MINUTES OF THE REGULAR 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 12, 2010 .

PRESENT:
Mr. G. Buri, Chairperson, Mr. P. Bartlette, Ms. R. Coey, Mrs. B. Jolly, Mr. B. Mayes, Dr. L. Ross.

Mr. D. Karnes, Vice-Chairperson, Mr. J. Murray, Mr. M. Snelling attended the meeting from 7:00p.m. until 11:00 p.m., electronically via conference phone.

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

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

The Chairperson, Mr. Buri, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and welcomed all visitors to the meeting. The Chairperson noted Trustees Karnes, Murray and Snelling were attending the meeting electronically via conference phone.

AGENDA

1.00 AGENDA/MINUTES:

1.01 Reference to Statement of Board Operations

1.02 Approval of Agenda

a) Trustee Mayes noted he had a statement to make under section 2.00 “Governance Matters”.

b) Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Barnes, requested the addition of a late delegation/presentation from Mrs. L. Shearer, regarding the implementation of the Single Track French Immersion program at Harrison School.

c) Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Barnes, noted under section 3.03 “Announcements” that the Nutrition Ad-Hoc Committee meeting scheduled for April 13, 2010 would be rescheduled to a later date.

d) Superintendent, Dr. Michaels requested the addition of a Personnel Issue for In-Camera discussions.

e) Trustee Ross noted she had two items under Trustee Inquiries and one In-Camera item regarding a personnel matter.

Mrs. Jolly – Mr. Bartlette
That the agenda be approved as amended.
Carried.

1.03 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings

a) The Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held March 22, 2010 were circulated.

Mr. Bartlette – Mrs. Jolly
That the Minutes be received and filed.
Carried.

b) The Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held March 25, 2010 were circulated.

Mr. Murray – Mr. Snelling
That the Minutes be received and filed.
Carried.

c) The Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held April 5, 2010 were circulated.

Ms. Coey – Mr. Bartlette
That the Minutes be received and filed.
Carried.

2.00 GOVERNANCE MATTERS:

Point of Privilege: Trustee Mayes advised the Board of Trustees that his family would be relocating to Winnipeg in August, 2010 and therefore he would not be able to complete his term of office. He confirmed it had been an honour to serve on the School Board and he would continue to serve as a Trustee of the Brandon School Division until his relocation in August.

2.01 Presentations For Information

2.02 Reports of Committees

a) Joint Task Force Committee Meeting

The March 2010, written report of the Joint Task Force Committee meeting was reviewed as circulated.

Trustee Coey noted there were several issues arising in the Minutes of the Meeting that needed to be addressed by the Board, including the following:

1. Transit busing for Shop/Home Economics programming. It was noted this was done through Senior Administration and a letter would be forwarded to the City of Brandon regarding the use of City Transit buses for the Shop/Home Economics programming;

2. Proposed Catchment Area changes. The City requested a copy of the proposed catchment area changes. It was agreed this matter would be forwarded to the Facilities and Transportation Committee for review and follow-up.

3. Developing a Speakers Bureau. It was agreed this matter would be discussed at a subsequent meeting.

4. No stopping zone at École New Era School. It was agreed this matter would be forwarded to the Facilities and Transportation Committee for review and follow-up.

5. Linden Lanes HUB expansion. Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Barnes, noted the Director of Facilities and Transportation had been directed to follow-up on this matter with the City of Brandon confirming that the current playground was not on Linden Lane's School property but rather on City property.

Ms. Coey – Mr. Bartlette
That the Minutes be received and filed.
Carried.

b) Workplace Safety and Health Committee Meeting

The March 24, 2010, written report of the Workplace Safety and Health Committee meeting was reviewed as circulated.

Mr. Karnes – Mr. Snelling
That the Minutes be received and filed.
Carried.

c) Other
- NIL

2.03 Delegations and Petitions

1. Mr. Gerald Rempel, parent, addressed the Board of Trustees regarding the implementation of Single Track French Immersion at Harrison School. He felt the implementation process had been rushed through. He asked the Board to postpone the matter for one year, set-up a special task force of non-paid parents who will work with the Board to develop a plan that works to benefit everyone. He confirmed that he was not opposed to the Single Track French Immersion programming but asked that the Board implement it properly. He stated the Board must be accountable to their successors – that being the children of the Division. He noted the main issue appeared to be overcrowding at New Era School and asked that the Board look at that issue first. He felt money often stopped people from doing the right thing. Mr. Rempel referenced an article from the Globe and Mail dated March 31, 2010 regarding the increase in prison spending. Mr. Rempel further stated he had problems with the comments that the Public Schools Finance Board will not help and asked the Board to try again and build a new school. He ended his presentation by asking the Board to take the time, focus their energy, think past personal agendas and egos and give the Division's children the gift that will keep on giving, rather than a mess that will continue to rob them of some of the best years of their lives.

   Mr. Rempel also asked for clarification regarding the use of City Transit for Home Economics and Shop, which are required courses, while the School Division

transports students to Band classes which is an optional program. It was noted that the Home Economics/Shop program runs for half a day while the band classes require students to be back at their home school in time for the next class.

2. Travis Koch-Gensiorek, student, spoke to the Board regarding a student's perspective on the Single Track French Immersion process. He felt students had never been given the opportunity to meet with the Board of Trustees to discuss their concerns. He thought about the three options presented and noted he did not like Option 1 which would mean staying at George Fitton for gym class as it is too small for students his size especially when there are 22 to 25 students in the gym at once. He did not like Option 3 where students would be bused to another school for gym. He felt it would cut into recess and lunch hour time which students need as it gives them a chance to get outside and move around so that they will not be restless in class. He felt Option 3 would be the best option as students would not be bussed all over the place and missing lunch and recess. Harrison is the closet option with the largest gym. However he did not think having 2 classes in the same gym at the same time was safer for the bigger students. He asked that kindergarten to grade 4 students who are smaller in size be doubled up so that the older students do not have to double up. He ended his presentation by asking the Board if he would have to walk over to Harrison in -27 weather as they currently cannot go out for recess or lunch break in cold weather.

