



School Division/Parent Liaison Committee Minutes

Wednesday, September 16, 2009 7:00 p.m.
Conference Room, Administration Office

Present: Brandon School Division:
B. Jolly, Dr. Michaels, D. G. Barnes, B. Miller
Parents:
Judy Sieb, Karen Colquhoun, Joanne Paskewitz-Holden, Sandy Ferris, Eva Cameron, Linda Fowler.

1. WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

The School Division/Parent Liaison Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Bea Jolly, Trustee. Introduction of attendees took place.

2. REVIEW OF JUNE 17, 2009 MEETING

The Minutes of the June 17, 2009 Committee meeting were reviewed and accepted.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2008

i) Conference Planning Fall 2009

The Committee was provided with an update for the October 17, 2009 Parent Conference. The draft press release, newspaper ad and the morning and afternoon question/answer form that had been circulated to the Committee were reviewed. The Committee agreed with the materials presented.

ii) Conference Planning Fall 2009 – Participant Survey

The Participant Survey that had been circulated was reviewed by the Committee. It was agreed the survey would be helpful and that Dr. Michaels and Eva Cameron would consider changes to the form and how it could be used.

iii) Draft Student Fees Policy Update

The Committee discussed student fees in detail. The amount and use of student fees, classroom supplies, lunch programs, and previous parental surveys undertaken regarding this matter was considered at length. It was agreed that Mr. G. Barnes, Secretary-Treasurer, would prepare a draft Student Fee Parent Survey for Committee consideration at the next meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS

i) Areas of Interest, Concerns for 2009/2010

The Committee discussed items for consideration during this upcoming school year indentifying the following:

- school fees survey report and Division policy;
- information/feedback forum on school experiences with selected students from grade 5 – 7 to be held in the new year;
- H1N1.

5. UPDATE REPORTS

i) Brandon Group Parent Council

Eva Cameron noted that the first meeting of the Committee will be held on October 7, 2009. She also informed the Committee that Brandon Group Parent Council have made arrangements for a web-site on E-Brandon.

ii) Board of Trustees

Trustee Jolly reported on the following Board matters: preliminary student enrollment increase; the new school administrators at the various schools; election of Trustee Buri as Chairperson and Trustee Karnes as Vice-Chairperson; a recent Board presentations on the Neelin Choir trip to London and the Native Elder role in the Division.

iii) Schools

Barb Miller, Principal, Alexander School, reported on the Arts Program and growth of enrollment at her school; noted most schools are dealing with increased EAL student enrolment and the challenges schools face; changing student diversity being experienced in the schools; and the successful school opening.

iv) Senior Administration

G. Barnes, Secretary-Treasurer, advised the Committee of areas currently being dealt with including: completion of financial year end; commencement of 2010/2011 budget presentations; continuing negotiations with both Brandon Teachers' Association and Canadian Union of Public Employees; facility renovations being undertaken for Crocus Plains roof, Meadows grooming room, Green Acres roof; renovations to the various schools to implement the single track French Immersion School at Harrison; and information communication technology installation.

Dr. Michaels, Superintendent/CEO, reported on various projects being undertaken by her department for the 2009/2010 school year relating to the Division's strategic goals as follows:

Quality Learning and Quality Teaching

- Alexander Creative Arts School (1st year);
- Implementation of Single Track French Immersion School (effective September 2010);
- Middle Years student Support Program (program expansion);
- Increased literacy support in early and middle years (Reading Recovery, MY literacy support, grade 3 to grade 4 transition, senior years language arts);
- Technology in learning;
- International Baccalaureate;
- Advanced Placement;
- English as an Additional Language;
- Aboriginal Education;
- Increased numeracy support, K-12;
- Implementation of new grade 9 mathematics curricula;
- Implementation of grades 11 and 12 physical education curricula;
- High Ability Learners Enrichment Programming (middle years);
- Neelin High School Off Campus Program;
- Implementation of middle years Divisional report card.

Quality Support Services

- Learning disabilities – identification, programming, assessment
- Implementation of technology teaching tools, e.g. SmartBoards
- Kinderlinks Program
- “Ready, Set, Go to Kindergarten”
- Healthy, safe, respectful learning and work places.

6. WRAP UP AND ADJUSTMENT

Eva Cameron advised she would be absent from the next meeting. Trustee Jolly closed the meeting and thanked members for their attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, October 21, 2009 7:00 p.m., Administration Office, Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted

B. Jolly, Trustee