



"Accepting the Challenge"

Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee Minutes

Tuesday, October 18, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.
École New Era School, 1020 Brandon Avenue

Present: P. Bowslaugh, Chairperson, G. Kruck, M. Snelling, K. Sumner,
Dr. D. Michaels.

Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services: Susie McPherson-Devendy

BSD and BSSAP: Delvina Kejick

BSD: Chad Cobbe, Bonnie Alston

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Trustee Pat Bowslaugh chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. She reviewed the Minutes of the September 20, 2011.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee Agenda was approved.

3. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

NIL

4. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

A) Aboriginal Education School Support Assistant Position

Mr. Chad Cobbe, Principal, École New Era School, was invited to attend the meeting as a member of the Division's Aboriginal Education Committee. He spoke to the work of the Committee and the proposal which had been brought to the Board for an Aboriginal Learning Specialist during the 2011-2012 budget deliberations. He advised there appeared to be two schools of thought with respect to a budget request for the 2012-2013 budget; the Aboriginal Education Committee would like to see a certified teaching position developed to address student needs and student achievement while the Committee working with the Divisional Futures Committee view the position as a support position. The Committee reviewed the focus of the proposed Aboriginal Education School Support Assistant and discussed the merging the two positions.

Discussions were held regarding the following:

- measuring long term and short term outcomes;
- the current data available and where intervention needs to take place;
- current initiatives taking place in the Division such as "Finding My Way";
- the possibility of focusing on one or two schools to ensure the intervention works before taking such an initiative Division wide;
- the need to obtain the best qualified person for the job who will work with a Committee of individuals to address cultural needs.

It was noted many Aboriginal students are involved in a number of initiatives which relate to literacy and numeracy. The possibility of a service team was discussed. It was noted the building of such a team would need to be done over a period of time. It was agreed the Committee would recommend to the Board for operating budget considerations, 2012-2013: one Aboriginal Education Learning Specialist (teacher certified) and two additional Building Student Success with Aboriginal Parenting (BSSAP) coordinators.

Senior Administration was requested by the Committee to refine the position description for the Aboriginal Learning Specialist in consultation with the Aboriginal Education Committee and a more detailed description of the BSSAP coordinator position.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 1, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at École New Era School.

5. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

NIL

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Bowslaugh, Chair

G. Kruck

K. Sumner

M. Snelling (Alternate)