BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

"Accepting the Challenge"

BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

November 4, 2009

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TO BE HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2009 AT 7:00 P.M.

J. L. MILNE BOARDROOM, ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

1031 - 6TH STREET, BRANDON, MANITOBA

Secretary-Treasurer

AGENDA

1.00 AGENDA/MINUTES:

1.01 Reference to Statement of Board Operations

1.02 Approval of Agenda

1.03 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings

a) Regular Board Meeting, October 26, 2009.
Adopt.

2.0 GOVERNANCE MATTERS:

2.01 Presentations For Information

2.02 Reports of Committees

a)	Workplace Safety and Health Committee Meeting	(White)	D. Karnes
b)	Personnel Committee Meeting	(Pink)	L. Ross
c)	Policy Review Committee Meeting	(Pink)	P. Bartlette
d)	Divisional Chamber Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting	(Salmon)	R. Coey
e)	School Division Parent Liaison Committee Meeting	(Purple)	B. Jolly
f)	Other		

2.03 Delegations and Petitions

Mrs. Sandra Koch Gensiorek, parent, speaking on behalf of the "Concerned Parents of George Fitton, Green Acres and Harrison School Community" regarding the Single Track French Immersion School proposed for Harrison in September 2010.

2.04 Communications for Action

a) Joanne and Kirby Fisch, parents, October 19, 2009, regarding the conversion of Harrison Middle School to a French Milieu school and expressing concerns about the quality of education children will receive with all the changes happening. They have already noticed a reduction in gym time and see it getting worse with the up coming changes. They are concerned about the lunch programs, bathroom facilities, class sizes, number of qualified teachers, lockers, after school programs, band, home economics, shop and the stress and instability that it is putting on the children involved. They feel the only ones benefiting from this is the French Immersion students and note the Board is putting the needs of a few before the needs of the many. They ask the Board to go back and review the entire process due to the fact that the Board has admitted that they have missed steps in this process and that these missed steps seriously affect their children. (Appendix "A").

Refer Business Arising.

b) Carolyn Duhamel, Executive Director of Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA), October 21, 2009, asking for nominations for the six student citizenship awards for public school students in Manitoba to be awarded on March 18, 2009 at the Delta Hotel in Winnipeg in conjunction with the Manitoba School Boards Association convention. The attached "Application Kit" should be shared with all members of the school board, school administrators and teachers. The deadline for receipt of these forms by MSBA is Friday, January 29, 2010.
(Appendix "B").

Refer Business Arising.

c) Deacon John McKenzie, President, Western Manitoba Seniors Non-Profit Housing Co-op, October 26, 2009, noting the organization is looking for property that would be suitable for development of a 50 unit Seniors Housing complex that would meet the affordable, accessible and safe standards as outlined by CMHC and MHRC for lower to mid income seniors in Brandon. The organization was advised by the Secretary-Treasurer that someone was negotiating on the purchase of the Fleming School site, but that the property committee still had to make a recommendation and the Board still had to accept the offer. He is therefore writing to request that if there is no deal made with the present offer, that they be contacted at the earliest date, so that they can have the architectural and engineering forces look into the possibility of refurbishing the school and the present building, as the site for the first stage of the Seniors Housing project. (Appendix "C").

Refer Business Arising.

d) Corey Mini, Director, Sioux Valley Education Authority Inc., October 29, 2009, writing regarding the purchase of the Fleming School building and land. Sioux Valley Education Authority is requesting the Brandon School Division Board of Trustees to sell the building to Sioux Valley for "educational purposes". (Appendix "D").

