



# BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, THE BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION, HELD IN THE J. L. MILNE BOARDROOM, ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 1031 - 6TH STREET, BRANDON, MANITOBA, AT 6:00 P.M., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2017.

## **PRESENT:**

Mr. K. Sumner, Chairperson, Dr. L. Ross, Vice-Chairperson, Ms. S. Bambridge, Mrs. P. Bowslaugh, Mr. G. Buri, Mr. G. Kruck, Mr. J. Murray, Mr. M. Sefton.

Mr. D. Labossiere, Secretary-Treasurer, Ms. B. Sangster, Recording Secretary, Ms. T. Curtis, Live Streaming Video Operator.

Senior Administration: Dr. M. Casavant, Superintendent/CEO, Mr. M. Gustafson, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. G. Malazdrewicz, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Eunice Jamora, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

## **REGRETS:**

Mr. P. Bartlette.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Mr. Kruck – Mr. Murray

That the Board do now resolve into Committee of the Whole In-Camera. (6:01 p.m.)

Carried.

The Board discussed In-Camera items identified in Section 4.00

Ms. Bambridge – Dr. Ross

That the Committee of the Whole In-Camera do now resolve into Board. (6:55 p.m.)

Carried.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order with a traditional heritage acknowledgement at 7:02 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

## **AGENDA**

### **1.00 AGENDA/MINUTES:**

#### **1.01 Reference to Statement of Board Operations**

#### **1.02 Approval of Agenda**

Trustee Bambridge noted she had one verbal report on the Policy Review Committee.

Trustee Bowslaugh noted she had one verbal update on the Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee.

Mr. Buri – Ms. Bambridge

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried.

### **1.03 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

- a) The Minutes of the Board Meeting held February 13, 2017 were circulated.

Mr. Sefton - Dr. Ross

That the Minutes be approved.

Carried.

- b) The Minutes of the Special Board Meeting – Budget Deliberations – held February 21, 2017 were circulated.

Mr. Sefton – Mr. Kruck

That the Minutes be approved.

Carried.

### **2.00 GOVERNANCE MATTERS:**

#### **2.01 Presentations For Information**

The Board of Trustees received a clarinet performance by grade 11 Vincent Massey High School student Stevie Onyshko. Stevie was recognized by the Board in January for being chosen to be a member of the Senior Provincial Honour Band.

#### **2.02 Reports of Committees**

- a) Personnel Committee Meeting

The written report of the Personnel Committee meeting held on February 9, 2017 was circulated.

Dr. Ross – Mr. Buri

That the Minutes be received and filed.

Carried.

- b) Education Committee Meeting

The written report of the Education Committee meeting held on February 14, 2017 was circulated.

Mr. Buri – Mr. Sefton

That the Minutes be received and filed.

Carried.

- c) Policy Review Committee Meeting

A verbal report was provided by Trustee Bambridge, who indicated that the Policy Review Committee went through the Policy Manual and separated Procedures from Policy. She added that the Request for Proposal (RFP) advertisement was included in the Saturday February 25, 2017 edition of the Brandon Sun and that it is on the Division website.

- d) School Division/Parent/Guardian Advisory Committee meeting  
Trustee Bowslaugh spoke to this meeting, and provided updates on the Aboriginal Forum, BUAPC meeting she attended, and the Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee lunch visit to Waverly Park School.

### **2.03 Delegations and Petitions (max. 10 minutes)**

#### **Public Budget Feedback Presentations**

The following individuals made presentations regarding the proposed 2017-2018 Budget:

- 1) Brandon Teachers' Association  
Mr. Peter Buehler, President, Brandon Teachers' Association, provided a submission on behalf of the Division's teaching staff. Mr. Buehler noted that the Association is grateful for the Board's work this year in making budget decisions that put public education first. He added that's not to say the choices the Board made to this point don't have worrisome consequences. First among these is the decision to accommodate next year's expected rise in enrolment by hiring only nine additional teachers. Mr. Buehler indicated that those who take the least sophisticated view of school division budgets never fail to point out that the Division puts a lot of money towards salaries, with the implication that it is salaries that ought to be cut.