3. Sandra Koch-Gensiorek, parent, spoke to the Board regarding the physical education options provided to the Board at the April 5, 2010 meeting. She noted that every time the parents and community members have voiced concerns, accepted defeat and attempted to move on a new issue seems to arise. From her perspective Option 3 appears to be the worst of the worst as it would require her son to attend three to four different schools each 6 day cycle and cut into his lunch and recess time. She did not support Option 1 due to safety concerns and the size of the children in gyms built for smaller children. She therefore saw Option 2 as the best of the worst. It afforded students a decent sized gym. However, before approving the option she asked the Board to consider two possible modifications to it. She would like to hear how feasible it would be to follow Trustee Jolly's suggestion regarding the Grade five and six students at École Harrison attending gym at George Fitton thereby freeing up space for the Grade 7 and 8's from George Fitton to attend gym at Harrison. The other modification she felt was already partially in the plan but should be expanded upon. In order to accommodate the George Fitton 7's and 8's the École Harrison Kindergarten to Grade 2 classes would need to double up. She asked that the Board consider doubling up the Harrison Kindergarten to Grade 4 or 5 classes to allow for the older and bigger students to have individual classes. Her one concern with Option 2 was that the Green Acres Grade 7 and 8 students were not included and she hoped those parents would be presenting some options or modifications for their children. She concluded her presentation by asking the Board to make modifications that will allow each of the classes individual gym time giving them more space to move around.

   Trustees requested clarification from Senior Administration as to why Trustee Jolly's suggestion would not work. Associate Superintendent, Mr. Malazdrewicz,

noted there currently was no space available within the current timetables. He also noted the difficulties regarding delivery of the program in the appropriate language.

4. Curtis Bergman, a Green Acres School parent, had been unable to attend the Board meeting to give his presentation. Mr. Doug Wilson another Green Acres School parent, read Mr. Bergman's presentation on his behalf.

   Mr. Bergman wished to note that he did not disagree with the need for a French Immersion program or its need to increase capacity to accommodate more students. What he did disagree with was the manner in which it is being implemented. He felt the timeline set out was insufficient to make the necessary arrangements for a smooth transition. He was disappointed to hear at the April 5th Board meeting that the agenda was to only include busing issues revolving around academic physical education and not the entire implementation plan. He felt parents had clearly expressed their disapproval for all busing of their children especially during their rest times, as well as their disapproval of the entire implementation process. He noted after the April 5th meeting parents gathered in a room upstairs to discuss the Board meeting and the entire implementation process. At one point someone posed the question "This is what is being offered to you, but what is it that you want?" He noted his immediate response was to stop the current process and make the necessary changes before a huge disruption occurred and do it right the first time. Many in attendance raised their hand in agreement. Discussions were held regarding the use of cottages or huts on the New Era grounds as a viable solution until renovations could be completed. It was confirmed that this had been mentioned at one of the New Era meetings but it was quickly removed from the discussion table when those who wanted the Single Track school said that would be unacceptable for their children. He noted that Winkler has used cottages for several years now and although not perfect it was still less disruptive. As for gyms, he noted that if the gymnasiums were not properly sized for the extracurricular sports, how can students be taught the fundamentals of the sports? Based on the size of the students who will be returning to Green Acres, the tiny washrooms that will be used as "change rooms" will not be adequate. He wondered if the tight hallways at Green Acres school would be in violation of the fire regulations with new lockers being installed. He had wondered why if there are only so many desks available in any one school is the enrollment at New Era's French Immersion program so over populated with or without school of choice. Dr. Michaels had responded that it was not a matter of school of choice but rather program of choice and therefore the Division cannot say no to enrollment requests. He further noted that his understanding was that French Immersion is required provincially and the single track school is the request of the Board of Trustees. Therefore he requests that the Division sideline the single track school idea and re-look at the French Immersion program and a possible new location. He asked if the program could be implemented as a K-12 French Immersion school in Assiniboine Community College as it is a Provincial building that will be vacant at the beginning of the new school year. He asked the Board to admit that the costs both monetarily and emotionally as well as the vast amount of disruption and upheaval for families that the current single track French Immersion program implementation is not the best solution and it is not too late to reverse the decision.

Trustees requested clarification from Senior Administration as to whether or not the Division could take over Assiniboine Community College. Superintendent Dr. Michaels noted the School Division and the Assiniboine Community College are two separate and distinct fields run by two different government departments. She also noted that the Division would have to apply to the Public Schools Finance Board who would not allow the takeover of Assiniboine Community College as the Division must fill the empty spaces they currently have in their schools. Trustees also requested clarification regarding the number of empty seats currently available in the Division. Senior Administration advised there were approximately 1,200 empty seats at the K-8 level.