Refer Business Arising.

e) Jil Simmons, Chair, Earl Oxford Parent Council, October 30, 2009, writing on behalf of the Earl Oxford grade seven parents as well as Earl Oxford parent council regarding concerns about the class size and composition of the schools two grade seven classes. They note there are 29 to 30 students currently in each grade seven class and this usually increases over the year as an influx of students from northern communities move to Brandon to take the spring and summer PENT program offered at BU. They feel two classrooms with 29 growing teenagers, a teacher and two E.A.'s makes for a very crowded, chaotic and congested environment. There is a class of 43 students taking Language Arts Enrichment in the afternoon, and Mr. Lehman has given his principal time in the afternoon to help split the class of 43 into two more manageable sizes, but this class takes place after recess and Mr. Lehman's time is usually given to dealing with issues that arise over the recess break. In addition, they believe that Mr. Lehman's time is important and could be used elsewhere within the structure of the school. Earl Oxford is a feeder school for Valleyview, Betty Gibson, New Era and Earl Oxford grade six students and teachers have a challenging task because not all students start on the same page. Smaller class sizes would help the students from different schools develop and fit in much quicker to the Earl Oxford Community. They note they have the utmost respect and confidence in the grade 7 teaching staff and school principal who are doing the best job they can with the resources available. They hope the Board will discuss the issue and see if any additional resources or support can be given to Earl Oxford School for Grade 7. (Appendix "E").

<u>Refer Business Arising.</u>

2.05 BUSINESS ARISING

- From Previous Delegations

- From Board Agenda

a) Correspondence from Joanne and Kirby Fisch, parents, from Communications for Action 2.04a), regarding the conversion of Harrison Middle School to a French Milieu school and expressing concerns about the quality of education children will receive with all the changes happening. They ask the Board to go back and review the entire process due to the fact that the Board has admitted that they have missed steps in this process and that these missed steps seriously affect their children.

b) Correspondence from Carolyn Duhamel, Executive Director of Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA), from Communications for Action 2.04b), asking for nominations for the six student citizenship awards for public school students in Manitoba to be awarded on March 18, 2009 at the Delta Hotel in Winnipeg in conjunction with the Manitoba School Boards Association convention.

c) Correspondence from Deacon John McKenzie, President, Western Manitoba Seniors Non-Profit Housing Co-op, from Communications for Action 2.04c), noting the organization is looking for property that would be suitable for development of a 50 unit Seniors Housing complex and writing to request that if there is no deal made with the present offer for the Fleming School site, that they be contacted at the earliest date, so that they can have the architectural and engineering forces look into the possibility of refurbishing the school and the present building, as the site for the first stage of the Seniors Housing project.

d) Correspondence from Corey Mini, Director, Sioux Valley Education Authority Inc., from Communications for Action 2.04d), requesting the Brandon School Division Board of Trustees to sell the building to Sioux Valley for "educational purposes".

e) Correspondence from Jil Simmons, Chair, Earl Oxford Parent Council, October 30, 2009, writing on behalf of the Earl Oxford grade seven parents as well as Earl Oxford parent council regarding concerns about the class size and composition of the schools two grade seven classes. They hope the Board will discuss the issue and see if any additional resources or support can be given to Earl Oxford School for Grade 7.

- MAST Issues (last meeting of the month)

- From Report of Senior Administration

a) School Reports – NIL.

b) Learning Support Services Report – Learning Through ICT – Cathy McLaren, Technology in Learning Specialist – K-12.

c) Items from Senior Administration Report
- Report on Establishment of Single Track French Immersion – Refer to Motions
- Policy 3001 – Budget Deadlines and Schedules – Refer to Motions.
- Reading Recovery Training Service – Refer Motions.

2.06 Motions

180/2009 That the recommendation on establishment of new school configurations for Single Track French Immersion Program as presented at this meeting be approved.

181/2009 That Policy 3001 – "Budget Deadlines and Schedules" be rescinded and replaced with Policy 3001 – "Budget Deadlines and Schedules".

182/2009 That the Letter of Agreement with Southwest Horizon School Division for Reading Recovery Program time for the 2009/2010 school year in the amount of $20,941.93 be approved; and that the Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer be authorized to sign the Agreement.

183/2009 That the Memorandum of Agreement between the Brandon School Division and the Brandon Teachers' Association on an Extended Health Benefit Plan, being at no cost to the Division, be approved; and the Chairperson and Secretary-Treasurer be authorized to affix their signatures.