Mr. Buehler added that Trustees and teachers know it is the work of people – teachers and others – that gets the wonderful task of educating students done. The Association commended Brandon School Division Trustees for not making cuts to existing staff, but are concerned at the decision not to hire as many teachers as will be needed to meet the needs of next year's additional students and those other students in classrooms with them.

The Association has concerns with the changes to the process of budget setting in the Division. In the past, more detail has been available to the public and discussion amongst Trustees during budget meetings has explored some of those numbers and the issues behind them in public. Mr. Buehler added that some decisions seem to have been made in advance of the budget proceedings. He noted this concern as a matter of advice: it is important for public bodies to be transparent in the decisions they make, and to be as thorough as possible in exploring their options in public.

Another matter of concern was news that no new portable classrooms will be funded for Brandon in the coming year. How will the Division accommodate this problem? What budgetary ramifications will it have?

It has been the hope of the Association that the Division would soon begin to address the need for Vice-Principals in all schools. The Provincial Government's funding announcement this year won't let Trustees consider the merits of this idea now, along with the educational advances of offering all-day, every day Kindergarten.

The Association commends Trustees for their courage in not letting pressure from the Provincial government and pressure from those who cannot understand that taxation leads to benefit for us all, lead them to make budget decisions that would seriously harm public education in Brandon for years and years to come.

2) Brandon Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Terry Burgess, President, Brandon Chamber of Commerce, introduced himself and noted that the Chamber is a not for profit organization that represents over 600 member business's in our community, and lobbies on behalf of all business, important community organizations like the Brandon School Division, and those taxpayers that do not have a voice. Mr. Burgess noted that the Chamber appreciates that the Division's Administration has some very difficult decisions to make and have had challenges finding the balance between provincially mandated items and the needs/wants for the Division.

Mr. Burgess indicated that the Chamber is a champion of Brandon School Division, champions of Education and champions of a highly-skilled workforce. The Chamber knows that a quality education positively impacts the future prosperity and success of our city. He noted that we as a community have to reconcile our educational desires and requirements with the ability of the taxpayer to pay. The business and residential taxpayers are telling the Brandon Chamber of Commerce that they have had enough.

The Brandon Chamber of Commerce remains focused on outcomes. They ask for a reprioritization of spending, focus on improving Manitoba's ranking in core competencies of math, science and reading skills.

The Chamber recognizes that some of the Division's budget woes stem from Provincial funding levels, and they understand that 85% of the Brandon School Division budget is spent on salary and wages. One opportunity is to look at organizational effectiveness – making sure that every dollar is spent effectively, efficiently, and with an eye to ensuring that students are excelling in core competencies. He adds the Chamber supports the Continuous Improvement Plan introduced in the budget.

The Chamber offered up the following recommendations for consideration:

- Improve Transparency
- Program Outcomes
- Alternative Delivery Methods
- Consideration for increasing # of student/teacher ratio from 12.9
- Consideration for some flexibility in application of K-3 maximum class size thereby reducing number of teachers and classrooms required.
- Use of Public Private Partnerships

The Chamber of Commerce urged Trustees to revisit your budget, make the hard decisions on eliminating the things that the Division can do without so that Brandon can remain an affordable place to live, work, and raise families.

3) CUPE Local 737

Mr. Jamie Rose, President, CUPE Local 737, spoke on behalf of the Brandon School Division Support Staff. Mr. Rose opened his remarks by thanking the Board and Senior Administration in starting to include CUPE Local 737 in more aspects of what is happening around the Division and the Province.

Mr. Rose noted that the this year's budget presents numerous challenges to the Board to keep costs down. Mr. Rose added that it is important for the Board to remember the CUPE members and the effect their decisions have on their workload and stress. He spoke on the shortage of subs, and the recommendation put forward to have a floating 10-month School Administrative Assistant to offset the shortage for this group.

Mr. Rose indicated that CUPE appreciates the installation of cameras on all school buses which help to protect the students on the buses and their members. He noted some incidents that have taken place on buses, and added that although those cases are extreme, he feels an Educational Assistant could help stop incidents from happening or getting too out of hand.

4) Alf Kennedy

Mr. Kennedy introduced himself and noted he was representing a not for profit seniors group called Servants of Service Inc. Mr. Kennedy commented on the Public Budget Feedback Presentations on February 15, 2017 at Kirkcaldy Heights School, and provided information on the shortage of seniors housing in Brandon. He noted that Lions Manor alone has 600 people on the waiting list.

