helps combat childhood obesity
6. enhance community spirt and a sense of family; and
7. a place to laugh.

We the Parent Council have fund raised all year long. We have had raffles, Family fun night, BBQ, and we are hosting family dances. The Challenges that comes with fundraising is we are 1 or 9 school also going out to our local community businesses looking for donation. The local community is saturated with fundraising efforts.

The BSD parent councils are one of many organizations fun raising money in our community (hockey teams,gymnastics, arts programs, etc.)

As the school year comes to close you will shortly be facing difficult decisions about your operating surplus.

O'Kelly is a school that come with its own special challenges one because of it's location. Many of our children start at O'Kelly and later move to a new location 3 to 4 years after starting at O'Kelly. The O'Kelly school is located at Canadian Forces Base Shilo, a great many students have one or both parents serving in the Canadian Armed Forces. At times one of the parents could be away performing his or her duty out of Country. This, on its own poses a problem with finding volunteers to come out and help. A good playstructure help reduces the impact of daily stress especially when one or both parents are away. Children can go to the playstructure and briefly forget all the hardships that plague us as parents even if it is for a minute.

Questions:

Would you please consider giving us O'Kelly's Parent Council funds so we can better prepare our young students?

Is your Comity aware of this current situation for all 9 schools in the BSD?

Does the BSD hold any responsibility to the schools for the playstructures? If yes what?

Is it accurate that you will be experiencing an operating surplus?

How can the BSD support and recommend the need for physical fitness if they continue to have our playstructures removed. With no large financial support to the schools in the division, or new structures goal looks like it will

never come.? I was told about 15 thousand for playstructure up dates, and up keep. How does one make a case to receive this moneys. This is great but we are 9 schools working on the same goal.

Realistic quote for a playstructure for a school of 300 kids = $80,000 We as a parent council with only so many members will never make that goal with bake sales and school dances.

Thanks you for your time.

Marc Lavoie
O'Kelly Parent Council Chair.

May 16, 2011

Jerry Lovas

Dear Brandon School Division Board of Trustees

I am a parent of two students at Riverheights School. We are 1 of 9 schools in Brandon School Division currently attempting to raise money to build a new play structure. Our current play structure is scheduled for removal in 2013. To date our parent council group has raised approximately $33,000.00 of our $100,000.00 target. The playground is a significant part of our community school. There are many advantages to having a playground some of them include;

- Aids in combating childhood obesity
- Encourages physical activity
- Promotes social play and interaction
- Promotes interaction between kids of various backgrounds and physical capabilities
- Enhance a sense of family and community
- Provides an alternative to delinquent behaviour

Although we have raised a significant amount of money to date, we have encountered many challenges in raising this money. Some of the challenges we have encountered are as follows;

- Our community is saturated with fundraising efforts.
- It is difficult to raise money in our community with all the other programs families are involved in. Most of these programs involve fund raising activities as well.

It is my understanding that you will shortly be facing difficult decisions about how to allocate a possible operating surplus of approximately $300,000.00 I have a few questions regarding the use of these funds, they are as follows;

1. Will the Brandon school Division have an operating surplus this year? If so do you know how much it is?
2. We are in need of funds for our school playground. Would you consider supporting our school playground with these surplus funds?
3. Any amount of additional money would be appreciated. To what degree would you consider funding our school playground?

Thank you for your consideration and support. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at

Regards Jerry Lovas

From: "jill stewart" Mon, May 16, 2011 10:52:47 PM

Subject: school playground structures

To: **Sheri Bailey**

Attachments: Attach0.html / Uploaded File 4K

Dear Brandon School Division Board of Trustees,

I am a parent of two children in the Brandon School Division. One attends **Valleyview Centennial**, the other is a student at **Earl Oxford**. Both schools are currently fundraising for a new play structure, along with seven other schools in the Brandon School Division. The average play structure is currently in the $80,000.00 range. Times that by nine and we are looking at a fairly astronomical amount of money. We are all competing for the same sources of funding : parents, Brandon businesses, grant providing agencies,etc. All are starting to get weary. We need some help, hopefully from the Brandon School Division.

Would you consider allocating the current Operating Surplus to the nine schools presently fundraising for a new play structure? It would go a long way to ensuring that our children have a safe environment for physical activity.

Kind regards,

Jill Stewart