2.07 Bylaws

2.08 Giving of Notice

2.09 Inquiries

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

2.09b) Trustee Inquiries

3.00 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

3.01 Report of Senior Administration

Receive and File.

3.02 Communications for Information

a) Copy of a letter from Robert J. Fraser, Chair, Board of Trustees, River East – Transcona School Division, October 27, 2009, addressed to the Honourable Peter Bjornson, Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth regarding the retroactive access copyright fee. They ask MECY to reconsider its previous position and cover the full amount of the retroactive tariff adjustments plus penalty for Manitoba school divisions from provincial treasury rather than place the burden on school division budgets. They feel it would be reasonable and appropriate tor the Government to access the Tax Incentive Grant set aside for school divisions in 2008 and 2009 that were not accessed.

Receive and File.

3.03 Announcements

a) Divisional Futures and Liaison Committee Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Monday, November 9, 2009, Neelin High School Off-Campus building.

b) Education Committee Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Monday, November 9, 2009, Conference Room.

c) Finance Committee Meeting with Out-of-Scope Members, 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 10, 2009, Conference Room.

d) Facilities and Transportation Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Thursday, November 12, 2009, Conference Room.

e) Finance Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Monday, November 16, 2009, Conference Room.

f) Finance Committee Meeting with School Administrators, 3:00 p.m., Monday, November 16, 2009, McLaren Room.

g) Finance Committee Meeting with BTA Executive, 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 17, 2009, Conference Room.

h) Divisional Futures & Liaison Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Thursday, November 19, 2009, Conference Room.

i) School Division/Parent Liaison Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Thursday, November 19, 2009, Conference Room.

j) NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – 7:00 p.m., Monday, November 23, 2009, Board Room.

4.00 IN CAMERA DISCUSSION:

4.01 Student Issues

- Reports

- Trustee Inquiries

4.02 Personnel Matters

- Reports

a) Personnel Report – Confidential #1.
b) Confidential #2 – CUPE Negotiations

- Trustee Inquiries

4.03 Property Matters/Tenders

- Reports

- Trustee Inquiries

4.04 Board Operations

- Reports

- Trustee Inquiries

5.00 ADJOURNMENT

Appendix A

Oct. 19 2009

RECEIVED
OCT 2 1 2009

Brandon School Division Board of Trustees,

We are writing to you in regards to the conversion of Harrison Middle School to a French Milieu school. We currently have a child in grade five at green acres school. We are very concerned about the quality of education are child will receive with all the changes happening. We have already noticed a reduction in gym time and see it getting worse with the up coming changes. This is the exact opposite of what the provincial government has recommended. Sports are a very important part of our childs life as well as the accessibility to them and it sounds like the gym facilities will be the last thing to be finished.

We also have concerns about the lunch programs, bathroom facilities, class sizes, number of qualified teachers, lockers, after school programs, band, home economics, shop, and most of all the stress and the instability that it is putting on the children involved. When statements have been made saying that " transition does not matter and it will be fine the year after" are not true. The only school that might be fine is the milieu school. Green Acres and George Fitton schools will have a transition period that will last for many years.

In our opinion the only ones benefitting from this is the French immersion students. You are putting the needs of the few before the needs of the many. We explicitly ask the board to go back and review the entire process, due to the fact that you admittedly stated that you have missed steps in this process and these missed steps seriously affect our children and they are the main issue here.

Joanne and Kirby Fisch

2021/a)

Appendix B

MANITOBA
School Boards
ASSOCIATION

LEADERSHIP, ADVOCACY AND SERVICE FOR MANITOBA'S PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS

October 21, 2009

TO: The Chairperson and Superintendent, All School Divisions

FROM: Carolyn Duhamel, Executive Director

RE: Student Citizenship and Young Community Leader Awards

Once again this year, the Manitoba School Boards Association will be sponsoring six student citizenship awards for public school students in Manitoba. School boards are invited to nominate an outstanding student for these awards, in accordance with the attached guidelines. Our judging panel will select the winners, who will be invited to receive their awards on Thursday, March 18, at the Delta Hotel in Winnipeg, in conjunction with the Manitoba School Boards Association convention.