5. Amy Buehler, a teacher at Harrison Middle School, addressed the Board of Trustees regarding the implementation of the Single Track French Immersion program. She noted there are times when it is important to reevaluate a situation, to reexamine the facts and question former decisions and she believes that the decision to make Harrison a Single Track French Immersion School should be reexamined in light of information that was not known when the initial decision was made. Without following the information gathering procedure set up to give parents, teachers, students and interested parties the opportunity to respond to the option of using Harrison as had been done with the previous options to address New Era's overcrowding situation, in June 09, the Board approved the closing of Harrison as a Middle Years School and endorsed its redesignation as a Single Track French Immersion school effective September 2010. She confirmed that the public feedback on the change of Harrison to a Single Track French Immersion school has been negative and as the public learned more about the moves, the louder and more frequent the objections have become. She noted the Board has acknowledged that new gym facilities would be required for both George Fitton and Green Acres as the gyms at both schools are about half the size of the gym at Harrison. The physical education staff at Harrison has made their safety concerns regarding those facilities known to the Board and she asked what the Board will do as the school gym space is not adequate and the busing issue is not a solution that the public likes. She proposed other options for the Board to discuss and review. She referenced Greg Dinsdale's suggestion regarding a "phase-in" over a period of three years and the benefits to this solution. She also proposed a solution where three dual track French Immersion schools would be developed and noted the benefits of this proposal. She concluded her presentation by noting there are times when deciding to change a decision is the very best decision the Board could make.

   Trustees discussed the suggestion which had been previously brought forth by Mr. Dinsdale regarding a phase in approach noting that the suggestion would not alleviate the overcrowding situation at New Era School. Ms. Buehler was asked what information she felt the Board didn't have prior to making their decision to implement the Single Track French Immersion programming at Harrison School. She noted the busing issue and the time frame for completion of the gym renovations had not been available or provided to the Board prior to their decision.

6. Michael Barrett, a parent/taxpayer, spoke to the Board regarding the physical education options provided to the Board at the April 5, 2010 meeting. He noted he was not opposed to the Single Track French Immersion School in Brandon and not opposed to using Harrison as the location in due course. He felt the Division would act in the best interests of all students and felt he had been blindsided with the Harrison decision after the public debates held at Harrison. He felt the motion had been passed before the public even realized it was an option. He attended the information meetings to seek clarification but was met with such words as “we don’t know yet” and “we will have to wait and see”. He asked what information was available in the decision making process? In March the implementation plan was rolled out and parents learned programs for Harrison Middle Years and George Fitton would be scattered about the division and students would be bused to physical education classes sacrificing recess and lunch time to ride the bus. He noted on the other side of the equation École Harrison would be ready to welcome its students without interruption, planned and equipped so completely they were even getting a gym stage curtain. It appeared the English stream population was to make way for the Single Track French Immersion students at all costs. Mr. Barrett reviewed and referenced various minutes which had brought the Board to this point and asked where the process had gone wrong. He asked why the current plan is better than a multi-phased implementation. He felt making New Era School a dual track K-5 French Immersion and English School and Harrison Middle School a dual track 6-8 school the Board would have addressed the issue of overcrowding at New Era and would have taken in the needs and status quo of all affected and make provision for the future establishment of a Single Track French Immersion school at Harrison. He asks why this model was not considered; why it is too late to choose that model by June 20, 2009; and why it is too late now? He confirmed he is not suggesting moving away from the École Harrison solution, just implementing it in a manner that the status quo of all is maintained and improved upon. He felt the Board has taken a difficult situation and amplified the controversy. He noted the Board had the opportunity to correct the path they are headed down and asked if they will.

   Trustees confirmed that Grade 7 and 8 students in other schools go elsewhere for band, shop and home economics programming. Clarification was provided regarding the difference between School of Choice and Programming Choice. It was noted that both dual track and single track French Immersion is a programming choice however, choosing whether to take French Immersion in single track or dual track form would be a school of choice decision.

7. Marla Galatiuk, a parent, spoke about the physical education options provided to the Board at the April 5, 2010 meeting. She provided her opinions on the options given and asked that Option 2 be amended to include Green Acres students’ use of the Harrison School gym. She challenged the Board to live a day in the life of the students currently attending Harrison school and then again with all the changes that have been proposed. She referenced the students’ comments regarding their feelings about the proposed changes. She also inquired about the possibility of relocating 3-4-5 Nursery School into Green Acres school and keeping the nursery school in the community. She asked the Board to slow things down until all concerns can be addressed. She noted with the perceived lack of communication it has been a hard decision for the community to accept.

She concluded her presentation by reiterating comments previously made by Trustee Bartlette that “change happens when opportunity and preparedness meet”.

Trustee Mayes noted the many benefits a small school like Green Acres has received over the past four years due to budget decisions made by the Board of Trustees.

8. Tracey Hanson a parent of children attending Harrison School spoke to the impact the Single Track French Immersion decisions have on her children and family. She wondered if a more transparent and community based approach would have netted a better outcome. She did not feel the Board was meeting their mission and vision statements with the decisions they made in the last few months and that the movement of students amongst various schools in the city is in direct contradiction to these statements. The movement will not enable each student to achieve maximum intellectual, emotional, social and physical growth and is likely to result in many falling short of their potential. She also felt the Board had fallen short in regards to being a centre of education excellence, built on community partnerships, effective leadership and exemplary practices. Despite Board member opinions to the contrary she felt parents had the right to be angry, annoyed, difficult and frustrated as these were their children they were fighting for and they did not feel that the Board had their children’s best interest at heart. Her preference is to delay the implementation of the Single Track French Immersion school until all appropriate renovations have been completed. However, since that is not likely to happen, she hopes that the Grade 7 and 8 students can return to Harrison for gym, but not as a shared gym. She also asked why the Board does not keep the band room at Harrison and let the students from George Fitton and Green Acres School go to Harrison for band as parents had been advised that students could still access the band room through a separate entrance.

   Trustees requested clarification from Senior Administration regarding the band issue. It was noted the Harrison band room would be required for early years programming and that Earl Oxford School had the space so the band program would be moved there. It was also noted that Earl Oxford School was centrally located to provide programming for the East Side band.

