Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee Minutes

Friday, April 29, 2011 – 11:30 p.m.
École New Era School

BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION
"Accepting the Challenge"

Present: M. Snelling, Chairperson (entered at 11:50 a.m.) P. Bowslaugh, G. Kruck (alternate).

Regrets: K. Sumner, Dr. D. Michaels.

Invited Guests: 10 Grade 5 – 8 École New Era Students

1. CALL TO ORDER:

As the Chairperson would be late, Trustee Bowslaugh assumed the position of Acting Chairperson for the meeting. The Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee Meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m. by Acting Chairperson, Mrs. Bowslaugh.

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) Equity and Sustainability in Education (Meeting with Grade 5 to 8 École New Era Students.

Acting Chairperson, Mrs. Bowslaugh, thanked all in attendance for their participation and reviewed the role of the Brandon School Division Board of Trustees' Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee. Students were asked to introduce themselves. Discussions were held regarding what the students think and feel about their school. A summary of these discussions is attached to the Minutes as Appendix "A".

At the conclusion of the meeting Mrs. Bowslaugh thanked all present for participating noting that student feedback was vital.

5. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

NIL

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Snelling, Chair

P. Bowslaugh

K. Sumner

G. Kruck (Alternate)

Appendix "A"

Meeting with Advanced Placement Students
École New Era School
Friday, April 29, 2011

Questions:

1) What do you like best about École New Era School?

- "Really nice teachers. We feel comfortable with them."
- "We have a new play structure."
- The students.
- "The principal and teachers are doing a great job keeping the school as it is."
- "EAs are really helpful."
- Field trips.
- "Teachers encourage you when you think you can't do something."
- "I feel comfortable here and you learn something on field trips."
- "I like that its dual track and all the other ethnic groups – I learn through their celebrations."

2) How has the French Milieu change affected those of you in French Immersion?

- "There were some paperwork difficulties and parents were upset."
- "Kids didn't care much they just wanted to be with their friends."
- "Friends say Harrison is too packed."

3) What concerns do you have about École New Era School?

- Some concerns were expressed about strangers on the playground and cutting through the school yards.
- Concern was also expressed about safety in the bus loading area and people speeding through the area.
- Safety on playground equipment, especially on the older playground structure, was mentioned repeatedly.
- One student expressed concern that families were not engaged in their children's learning. She also noted there are several different learning styles and they should be incorporated more so that kids don't just give up.
- Students requested that Trustees look at things from a kid's point of view and not a Trustee's point of view.
- Students should learn respect, like they learn about not smoking or taking drugs. "Finding My Way Program" has helped. Bring in guest speakers to talk about racism and student behaviour. One student mentioned the DARE program that was held in New Brunswick.

4) **Students provided a list of items they considered would make their school better.**

- More library and text books/more French novels/more books for Grades 7 and 8 students
- Smartboards
- Computers/IPads/reduction of internet restrictions/Scan computers more for viruses
  Playground and gym equipment/outdoor toys like buckets and shovels/natural playground
- Individual desks
- School uniforms
- Pet room for school pets
- Food in the canteen – expand breakfast and lunch programs/open canteen during recess/healthier options at canteen – like real fruit instead of fruit cups
- Pre-high school training
- Extra-curricular teams (eg. math clubs)
- Intramurals
- More fieldtrips/more dances
- More music time
- More Safety/Buddy program/learning about drugs program