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. TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2010

PRESENT:
Mr. G. Buri, Chairperson, Mr. D. Karnes, Vice-Chairperson, Mr. P. Bartlette, Ms. R. Coey (exited at 8:15 p.m.), Mrs. B. Jolly, Mr. B. Mayes, Mr. J. Murray, Dr. L. Ross, Mr. M. Snelling.

Mr. G. Barnes, Secretary-Treasurer.

Dr. D. M. Michaels, Superintendent/CEO, Mr. K. Zabowski, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

REGRETS:
Mr. G. Malazdrewicz, Associate Superintendent.

CALL:

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. noting the meeting had been called for the purpose of considering the following:

a) Review Provincial Funding Announcement.

The Chairperson referred to the Call and welcomed observers to the meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer, G. Barnes, reviewed the information that had been circulated regarding the 2010 – 2011 Funding of Schools Program announcement. The Board was informed that the Division had received a 3% increase in Provincial funding which included 1.9% for the enrolment increase leaving a 1.1% increase for base on-going expenditures. The Secretary-Treasurer reported that there had been only one increase in base and categorical rates that being for Early Childhood Development while the additional support for small schools and ICT professional development support was discontinued the net result being a 0.9% increase in base support and 0.3% in categorical support. It was noted that by far the largest increase in funding was for equalization support where the Division received a 20.2% increase due to a decrease in the assessment per pupil and an increase in expenditures with the formula calculation remaining unchanged. The Secretary-Treasurer stated that it appeared with the increased equalization support that Manitoba Education's goal was to equalize the special levy mill rate. Trustees asked questions for clarification. The 2010 Tax Incentive Grant calculation was reviewed in detail. It was noted that the 2010 Tax Incentive grant available was $1,073,685 if the 2010 Special Levy was held to 2.6% being the estimated assessment growth. The Secretary-Treasurer advised that the net budget would need to be reduced by $1,019,000 through expenditure reductions and/or use of surplus and this amount would result in the expenditures reductions continuing into the future or result in a tax increase in future years. It was also stated this would provide no support for the sustainability requests if the Target 2010 Special Levy was to be met. The Board discussed this item in detail. The Secretary-Treasurer provided a Special Levy Comparison report which showed a 39.3% assessment increase overall for the Division with increases in residential of 47.6%, farm of 35.5% and commercial of 26.1% which

results in a significant shift to greater reliance on residential property taxes and a reduction in commercial property taxes. Mr. Barnes, Secretary-Treasurer, suggested that the Board should emphasize the total special levy/special requirement increase as the Board has no control over the property assessment increase, the shift to residential assessment and whether the municipalities are considering a phase-in of the assessment changes. Trustee questions were responded to.

Mr. Snelling and Mr. Karnes
That the meeting do now adjourn (8:20 p.m.)
Carried.

_____ _____
Chairperson Secretary-Treasurer