9. Nancy Wallace, parent, addressed the Board regarding the Single Track French Immersion issue. She noted her family, including her husband and herself, have all attended George Fitton and Harrison Schools and have a strong commitment and loyalty to the community and its schools. She did not feel that the implementation of the Single Track French Immersion school had been implemented in the best interest of the children currently attending Harrison and George Fitton schools. She noted children are at a pivotal time in their lives where school, sports and social experiences shape them for adulthood noting the decision the Board makes will mark their children’s paths for the rest of their lives. She felt there were other options the Board could have looked at before making decisions. She noted many teachers she had talked to feel change could have been implemented in a different way and that their suggestions fell on deaf ears. She stated many teachers she spoke to fear for their jobs if they take a stance. She felt the Division is lucky to have such good and caring people in

their employ. She realizes that everything in life has a cost and that some suggestions were turned down due to cost but noted that sometimes the better solution for the majority is worth spending the money. With respect to the Board's expansion of gymnasiums she asked if funding had been applied for and approved yet. If yes, she inquired about the time frame before the gyms are built. Referencing Dr. Ross' statements regarding what it is that parents really want; Ms. Wallace noted that what parents want is to not have this change implemented in the way it is currently being forced upon all of them. With reference to the decision that has been made, Ms. Wallace noted middle years is when children learn the fundamentals of such sports as volleyball and basketball. If children do not have the proper facilities to learn and be able to implement their skills in these sports they may not have the opportunity to play throughout the middle and high school years once there are tryouts as they won't have developed the proper skills. She felt the Grade 7 and 8 children should go back to Harrison for gym from both Green Acres and George Fitton schools. She also felt it was the younger students who should be doubling up for gym and not the higher grades. She liked the idea of increased gym time outdoors but noted we do live in Manitoba and it isn't unheard of to have two weeks of -40 below and decisions made need to be cognizant of that fact. She concluded her presentation by noting elections are coming and hoped the majority of the Trustees have enjoyed their term as the only reason many of them may get their position back is because there is not enough of an opposition to oust them. She felt it was sad that many parents from the affected schools feel they cannot come to meetings as they get too mad and frustrated.

Discussions were held regarding the mini-gym at George Fitton School noting that it is only the Kindergarten, Grade 1 and 2 range that would be using the mini-gym and not the older students.

10. Vanessa Hamilton, parent, expressed her concerns regarding the implementation of the Single Track French Immersion school. She noted her family also has a history within the Green Acres community and her husband grew up on the street where they currently live. She also noted City Councillor Don Jessiman is holding a ward meeting on April 20, 2010 and many of the parents concerns regarding this matter will be discussed there as well. She felt the process of planning the implementation of the Single Track French Immersion school and the decisions being made have compromised the integrity of the Board. She referenced the Division's Policy 4054 – School Development Planning noting she did not believe the implementation process has created the learning environment stated in Policy 4054. She stated the process has produced feelings of frustration, confusion, sadness, alienation and finally defeat amongst the parents because their voice and concerns have no value in planning the delivery of education for their children. She asked how the Board in a short period of time in June of 2009 decided that something of such a magnitude affecting three schools could be determined without conducting any public consultations. She no longer trusts and believes that the Board strives for equality among all children in Brandon. She questioned the budgeting priority for École Harrison compared to other school needs. She also did not believe that Grades 7 and 8 students should be riding the bus to participate in physical education classes in other schools. She respects the physical education teachers' professional assessment of the safety of the gyms and for these reasons the decision to implement the

Single Track French Immersion program at Harrison is seriously flawed. She was disheartened to hear Mr. Buri state that the Minister of Education had advised “there are schools that don’t even have a gym in Manitoba” as this suggested the parents were being viewed as greedy and self-centred for requesting an upgraded gym when there are students in this province that don’t even have a gym. She ended her presentation noting she felt the Brandon School Board did not view the health and safety of all children as a priority when planning the Single Track French Immersion school at Harrison and the lasting negative effects it will have at a community level.

Trustee Mayes referenced a letter the Board had received from the Green Acres Parent Council in 2007 requesting the Grade 7 and 8 students be brought back to Green Acres from Harrison School noting there appears to be some disagreement in the Green Acres community regarding the issue of repatriating students and safety in the school gym. Senior Administration was asked to speak about the physical education curriculum. Superintendent, Dr. Michaels noted the curriculum emphasizes healthy lifestyle choices and attitudes. There are specific skills that must be developed and she reviewed the curriculum with respect to sports. She stated Senior Administration believes the facilities are safe and delivery of the program will be somewhat altered. Associate Superintendent, Mr. Malazdrewicz, noted gross motor skills can be taught through a number of ways utilizing the space provided. Trustees requested clarification regarding the minimum size required for a gym. The Secretary-Treasurer noted the Public Schools Finance Board provides guidelines for school gym specifications based on the size of the school and its capacity.

11. Jan Bright, parent, taxpayer and concerned citizen, addressed the Board regarding the implementation of Single Track French Immersion at Harrison School. She felt it inconsiderate that the public affected by these decisions were not consulted. Progression can be a wonderful thing, but in moderation. She was not objecting to a French school, but to the disruption at Harrison. She noted at the start of all this one of the options presented was to make Harrison School a dual track which would have alleviated the overcrowding problem at New Era School without disruption to the English track students at Harrison. She further noted that there did not appear to be any French Immersion parents present to complain to the Board about what their children were giving up. She felt that the rule of thumb should be that the largest group of people affected should be considered. She felt the number of students affected by this far outweighed the number of students enrolled in the French school. She noted the Trustee’s are elected to represent all and not just their own children and family members. She also “does not condone people who say one thing to you on the phone and then another thing at a public meeting”. Boards should always have all the important information to make an informed decision and the Board can’t get a better expert opinion than the physical education teachers who work day in and day out in these gymnasiums over someone who sits in an administrative building. She concluded her presentation with two thoughts: 1) The Board will make their decision but if it is something the public doesn’t like there will be a steady stream of complaints coming to the Board on a regular basis. 2) The Board’s positions are elected and she will make it her personal job to see that some of the Board is not elected again.

