



## Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee Minutes

Tuesday, April 5, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.,  
Brandon Friendship Centre, 205 College Avenue

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

Invited Guests: Little Teaching Lodge: Tammy Hossack, Lara Thompson  
Brandon Friendship Center: Darlene Paquette, Richard Greer,  
Frank Tacan, Sr.  
Community Members: Steve Derendy, Susie McPherson-  
Derendy  
Manitoba Métis Federation: Leah LaPlante  
Addictions Foundation: Deborah Tacan  
BSD Staff: Delvina Kejick

Regrets: Representatives from Dakota Ojibway Child and Family  
Services.

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Snelling.

### 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) Continuing Meetings with various representatives of First Nations and Métis Organizations regarding Sustainability in Education.

Chairperson, Mr. Snelling, thanked all in attendance for their participation and asked them to introduce themselves. Mr. Snelling highlighted various discussions from the January 4, 2011 meeting. He asked Superintendent, Dr. Michaels, to review her report on Aboriginal Education in the Brandon School Division. Dr. Michaels noted the work of the Native Elders Program and the Aboriginal Counsellor. She highlighted the Building Student Success with Aboriginal Parents Program; the Community Schools Partnership Initiative; Daycare Speech Program; Finding My Way Program; as well as Aboriginal Academic Achievement. Dr. Michaels also spoke to Teacher Professional Development in the area of Aboriginal Programming. Those present were encouraged to ask questions throughout the Superintendent's presentation. Discussions were held regarding the need to include Métis programming and the difference between First Nations culture and Métis culture. Concerns were expressed about overloading individuals who were expected to conduct such programming, noting that person was often expected to "do it all". Delvina Kejick spoke in detail about the various initiatives which took place at New Era School regarding the Community Schools Partnership Initiative. Discussions were also held regarding the importance of, and benefit of, starting these various programs in the early years and continuing through a child's school career. Identity issues, the need to employ people who have "lived the culture", and possible changes to delivery of certain programs were all discussed. Further concerns were expressed regarding the need for a safe environment to self-declare. The model that the Brandon Regional Health Authority has developed in order to provide such an environment was noted. The

Committee directed Senior Administration to obtain a copy of the Brandon Regional Health Authority policy on this matter for review.

It was agreed the Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee would continue to meet with representatives of First Nations and Métis Organizations to better understand the needs of the Division's First Nations and Métis students and what the Division can do to address those needs. The next meeting was set for 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at New Era School.

**B) Aboriginal Learning Specialist**

It was noted this position had been a proposed 2011-2012 budget item but had been defeated due to lack of a position description. It was further noted the Board had directed the Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee to seek direction to determine the criteria for such a position. Due to time constraints it was agreed to defer this matter to the first item on the next agenda.

**5. OPERATIONS INFORMATION**

NIL

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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M. Snelling, Chair

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P. Bowslaugh

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K. Sumner

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G. Kruck (Alternate)