And for the second year, one of these award winners will be selected to receive the Young Community Leader Award, which is sponsored by the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) to recognize contributions made by the student beyond his or her school, in the broader community.

In addition to these individual citizenship awards, we will again be presenting one award to a student group. Each division is invited to submit one nomination for this award.

Winners of the Manitoba School Boards Association awards will be notified in advance; the AMM award recipient will be announced at the awards ceremony.

The attached application package contains background information and the necessary forms to enable school boards to submit their nominations. ***The deadline for receipt of these forms at the Manitoba School Boards Association office is Friday, January 29, 2010.***

Please share this information with all members of the school board, school administrators and teachers, and duplicate as required. Thank you for helping the Manitoba School Boards Association and AMM recognize some of the deserving young people in our schools and communities. We look forward to receiving your board's nomination. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

CD:hd
attachment

204 b)

191 PROVENCHER BOULEVARD, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R2H 0G4 | 204.233.1595 | TOLL FREE 1.800.262.8836 | FAX 204.231.1356 | WWW.MBSCHOOLBOARDS.CA

Application Kit

Manitoba School Boards Association Student Citizenship Awards
Association of Manitoba Municipalities Young Community Leader Award

About these Awards

The Manitoba School Boards Association Student Citizenship Awards program for public school students in Manitoba recognizes outstanding young people throughout Manitoba who are active participants in their communities and schools. Seven awards are given annually, one to a student in each of the association's geographic regions, and one provincial award to a student group. The awards take the form of a certificate and $500. Students nominated but not selected to receive an individual award will receive a certificate and $100. There are no age or grade restrictions on this award; all students in regular attendance in the K-12 program at a Manitoba public school are eligible.

The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) will further recognize one of the Manitoba School Boards Association's individual award winners by way of the AMM Young Community Leader Award, in recognition of outstanding contributions at the community level. This award will consist of $1000.

Award Criteria

The Manitoba School Boards Association Student Citizenship Award recognizes students from Manitoba schools who demonstrate their commitment to the values of citizenship through activities such as:

1. volunteer service to the community (i.e. service to health care facilities, senior citizen groups, shelters, day care centers).
2. involvement in citizenship or character building organizations.
3. participation in student government programs or activities.
4. leadership ability to motivate others to actions to benefit the community.

The AMM Young Community Leader Award focuses specifically on those contributions that a student has made in the greater community, beyond the school walls.

Application Procedures

Each school board in Manitoba is invited to nominate one student and one student group from its division or district for these awards. The Winnipeg School Division, constituting the Manitoba School Boards Association's Region 6, may nominate up to four students for the individual award, plus one student group. A nomination must take the form of a complete application, as follows:

A. Student Application

- completed application form (including activity summary page)
- an essay (maximum 500 words) from the student or group that defines what citizenship means to them, and/or describes how the student or group has tried to live out the concept of good citizenship in school and community

B. Two Sponsoring Letters as follows:

1. A letter from an **official at the student's or group's school** that:
   - describes the context in which the sponsoring official has known or worked with the student or group
   - describes how the student's or group's actions at school demonstrate good citizenship

2. A letter from **a representative of a community organization** that:
   - indicates the individual's relationship with the student or group
   - describes how the student's or group's actions in the community demonstrate good citizenship

The application form, which includes a checklist of the required documentation and instruction sheets for school and community-based sponsors, is attached. This material may be duplicated and distributed as required. School boards should establish their own procedures for selecting their nominees, and set any necessary timelines to enable them to meet the final deadline for submission of nominations to the Manitoba School Boards Association office. **That deadline is Friday, January 29, 2010.**

Selection

Six students will be selected to receive the Manitoba School Boards Association Student Citizenship Award, one from each of the association's six geographic regions. As well, one student group will be chosen to receive a single, province-wide award. The seven regionally-based Directors who serve on the association's Provincial Executive will act as the selection committee for the awards.