Trustees requested clarification regarding the number of students at Harrison as opposed to the number of students at New Era school in order to obtain a clearer definition of the term “majority”.

12. Mrs. Loralee Shearer, parent, wished to discuss the options proposed in regard to the use of the George Fitton and Green Acre School gyms. She noted her family has had many years experience with the Green Acres and Harrison school gyms. Her son had been asked in Grade 5 and 6 at Green Acres School to hold back on his athletic ability in gym due to the gym being too small for some activities. She will not allow him to “hold back” if he returns to Green Acres as he is there to learn and improve and the Division Goal regarding quality learning and quality teaching is not being met if a student is not allowed to grow and improve their skills. She noted that prior to the “gag order” placed on teaching staff, they had confirmed that the gyms are not safe for activities such as basketball and volleyball and other curricular activities. She stated students and parents have expressed concerns, the public has sent several letters to the Brandon Sun expressing their concerns, even some Trustees have expressed concerns regarding the use of the gyms at Green Acres and George Fitton Schools for Grade 7 and 8 students. Therefore if the Board decides it is suitable for the Grade 7 and 8’s to use the gyms then any injuries that are incurred are the responsibility of the Board. Also, if the gym is suitable then she cannot, as a taxpayer, support a larger gym at a cost of two million dollars just for extra-curricular activities. She also addressed the transportation issues which had been raised noting the focus was not just on the frequency of trips but also the number of schools that students would need to attend. Mrs. Shearer spoke about students’ sense of belonging, practice time issues, and having enough students to make a team. She also addressed the issue of holding the band program at another school and the improvements being made to the band room at Harrison. With respect to the options presented at the April 5, 2010 Board meeting, she asked her son which option he preferred. He stated it was a lose-lose situation, either bus to another school and miss breaks and lunch time or go back to a smaller sized gym where he could not improve his skills. She concluded her presentation by noting that the Board has reached this point because one Trustee had a vision to implement a Single Track French Immersion school. The Board Minutes clearly show that Trustee pushing and selling this vision as a way to resolve the overcrowding situation at New Era. This option may have been a positive one if done correctly however the process the Board followed was flawed from the beginning. The Board does not seem to be resolving issues but merely recreating them in a different school. She holds all Board members accountable for their decisions as they voted unanimously for the Single Track French Immersion to be implemented at Harrison. She felt the Board would receive an “F” from a teacher, and the taxpayers will remember this come election time.

The Chairperson clarified, for the record, the Single Track French Immersion proposal was not the idea of one Trustee, and that more than one Trustee had supported the idea. Trustees requested clarification regarding holding physical education, shop/home economics and band all at one school at one time. Associate Superintendent, Mr. Malazdrewicz noted Senior Administration could not move forward on that until some resolution to this issue had been made and direction received from the Board.

Point of Privilege: Trustee Bartlette thanked parents for speaking their mind and noted he has in the past changed his mind when he has received further input. He believes in the democratic process which is to set plans, take action and then make it happen. He spoke about the Board's dedication. He asked how the Board can move forward from where they are to where the public would like them to be. He asked those who had the patience to look through the policy development over the last four years noting people would be impressed with the work that has been done by this Board. He stated collectively the Board will make a decision with respect to this issue.

Trustee Jolly thanked parents and the suggestions made which needed to be considered by the Board.

BREAK: 10:18 p.m. to 10:35 p.m.

Point of Privilege: Referencing the statements of presenters and up-coming Communications for Action, Chairperson, Mr. Buri, stated that the Board meeting held on April 5, 2010 was not an "Emergency" Board meeting but rather a "Special" Board meeting and noted the difference between the two types of meetings.

2.04 Communications for Action

a) Vanessa and Patrick Hamilton, parents of children attending school in the Brandon School Division and payers of school taxes, April 5, 2010, noting the decisions being made and the subsequent plans being implemented regarding the movement of children amongst various schools in Brandon are in direct contradiction to the BSD's mission and vision statements. They believe the planned movement will prevent each student from achieving their maximum intellectual, emotional, social and physical growth and is likely to result in many falling short of their potential. They feel a lack of transparency in the development of the plans resulted in a lack of faith in the Board's ability to investigate and implement a plan that is truly reflective of the mission and vision statements of the Board. They have numerous concerns in regards to the implementation of the single track French Immersion School as follows:
   1) If students in Grades 7 and 8 have to be bused to different schools for activities such as physical education, this will further decrease their connection with their home school and community resulting in increases in absenteeism, smoking rates, substance use etc.;
   2) If recesses and lunch are spent on the school bus, who will students be provided the opportunity to foster relationships with peers etc.?
   3) With increased time spent sitting on a bus during recess and lunch, young people's sedentary activities will not be kept to a reasonable level. Working adults receive "free time" at breaks and lunch and have an opportunity to stretch or go for a walk. Do children not deserve that as well?
   4) How much time and at what frequency will actually be allotted for gym?
   5) Once the grades 7 and 8 students move from Harrison to George Fitton, does the 3-4-5 Nursery School have a new home?
   6) When will the bathrooms be upgraded at George Fitton School?

