

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, THE BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION, HELD IN THE J. L. MILNE BOARDROOM, ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 1031 - 6TH STREET, BRANDON, MANITOBA, AT 7:00 P.M., MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2010.

**PRESENT:**

Mr. G. Buri, Chairperson, Mr. D. Karnes, Vice-Chairperson, Mr. P. Bartlette, Ms. R. Coey, Mrs. B. Jolly, Mr. B. Mayes, Mr. J. Murray, Dr. L. Ross, Mr. M. Snelling.

Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. G. Barnes, Recording Secretary, Ms. S. Bailey

Senior Administration: Dr. D. M. Michaels, Superintendent, Mr. G. Malazdrewicz, Associate Superintendent, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. K. Zabowski

**CALL:**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and referred to the Call.

The meeting had been called for the purpose of considering the following:

- a) Single Track French Immersion Implementation – Harrison School;
- b) Giving of Notice for Debenture Borrowing.

**a) Single Track French Immersion Implementation – Harrison School**

The Chairperson began his opening remarks by noting the meeting had been called as a result of the public's request for more information regarding implementation of the Single Track French Immersion Program. He confirmed the Board had directed Senior Administration to prepare a report regarding the delivery of physical education programs and extra-curricular athletic activities within the context of the two new Kindergarten to grade 8 configurations at Green Acres and George Fitton Schools. He further confirmed the public would have the opportunity to address the Board on this subject at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to be held on Monday, April 12, 2010. He stated the Board would receive the report of Senior Administration at tonight's meeting, ask questions for clarification and make a final decision after hearing the public's input on April 12, 2010. He noted the public would not be allowed to speak at tonight's meeting. Mr. Buri then asked Senior Administration to present their report.

Superintendent, Dr. Michaels and Associate Superintendent, Mr. Greg Malazdrewicz, presented their report entitled "Single Track French Immersion Implementation Considerations – English Program Physical Education Transportation" attached as Appendix "A" to these Minutes, which contained three options with respect to delivery of the physical education programming for Green Acres School and George Fitton School students.

Following the presentation of the report, it was agreed by members of the Board that the implementation of a Single Track French Immersion Program at École Harrison had been decided and the purpose of the meeting was to consider how to deliver the Grade 7 and 8 physical education program. Trustees asked a number of questions with respect to the three options presented as well as clarification of the following:

- the difference between curricular and extra-curricular activities;
- the amount of space still available at Green Acres School after repatriation of grade 7 and 8 students;
- the capital and maintenance budget money available for washroom renovations;
- the difference between École la Source run by the Division Scolaire Franco-Manitobaine and O'Kelly School French Immersion program operated by the Brandon School Division;
- the Fleming School site and the fact the City of Brandon owns the property around the school including the playground while the Division only owns the building and property the building is situated on;
- the bulletins and communications provided to parents regarding facility changes and renovations;
- how the physical education curriculum and after school activities were implemented at J. R. Reid and Linden Lanes Schools when Vincent Massey Grade 7 and 8's were returned to their catchment area schools;
- Life Skills classrooms and arrangements to continue programming at Riverheights School for displaced George Fitton Life Skills students;
- the size of the gymnasium at New Era, Harrison, George Fitton and Green Acres Schools and the projected enrollment for grades 7 and 8 students;
- the discussions the Chairperson had with the Minister of Education with respect to gymnasiums in other schools in Manitoba;
- the number of times a week a student would be bused to other schools for gym, band and shop/home economics as well as the length of the bus ride.

Further discussions were held regarding the possibility of holding classes prior to the traditional start of the school day; holding classes outside; the possibility of moving the Grade 5 and 6 École Harrison students over to George Fitton for physical education in the smaller gyms while the Grade 7 and 8 George Fitton students participate in the physical education curriculum at Harrison.

Following the discussions and clarification of questions, the majority of the Board of Trustees informally agreed that Option #2 as presented by Senior Administration best addressed the situation regarding program delivery without bussing students and reiterating that bussing appeared to be the major concern from the public. Trustees confirmed their wishes to hear from the public at the April 12, 2010 meeting prior to making any final decisions regarding program delivery and bussing of students. It was suggested that information be forwarded from the schools to parents advising them in this regard.

It was noted that Trustees Murray, Karnes and Snelling would not be at the Board meeting to be held on April 12, 2010 due to prior commitments. Discussions were held regarding the possibility of postponing the meeting until all members of the Board were present. Senior Administration confirmed that due to tight staffing timelines any further delay would result in staffing continuing into July for the 2010-2011 school year. It was agreed the Board of Trustees would avail themselves of the current technology available and the three trustees who were unable to physically attend the Board meeting on April 12, 2010 would participate in the meeting electronically.

The Chairperson concluded discussions by noting that he hoped everyone had a clearer understanding of the situation. He confirmed the Board had unofficially agreed Option #2 presented the best resolution to the problem. He noted the public would have the opportunity to make presentations to the Board at the Regular Meeting to be held on April 12, 2010. He confirmed that Trustees Murray, Karnes, and Snelling would participate in the April 12, 2010 meeting electronically. He thanked Senior Administration for the detailed report and the three options which had been presented. He also thanked the members of the public who attended the Board Meeting and noted that the Board of Trustees does understand, feel and care about the concerns expressed by members of the public regarding this matter.

**b) Giving of Notice for Debenture Borrowing**

Doug Karnes

I hereby give notice that at the next Regular meeting of the Board, I or someone in my stead, will introduce By-law No. 2/2010 being a bylaw for the purpose of authorizing the borrowing of the sum of \$1,559,600.00 upon the credit of the Division by the issue of debentures to meet partial costs for construction of Meadows School Grooming Room, Crocus Plains Regional Secondary High School Roof Replacement and Replacement of Air Cooled Condensing Unit.

Mr. Bartlette – Mr. Karnes

That the meeting do now adjourn (8:35 p.m.).

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Chairperson

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Secretary-Treasurer