Representatives of AMM will select from among the individual winners of the Manitoba School Boards Association Student Citizenship Awards one student to receive the AMM Young Community Leader Award.

Those applicants chosen to receive the Manitoba School Boards Association awards will be notified, through the superintendent's office, in early March. These award recipients and their families will be invited to receive their award at a special awards ceremony in Winnipeg on the evening of Thursday, March 18, 2010. The winner of the Young Community Leader Award will be announced at that ceremony.

Submit school board nominations to: Student Citizenship and Young Community Leader Awards
c/o 191 Provencher Boulevard
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2H 0G4
phone: 233-1595 or 1-800-262-8836 fax: 231-1356

Deadline for receipt of nominations at the Manitoba School Boards Association office:

Friday, January 29, 2010

Student Citizenship and Young Community Leader Awards

Application Form

Please complete and submit both pages and two sponsor letters.

This application is for the ☐ individual student award OR ☐ student group award.

Student or Group Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone No.: _____

School Name: _____

Phone No.: _____

Division/District: _____

All supporting document attached. Please check ☑

☐ Completed application form
☐ Citizenship essay
☐ School sponsor letter
☐ Community sponsor letter

SPONSORING LETTERS ARE BEING SUPPLIED BY:

A. School-Based Sponsor(s)

_____
Sponsor's Name | Sponsor's Title

_____
Sponsor's Name | Sponsor's Title

B. Community-Based Sponsor(s)

_____
Sponsor's Name | Sponsor's Title | Sponsor's Organization

_____
Sponsor's Name | Sponsor's Title | Sponsor's Organization

_____ _____
Student or designated group member signature | Date

To be completed by school division for applications for individual student awards only!

Signed release form:

☐ is enclosed ☐ will follow within 14 days of nomination deadline

➔ ***To be completed by applicants of INDIVIDUAL student awards:***

School-based activities/clubs:

ACTIVITY	NATURE OF INVOLVEMENT	TIME COMMITMENT

Community-based activities/clubs:

ACTIVITY	NATURE OF INVOLVEMENT	TIME COMMITMENT

➔ ***To be completed by applicants for STUDENT GROUP award:***

Please use the space below to provide a brief description of the goals of your group, and of the activities you undertake to further those goals.

Submission Deadlines:

For applications to the school/school board: As determined by the school board
For school board nominees to the Manitoba School Boards Association office: January 29, 2010

Student Citizenship and Young Community Leader Awards

Instructions for School-Based Sponsor

You are being asked to provide a letter to support the application of _____ for the *Manitoba School Boards Association Student Citizenship and the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) Young Community Leader Awards.*

Description:

Six individual awards and one group award are given annually by the Manitoba School Boards Association to recognize outstanding young people throughout Manitoba who are active participants in their communities and schools. One additional award is presented by AMM to one of these award winners, in recognition of outstanding contributions at the community level.

Submission Deadlines:

For applications to the school/school board: As determined by the school board
For school board nominees to the Manitoba School Boards Association office: January 29, 2010

Criteria:

- Students must have demonstrated exemplary citizenship in their schools and in their communities.
- Students must be selected as their school board's nominee for this award, and submit a completed application by the deadline(s).

Your letter of support should:

- describe the contexts in which you have known the student or group.
- describe how the student or group has indicated an appreciation of good citizenship, and has **demonstrated** this through actions in the **school setting.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF
STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Student Citizenship and Young Community Leader Awards
Instructions for Community-Based Sponsor

You are being asked to provide a letter to support the application of _____ for the *Manitoba School Boards Association Student Citizenship and the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) Young Community Leader Awards.*

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For applications to the school/school board: As determined by the school board
For school board nominees to the Manitoba School Boards Association office: January 29, 2010

Criteria:

- Students must have demonstrated exemplary citizenship in their schools and in their communities.
- Students must be selected as their school board's nominee for this award, and submit a completed application by the deadline(s).