They feel that the Board did not view the health of all children as a priority when planning the single track French Immersion School at Harrison and consequently will have lasting negative effects at the community level therefore they ask the Brandon School Board to postpone the implementation of the single track French Immersion School until:

a) There is a detailed plan in place that will benefit all children;
b) Provincial funding is secured to implement this new plan.

Referred Business Arising.

b) James Chambers, March 31, 2010, addressed to the Honourable Nancy Allan, Minister of Education, responding to some communications regarding the programming changes in the Brandon School Division. He applauds the School Division for their commitment to making French Immersion Programming available to all students, as well as their efforts to expand and improve the program here in Brandon. He commends the steering committee and the commitment of the administration and staff of the schools to maximize the potential of all programs under this period of change. Under tight fiscal limitations they are making the best choices possible for the long-term programming in the community. He appreciates the concerns of parents who will no longer have the luxury of their children remaining in the same school every day but feels they have exaggerated the implications of the programming changes. The comments around students "attending 5 different schools during the week" do not mention that trips will be combined to minimize transportation requirements, or that band is an elective, or that students in almost every school in Brandon must find their own transportation to Shop and Home Economics. Intramural and extracurricular sports require the students in question to walk across a field to the "other school" and not cross a single road. Locker and washroom renovations will be completed this summer. Though there will be some delay in the expansion projects for the gyms, the longer-term view suggests that students at those schools will be privy to some of the best facilities in the city when complete. No violations of basic human rights have taken place as has been suggested. The Division spends money efficiently and contributes high scoring students to post-secondary education.

Referred Business Arising.

c) Doug Carmichael, Dave Lewis, Darren Duncalfe, teachers, Harrison School, April 6, 2010, writing to correct some statements and information presented at the emergency Board Meeting held at the Division office on April 5, 2010. It seems the information presented was only that extra-curricular activities would be the major concern of the Physical Education teachers but in fact, the major issue is the safety of the students in both regular gym classes as well as extra-curricular sports. At no time did they express the fact that any of the gym spaces presented as options were safe or viable for either the presentation of curriculum during the day or for the extra-curricular after school. They have attached a copy of their "Letter to the Editor" which had expressed that neither school could address the demands of the middle years curriculum that is based on the development of "Team Sports". With reference to the doubling up of classes, they are only aware of New Era School using a doubling up of classes. As Physical Education teachers at Harrison any more than 30 students in the current

space is a safety concern, to suggest an increase in this number to 50 plus students is a major safety concern. Safety and acceptability are two very different words and safety first must be the focus. Neither the gym spaces at George Fitton or Green Acres are acceptable for this age group of students, be it for regular gym classes or extra-curricular sports.

Referred Business Arising.

2.05 BUSINESS ARISING

- From Previous Delegation

- From Board Agenda

1. The correspondence received from Vanessa and Patrick Hamilton, parents of children attending school in the Brandon School Division and payers of school taxes, from Communications for Action 2.04a); James Chambers, from Communication for Action 3.04b); and Doug Carmichael, Dave Lewis, Darren Duncalfe, teachers, Harrison School, from Communications for Action 3.04c), regarding the implementation of the Single Track French Immersion programming at Harrison school were discussed and referred to the larger discussions on the topic.

Point of Privilege: The Chairperson noted that after hearing the delegations presented this evening and with all respect to Senior Administration and their staffing timelines, he did not feel a decision on this matter could be made at this time. He suggested that a Special Board Meeting be held on Monday, April 19, 2010 at which time he would ask Senior Administration to present a report regarding maximizing the use of the gymnasiums in all schools with a special emphasis on the Grades 7 and 8 students using the Harrison gym. Trustees also requested that the report speak to the recommendation noted in Ms. Buehler's presentation as well as Mr. Dinsdale's suggestion to move to a three year implementation plan. Trustees directed Senior Administration to forward this report to the Board via email prior to next Monday. Senior Administration was also requested to include information on scheduling classes at Earl Oxford School as suggested by Mrs. Shearer.

Discussions were held and it was noted not all Trustees were available to attend a meeting on Monday, April 19, 2010, therefore the Board agreed to hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 8:00 p.m. regarding the maximization of gym space at Harrison School and including both Green Acres and George Fitton Grade 7 and 8 students at Harrison school for physical education.

Superintendent, Dr. Michaels confirmed the Implementation Committee would reconvene to discuss this issue, however, she cautioned the Board that legal commitments have now been made to teachers regarding teaching assignments and registrations for the French Immersion programming have been completed. She confirmed these facts would be included in the report as well.

Trustee Murray inquired about the proper protocol for bringing forth a Giving of Notice. Discussions were held with Trustees speaking for and against the possibility of bringing forth a Giving of Notice to rescind motion 148/2008 regarding this matter. As there was

not a two-thirds majority to support this course the Giving of Notice would not be brought forward.

Mr. Murray – Mr. Snelling
That it now being 11:00 p.m., the rules be suspended and the meeting continue in session until completion of business.
Carried.

Trustees Murray, Snelling and Karnes exited the meeting electronically at 11:00 p.m.

- MSBA issues (last meeting of the month)

- From Report of Senior Administration

a) School Reports - NIL

b) Learning Support Services Presentation – NIL

c) Items from Senior Administration Report:
- 2010 Trustee Elections – Refer Motions.
- Vice Principal – George Fitton – Refer Motions.

2.06 Motions

46/2010 Mr. Mayes – Mrs. Jolly
That the order of candidates' names listed on the ballot for the 2010 Trustee Election be determined by random lot.
Carried.

