Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee Minutes

Thursday, February 2, 2012 – 11:30 a.m.
Conference Room, Admin Office

Present: P. Bowslaugh, Chairperson, K. Sumner, Dr. D. Michaels

PC MLAs: Reg Hewler, MLA Brandon West
Cameron Friesen, PC Education Critic
Trisha Chestnut, Senior Researcher

Regrets: J. Murray

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 a.m. by Chairperson, Trustee Bowslaugh. Mrs. Bowslaugh welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

A) Equity and Sustainability in Education

Mrs. Bowslaugh provided information regarding the responsibilities of the Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee. She highlighted the various groups, organizations and stakeholders the Committee has met with over the past several years, including: Parent Councils; City Council; First Nations; Students; Maple Leaf; Brandon Regional Health Authority; ACC and Brandon University. She spoke about several of the initiatives, partnerships, challenges and solutions which had been reached through this open dialogue format.

Discussions were held regarding initiatives which had been implemented by the School Division to increase student achievement, including the success of the Neelin High School Off-Campus Program; the All-Day/Every-Day Kindergarten pilot; and the EAL reception centre.

The Committee spoke in detail about the increase in English as an Additional Language student population. It was noted the cost to educate an EAL student was $1,500 over and above an English speaking student. Noting the Brandon School Division, as outlined in the FRAME Report, is the fourth lowest with respect to expenditure per student; the Committee highlighted what they have been able to accomplish with the funds provided.

Final comments were provided regarding class size versus composition; school capacity vs. physical capacity; Bill 13 legislation; and the statistical data and information the Division collects on a regular basis in order to address student needs.

The Chairperson concluding the meeting by thanking Mr. Hewler and Mr. Friesen for their attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Bowslaugh, Chair	J. Murray
K. Sumner	M. Snelling (Alternate)