Your letter of support should:

- describe the contexts in which you have known the student or group.
- describe how the student or group has indicated an appreciation of good citizenship, and has **demonstrated** this through actions in the **community.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF
STUDENT CITIZENSHIP AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Manitoba School Boards Association Student Citizenship and Association of Manitoba Municipalities Young Community Leader Awards

Release Form

This form must accompany or follow all divisional nominations for individual Manitoba School Boards Association Student Citizenship/AMM Young Community Leader Awards.

The Manitoba School Boards Association is a voluntary association of public school boards in Manitoba. The Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) represents local government bodies from across Manitoba. Each year, the Manitoba School Boards Association sponsors six Student Citizenship Awards, and AMM one Young Community Leader Award. The intent of these awards is to honour the efforts of Manitoba students at modeling and promoting good citizenship within both their schools and their broader communities.

The awards are presented each March at a public ceremony that is held in conjunction with the Annual Convention of the Manitoba School Boards Association. To promote this ceremony, and to assist us in recognizing the award recipients and all nominees, the Manitoba School Boards Association asks that the parents/guardians of each nominee (or the nominees themselves, if they are 18 years of age or older) complete this release form.

Personal information that may be used:

- student's name, school, and grade level;
- a synopsis of his or her community and school involvement; and
- photos of the nominees including photos taken at the awards ceremony.

Purposes for which this information may be used:

- promotional materials for the evening, including but not limited to news releases and programs;
- Association print and electronic publications; and
- congratulatory messages in non-Association publications.

Parent/Student permission:

I hereby consent that the information identified in this release form may be used for the identified, non-commercial purposes.

_____
Name of student

_____ _____
Date Signature of parent (or student if 18 years of age or older)

Appendix C

WESTERN MANITOBA SENIORS Non-Profit HOUSING CO-OP
o/a - WEST-MAN SENIORS HOUSING CO-OP
311 Park Ave. E. Brandon, MB R7A7A4

President – John MacKenzie
Vice-president – Harvey Douglas
Secretary – John Faulkner
Assistant Secretary - Janette Brown
Treasurer – Victor Hercun

Oct. 26, 2009

Mr. George Buri,
Chairman
Brandon School Division,
1031 – 6th St., Brandon, MB R7A 4K5

RECEIVED
OCT 28 2009

Dear. Mr. Buri;

Subject: Fleming School Property disposal.

Deacon John MacKenzie (President) and myself are looking for property that would be suitable for development of a 50 unit Seniors Housing complex, that would meet the affordable, accessible and safe standards as outlined by CMHC and MHRC for lower to mid income seniors in Brandon. Our quest has taken us first to the Mayors office and then second to Mr. Barnes office in search of such a piece of property.

A brief outline of the progress that the WMSHC Ltd. has made over the past six months follow;

a) The idea and formation of a group of individuals from Seniors For Seniors to become incorporated grew out of two Advocacy Meetings last spring.
b) A formal application for incorporation followed with the letters being issued in June.
c) Application was made to CMHC for Seed Funding and was approved in late August.
d) We are now in the progress of building a Business Plan to prove our feasibility.
e) To help build this business plan on solid ground we need to identify a possible construction site and verify as many of the hidden costs related to a development.
f) One hundred and twenty individuals have come forward to make a $25.00 founding membership application to support and back this development until a project is planned and ready for development.

The groups desire is to establish a project with three stages of development.

First phase would be 50 independent living accommodations 600 to 1,000 sq. ft. each.
Phase two would be 50 more similar units with some services on demand.
Phase 3 would be 50 more units with full services available to all occupants of the complex.

The idea behind this is that a person could remain in there own living accommodations for a longer period of time and move from independent living to a fully assisted living, without moving to another completely different building location and loose all contact with there present friends and acquaintances.

2.09C

While presenting this idea to Secretary Barnes, he indicated that someone was negotiating on the purchase of the Fleming School site, but that the property committee still had to make a recommendation and the board still had to accept the offer.