47/2010 Mrs. Jolly – Mr. Mayes
That a .50 Vice Principal position for George Fitton School be approved for the 2010/2011 school year to be funded from the discretionary staff allocation; and further that it be considered during the 2011/2012 Budget deliberations for permanent placement.
Carried.

2.07 Bylaws

Mr. Mayes – Mrs. Jolly
That By-law No. 1/2010 being a bylaw for the purpose of authorizing the borrowing of the sum of $500,000 upon the credit of the Division by the issue of a capital loan to meet partial costs for acquiring fibre optic communication services between schools and administration buildings in the Division; with repayment to be made from the annual operating budget for a maximum of ten (10) years be now read for a second time having first been read on February 22, 2010.
Carried (8-1 – Trustee Bartlette opposed).

Trustee Bartlette requested details regarding costs for this project. Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Barnes, referenced a report presented to the Board at a Special Meeting held November 30, 2010.

Trustee Coey noted the Board had asked that numbers be confirmed and had yet to receive those numbers regarding a guaranteed price. Mr. Barnes noted the formal agreement is currently being reviewed by the Division's solicitor. He noted that the by-law is an authorization to borrow money and therefore until the agreement is approved by the Board and in place, the Division would not be borrowing any money.

Mr. Mayes – Mrs. Jolly
That the rules be suspended and By-Law No. 1/2010 be now read a third time, taken as read and finally passed.

Carried.

Mr. Mayes – Mrs. Jolly
That 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 be now read for a first time.

Carried.

THE BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

BYLAW NO. 2/2010

Bylaw of the Board of Trustees of The Brandon School Division for the purpose of borrowing the sum of $1,559,600.00 and issuing debentures therefor.

WHEREAS it is deemed necessary and expedient to raise by loan the sum of $1,559,600.00 upon the credit of the Division by the issue and sale 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;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the provisions of The Public Schools Act, the Board of Trustees of The Brandon School Division, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

1) That it shall be lawful for the said School Trustees to borrow the sum of $1,559,600.00 by the issue and sale of debentures of the said School Division as set out below;

2) That the said debentures shall be issued at Brandon, Manitoba and shall be dated the 15th day of May, 2010 and shall be payable to the Registered Holder at the Office of the Minister of Finance, Winnipeg, Manitoba as follows: the debenture shall be so issued that the amount thereby borrowed shall be repayable in twenty (20) equalized consecutive annual installments of $126,476.16 each, including principal and interest at the rate of 5.1250 per cent per annum, payable annually on the 15th day of May as per Schedule "A" attached;

3) That the first installment shall be payable on the 15th day of May, 2011;

4) That each debenture shall be signed by the Chairperson of the Board and the Secretary-Treasurer of the said School Division and the coupons, if any, attached thereto, shall be signed by the Secretary-Treasurer, whose signature may be lithographed thereon;

5) That provisions shall be made for the payment of the said debentures, and such provision shall form part of, and be included in, the annual statements of monies required for the purpose of the School Division.

GIVEN FIRST READING by the said Board of Trustees of The Brandon School Division assembled at Brandon, in the Province of Manitoba, this _____ day of _____ A.D., 2010.

SECOND READING: _____

THIRD READING: _____

_____
Chairperson

_____
Secretary-Treasurer

CERTIFIED a true copy of Bylaw No. 2/2010 of The Brandon School Division given first reading on the _____ day of _____ A.D. 2010.

_____
Secretary-Treasurer

2.08 Giving of Notice

2.09 Inquiries

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

2.09b) Trustee Inquiries

1. Trustee Ross requested the following from Senior Administration:

“Please provide feedback from Principals and teaching staff re: the new assessment policy (4052), particularly information concerning the ease of accessing and reporting the information required by the policy”.

2. Trustee Ross also requested the following from Senior Administration and the Policy Review Committee:

"In light of the considerable feedback the Board has had from the public concerning communication re: STFI, I request that Senior Administration and the Policy Review Committee consider development of a Consultation Policy".

3. Trustee Mayes asked for clarification regarding why the teacher/pupil ratio is changing and if this has been explained clearly to principals.

Superintendent, Dr. Michaels, noted the change to ratio had been explained clearly to school principals.

3.00 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

3.01 Report of Senior Administration

Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Barnes, noted he had recently met with the City regarding the 2010 Elections and advised that the ballots for Mayor, City Council and School Board Trustees, would be on one ballot instead of three separate ballots. He felt this would assist the Division as there had been concern in the last election that election officials were not giving out the ballot for School Trustees unless asked.

Ms. Coey – Mr. Bartlette
That the report be received and filed.
Carried.

3.02 Communications for Information

a) Email from S. Alexander, March 18, 2010, wishing to notify the Board about the condition she found J.R. Reid School Playground to be in following a visit with her granddaughter to play there. She states she picked up 2 glass beer bottles on the playground and another approximately 20 feet from the play structure. She thought the bottles had been there for some time given the dust and dirt on them. She asks if anyone checks the school grounds for such hazards? She further noted the various mitts, gloves, a Frisbee and garbage all over the grounds. She also found a school soccer ball left out for someone to take and believes school taxes would not have to keep going up if what the taxpayers have already paid for was taken care of better.

Ordered Filed.

b) Darryl Gervais, Acting Director, Instruction, Curriculum and Assessment Branch, Manitoba Education, March 2010, enclosing the document *Engaging Middle Years Students in Learning: Transforming Middle Years Education in Manitoba* to support the transformation of Middle Years education through improved student engagement.

Referred to Education Committee.

c) Joanna Blais, Director, Program and Student Services Branch, Manitoba Education, February, 2010, enclosing the document *Student-Specific Planning: A Handbook of Developing and Implementing Individual Education Plans (IEPs)* which is a revision of the support document entitled Individual Education Planning: A Handbook for Developing and Implementing IEPs, Early to Senior Years (1998). The revised document is to provide student support teams with a foundational student-specific planning process to address the wide range of exceptional learning needs of students throughout their school careers.