Mr. Kennedy suggested a partnership with the Division, building seniors complexes on top of flat-roofed schools, and selling the extra space in school yards to build complexes. Mr. Kennedy provided samples pictures of buildings and ideas for this project. Mr. Kennedy posed several questions to the Board to respond to at a later date, including:

- Is there a Board Training Manual?
- What is the total acreage of Division schoolyards?
- What is the amount of square footage per school on the acreage?
- The assessed value of the properties

Mr. Kennedy indicated the Division is sitting on underutilized property and maybe there is the possibility of a partnership.

## **2.04 Communications for Action**

### **2.05 Business Arising**

- From Previous Delegation

- From Board Agenda

- MSBA Matters

a) Ebulletin – February 15, 2017

- From Report of Senior Administration

### **2.06 Public Inquiries (max. 15 minutes)**

### **2.07 Motions**

25/2017 Mr. Kruck – Mr. Sefton

That the Agreement between the United Way of Brandon & District and Brandon School Division's Youth Revolution – Brandon Community Drug & Alcohol Education Coalition to provide funding for the Brandon Community Drug & Alcohol Education Coalition for a one year term in the amount of \$10,000.00 be approved and the Chairperson and Secretary-Treasurer are hereby authorized to sign same on behalf of the Division.

Carried.

**2.08 Bylaws****2.09 Giving of Notice****2.10 Trustee Inquiries****3.00 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:****3.01 Report of Senior Administration**

Dr. Marc Casavant, Superintendent/CEO, provided highlights on the following items from the February 27, 2017 Report of Senior Administration:

- Administrative Information
  - Celebrations
    - Honourable Ian Wishart, Minister of Education and Training, Visit to Brandon School Division – February 16, 2017
    - Hannah Koversky – Young Women of Distinction Nominee
    - Dr. Linda Ross – Women of Distinction Nominee
    - Angela McGuire-Holder – thanked for all her hard work with Youth Revolution, consisting of 600+ students

Ms. Bambridge – Mrs. Bowslaugh

That the February 27, 2017 Report of Senior Administration be received and filed.

Carried.

**3.02 Communications for Information****3.03 Announcements**

- a) Facilities and Transportation Committee Meeting – 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 28, 2017, Boardroom.
- b) Policy Review Committee Meeting – 11:30 a.m., Monday, March 6, 2017, Boardroom.
- c) NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – 7:00 p.m., Monday, March 6, 2017, Boardroom.
- d) Upcoming Budget Dates:
  - Regular Board Meeting – Final Budget Approval – 7:00 p.m., Monday, March 6, 2017, Boardroom.

Mr. Buri – Mrs. Bowslaugh

That the Board do now resolve into Committee of the Whole In-Camera. (8:25 p.m.)

Carried.

**IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN CAMERA****4.00 IN CAMERA DISCUSSION:**

**4.01 Student Issues**

- Reports
- Trustee Inquiries

**4.02 Personnel Matters**

- Reports
  - a) The Secretary-Treasurer provided information on a Personnel Matter and received direction from the Board.
  - b) Mr. Greg Malazdrewicz, Assistant Superintendent, provided information on a Personnel Matter.
- Trustee Inquiries

**4.03 Property Matters/Tenders**

- Reports
- Trustee Inquiries

**4.04 Board Operations**

- Reports
  - a) The Secretary-Treasurer provided information on a Board Operations Matter and received direction from the Board.
  - b) Mr. Mathew Gustafson, Assistant Superintendent, provided an update on a Board Operations Matter.
  - c) Mr. Gustafson provided information on a Board Operations Matter and answered Trustee questions.
  - d) Trustee Sumner provided information on a Board Operations Matter and received direction from the Board.
  - e) Dr. Marc Casavant, Superintendent/CEO provided information on a Board Operations Matter and received direction from the Board.
- Trustee Inquiries

Mr. Murray – Mr. Kruck

That the Committee of the Whole In-Camera do now resolve into Board. (9:20 p.m.)

Carried.

**5.00 ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Kruck – Dr. Ross

That the Board do now adjourn. (9:21 p.m.)

Carried.

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Chairperson

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Secretary-Treasurer