We therefore write to you today to request that if there is no deal made with the present offer, that we be contacted at the earliest date, so that we can have the architectural and engineering forces look into the possibility of refurbishing the school and the present building, as the site for our first stage of the Seniors Housing project.

I respectfully submit this request on behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the Western Manitoba Seniors non profit Housing Cooperative Ltd.

Sincerely,

Deacon John MacKenzie, President.

SIOUX VALLEY EDUCATION AUTHORITY INC.

P.O. BOX 99
GRISWOLD, MANITOBA R0M 0S0

Business: (204) 855-2663 Fax: (204) 855-2023

Appendix D

October 29, 2009

RECEIVED
OCT 29 2009

Board Trustees
Brandon School Division
1031 – 6th Street
Brandon, MB R7A 4K5

Dear Trustees:

I am writing to you on behalf of Sioux Valley Education Authority regarding the purchase of the Fleming School building and land.

Sioux Valley Education Authority is requesting the Brandon School Division Board of Trustees to sell the building to Sioux Valley for "educational purposes".

We are very interested in owing the building and property for our students.

We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Corey Mini
Director

Appendix E

Earl Oxford School
540 – 18th Street

Brandon, Manitoba
R7A 5B2
Phone: 204-729-3270 Fax: 204-729-3278

Friday, October 30, 2009

Attention honorable Board members:

Earl Oxford grade seven parents as well as Earl Oxford parent council would like to share our concerns regarding the class size and composition of our two grade seven classes at Earl Oxford School.

First, we have had 29 to 30 students in each grade seven class for the first two months of school. Given Earl Oxford's history, the sizes will generally increase over the year as an influx of students from northern communities move to Brandon to take the spring and summer PENT program offered at Brandon University. We believe that the each class is likely to increase by a couple of students.

Second, two classrooms with 29 growing teenagers can be very complicated and crowded. In addition, throw in a teacher and two adult Educational Assistants and the room becomes a very crowded, chaotic, congested environment.

Third, grade seven is a new experience. The students are quick to find themselves involved in numerous classes and options. Fortunately, we have a nice, small class of sixteen students taking French in the afternoon for an hour with one grade seven teacher teacher. Those kids love their French class. Unfortunately, that leaves a classroom of forty-three students taking LAE (Language Arts Enrichment) with our other grade seven teacher. Mr. Lehman, has given his Principal time in the afternoon to help split the class of 43 into two more manageable sizes. Unfortunately, the class takes place after recess, when Mr. Lehman's time is usually given to dealing with issues that arise over the recess break. Our concern is that 43 teenagers in one classroom does not produce quality teaching and learning and really becomes more of survival. In addition, we believe that Mr. Lehman's time is important and could be used elsewhere within the structure of Earl Oxford School.

Fourth, grade seven at Earl Oxford School is unique and different from all other Brandon School Division Schools. Earl Oxford School is a "feeder" school for Valleyview, Betty Gibson, New Era and Earl Oxford grade six students. Thus, developing community is the number one goal for the teachers and students when they first start at Earl Oxford School. Given the nature of the class and that within one class of 29, four different schools can be represented, giving four different views and perspectives on school. We believe that Ms. Puhach, Mrs. Pulak and Mrs. Grindey do a tremendous job of trying to develop a positive learning community for the students; however, they have a much more challenging task, because all students do not start on the same page. Smaller class sizes would help the students; especially those from different schools develop and fit in much quicker to the Earl Oxford School community.

204(e)

Fifth, the grade seven composition is as follows: several of the students require program modification and adaption to meet their learning needs. Some of these students have learning challenges and need extra help. Three students are EAL that speak limited or no English. This makes for a very challenging environment for quality teaching and quality learning to occur.

We have the utmost respect and confidence in our grade seven teaching staff and our principal of Earl Oxford School; that is why we are bringing this to the Board's attention because we feel that they are doing the best job they can with the resources available. We are hoping you will discuss this and see if any additional resources or support can be given.

Grade Seven is hard enough without all of these issues. Can you help our school?

Sincerely Yours,

Earl Oxford Parent Council
Jil Simmons Chair