Referred to Education Committee.

d) Darryl Gervais, Acting Director, Instruction, Curriculum and Assessment Branch, Manitoba Education, April 2010, enclosing the document *Working Together: Supporting Students in Transition: Sharing Student Information between First Nations and Provincial Schools* which provides information to assist school administrators in supporting students who make a transition between First Nations and provincial schools.

Referred to Education Committee.

e) Garry Draper, Board Chair, Fort La Bosse School Division, March 8, 2010, addressed to the President and Chief Executive Officer of Manitoba Public Insurance noting that it has come to the attention of the school division that driver testing for classifications 1 through 3 will not be available in Virden and that both the written and practical testing must be taken elsewhere. Their concern is that the upcoming change will not serve the rural areas of Manitoba. Their focus is on the class 3 school bus driver who must take additional time to travel to take their required testing resulting in additional costs, organization time and effort for the school division and the individual involved. To the best of their knowledge there was no consultation or input from those in the rural settings and no mention of an appeal process. The Board is asking MPI to initiate a review of the proposed testing changes as it is important to hear the voices of Rural Manitobans.

Ordered Filed.

f) Claudia Sarbit, Chair of the Board, Seven Oaks School Division, March 16, 2010, addressed to the Honourable Nancy Allan, Minister of Education, supporting the position taken by the Pembina Trails and Brandon School Divisions in favour of adjusting the portioning rates for various property classifications to protect residential property owners from significant tax increases. A chart outlining the change by class of property and a chart illustrating the effect on specific properties in Seven Oaks have been included in the letter.

Ordered Filed.

g) Randy Stankewich, Schools' Finance Branch, March 17, 2010, enclosing copies of the 2009 Enrolment Report for all schools in Manitoba as reported on September 30, 2009. The report is available in both PDF and Excel formats at: http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/finance/sch_enrol/index.html.

Ordered Filed.

h) Craig Wallis, Labour Relations Consultant, Manitoba School Boards Association, March 17, 2010, advising School Boards participating in the Non-Teaching Pension Plan through MSBA who contribute 1.2% of pensionable payroll to fund the Administration Account, that at a meeting of pension trustees on March 16, 2010, a motion was passed as follows:

"That a contribution holiday from the 1.2% of pensionable payroll contribution by school boards to fund the Administration Account commencing July 1, 2010 and ending August 31, 2011 be approved."

He notes that School Boards will not be required to remit the 1.2% administration account contributions for the period July 1, 2010 to August 31, 2011 but School Boards matching of regular pension contributions made by employees will continue unchanged and resumption of the 1.2% Administration Account contributions will occur effective September 1, 2011.

Ordered Filed.

i) Rick Dedi, Executive Director, The Public Schools Finance Board, March 18, 2010, enclosing a copy of the Annual Report of The Public Schools Finance Board for the period ending June 30, 2009.

Ordered Filed.

j) Gerald Rempel, March 26, 2010, addressed to the Minister of Education, regarding the implementation of the single track French Immersion program at Harrison school noting it is appalling that many recess and lunch periods will be spent on the bus. As a concerned citizen he cannot support this and feels free time will be lost and basic human rights taken away. He notes he will not support a government party that would allow such a disruption to occur and implores the Minister of Education to investigate and act swiftly to prevent this great disservice to the Division's children.

Ordered Filed.

3.03 Announcements

a) Education Committee Meeting – 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 13, 2010, Board Room.

b) Finance Committee Meeting – 10:00 a.m., Monday, April 19, 2010, Board Room.

c) MSBA Regional Collective Bargaining Seminar – 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 20, 2010, Victoria Inn, Brandon.

d) Special Meeting of the Board – 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 20, 2010, Board Room.

e) School Division/Parent Liaison Committee meeting – 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 21, 2010, Conference Room.

f) Joint Job Evaluation Committee Meeting – 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 21, 2010, Conference Room.

g) Joint Job Evaluation Committee Meeting – 9:00 a.m., Thursday, April 22, 2010, Conference Room.

h) Division/City Joint Task Force Committee Meeting – 9:30 a.m., Monday, April 26, 2010, Brandon City Hall.

i) NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – 7:00 p.m., Monday, April 26, 2010, Board Room.

Mrs. Jolly – Ms. Coey
That the Board do now resolve into Committee of the Whole In Camera.
Carried.

IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN CAMERA

4.00 IN CAMERA DISCUSSION:

4.01 Student Issues

- Reports

- Trustee Inquiries

4.02 Personnel Matters

- Reports

a) Confidential #1 – Personnel Report was noted.
b) Confidential #3 regarding the Teacher Arbitration Award was reviewed and accepted.
c) Confidential #4, the Report of the Administrator Selection Committee and the recommendations therein were discussed and referred to motions.

- **Trustee Inquiries**

4.03 Property Matters/Tenders

- Reports

- Trustee Inquiries

4.04 Board Operations

- Reports

a) Confidential #2 on a legal matter was received as information.

- Trustee Inquiries
Mrs. Jolly – Mr. Bartlette
That the Committee of the Whole In Camera do now resolve into Board.
Carried.

IN BOARD

48/2010 Mrs. Jolly – Mr. Mayes
That Confidential #4 and the recommendations therein be approved and the recommendations be released to the public at 10:00 am on Tuesday, April 13, 2010.

Carried.

5.00 ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Ross – Ms. Coey
That the meeting do now adjourn. (12:10 a.m. – April 13, 2010)

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer