



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

Education and Community Relations Committee Minutes

Monday, January 11, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.
Boardroom, Administration Office

Present: S. Bambridge C. Ekenna
K. Fallis B. Foley
J. Gobeil D. Kejick
L. Letain J. Murray
L. Ross

Also Present: D. Labossiere M. Gustafson
E. McFadzen

Regrets: M. Casavant

1. COMMITTEE ITEMS

A. **Research Request – Joanna Ford, Teacher, Brandon School Division: *Making Community Connections a Priority in High School Curricular Planning for Young Adult Newcomers.***

Trustees reviewed the memorandum to the Education and Community Relations Committee from Dr. Marc D. Casavant, Superintendent/CEO. The objective of this research aims to understand the experiences of young adult newcomer students who have engaged with school and community supports through a Bridging and Transitioning program. The study will reflect on whether a Tier III program intervention can help close the gap for English as an Additional Language (EAL) learners by focusing on literacy and numeracy skills, while also facilitating community connections to build a sense of belonging.

The Brandon School Division Research Advisory Committee submitted a recommendation for approval, indicating that they believe there are benefits to this study in that it could shed light on the impact of EAL interventions/programming, and assist in closing the EAL achievement gap.

Dr. Casavant recommended approval of this request, given that participation is voluntary, and the data received will be of benefit to the Brandon School Division. The study aligns with the principle of continuous improvement, and specifically the ultimate outcome *decreased EAL achievement gap*.

Trustees asked questions for clarification.

The Committee agreed to the recommendation as presented.

Recommendation:

That the Board approve the research request from Joanna Ford, Brandon School Division, for the research project entitled “*Making Community Connections a Priority in High School Curricular Planning for Young Adult Newcomers*”.

B. Manitoba Council for International Education (Membership Inquiry)

Mr. Mathew Gustafson, Assistant Superintendent, provided the Committee with information regarding this inquiry. Discussion took place and Trustees asked questions for clarification. Mr. Gustafson will bring additional information to the next Education and Community Relations Committee meeting.

C. Partnership with Brandon Friendship Centre Inc.

Mr. Gustafson spoke to this item, noting that the Brandon Friendship Centre had reached out to Brandon School Division regarding a partnership involving cultural and land-based teachings. Meetings have taken place between the Brandon Friendship Centre and the Principals of École secondaire Neelin High School and Prairie Hope High School to collaborate on curriculums and explore the possibility of attaching credits to the teachings.

Ms. Amie Martin, Indigenous Education Learning Specialist, and Kevin Tacan, Indigenous Elder, will be taking part in upcoming meetings. Trustee Gobeil noted they are hoping that this pilot project will have a winter and spring delivery of courses.

D. Trustee Inquiry Form – Trustee Ekenna

Trustee Ekenna submitted a Trustee Inquiry form, requesting information on the following:

- Lunch Program Policy
- Fees associated with lunch programs and why
- Lunch program procedures in each elementary school

Trustee Ekenna spoke to this item, noting the lunch programs are not the same in all schools, are confusing for parents and at times logistically difficult for families.

The Committee agreed to request this information from Senior Administration and asked for a response at the January 25, 2021 Board meeting.

2. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

NEXT MEETING: Monday, February 8, 2021, 6:00 p.m., Boardroom.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Letain