



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

Facilities/Transportation Committee Minutes

Thursday, March 7, 2013 – 11:30 a.m.
Board Room, Administration Office

Present: D. Karnes, Chairperson J. Murray, K. Sumner (Via conference call),
P. Bowslaugh (alternate), G. Malazdrewicz, K. Zabowski, M. Clark,
R. Harkness (exited at 12:00 noon).

Regrets: Dr. D. Michaels

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Facilities & Transportation Committee Meeting was called to order at 11:35 a.m. by Committee Chairperson, Trustee Karnes

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Three items were requested to be added to the agenda. The agenda was approved as amended.

3. PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

The Minutes of February 7, 2013 were received as information.

4. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

NIL

5. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

A) Energy Efficiency Proposal

The Secretary-Treasurer spoke to an email which he had received from Mr. Tom Keep, City of Brandon, proposing the Division participate in a pilot project regarding the use of electric buses. Mr. Zabowski noted that Tom Keep had received some information from Mr. Parsons of Industry, Energy and Mines, Province of Manitoba, regarding concerns about heating problems with respect to the interior of the bus and a rating of 50 miles which drops during cold weather. Mr. Harkness, Supervisor of Facilities, spoke about the need for buses to adhere to CSA(d)250 and Manitoba standards. He also noted that the electric buses have air brakes which require special certification in Manitoba and all Division bus drivers would be required to have that certification. The Associate Superintendent inquired as to why the City of Brandon was not exploring this proposal themselves and piloting the project for their City bus fleet. He also spoke to the risk involved and proposed that should the Division taken on such a project it should be funded through the Province as a pilot.

The Committee agreed that more information and data needed to be collected on this matter. Therefore they would not commit to the proposal at this time.

B) Use of City Buses by Grade 7 and 8 Students

Mr. Karnes, Committee Chairperson, noted at a recent meeting with the City of Brandon it had been raised by the City that due to the increase in the immigrant population in the City, the Transit System was in higher demand. They wished to give the Division advanced notice that should the demand for transit continue to rise, the City may no longer be able to provide bussing for Grade 7 and 8 students to Home Economics and Industrial Arts. Discussions were held regarding the current protocol should busses need to be dispatched during the day for "emergency" pick-ups and drop-offs. The Associate Superintendent noted he had not received any feedback from school administrators that the lack of room on a City Transit Bus had been an issue. However, he confirmed he would explore the matter with school administrators.

B) B.J. Hales Collection

The Secretary-Treasurer noted he had received feedback from the Brandon General Museum Association (BGMA) regarding the agreement. There were two items the BGMA wished to have clarified. The first item was with respect to students viewing the display for free. They noted that currently the Museum does not charge but rather requests a donation. However, if this were to change in the future, the Museum representatives requested clarification as to the definition of student. The second item of clarification revolved around insurance. The BGMA noted exhibits which have been donated by the owner and who maintain ownership, usually insure the collection themselves. The Secretary-Treasurer confirmed with Brandon University that this had been the case during the time period in which the University had displayed the collection. Mr. Zabowski has attempted to contact the Division's insurance provider but to date has not heard back regarding this item.

Trustee Karnes inquired as to whether or not it was possible to remove the collection from Earl Oxford School by the summer. The Director of Facilities and Transportation confirmed the collection could be removed in that timeline, however, he also stated the school would not be able to use the space for classroom purposes. It is strictly a storage space.

The Committee agreed that another meeting of the B.J. Hales Ad-Hoc Committee should be held to clarify the outstanding issues remaining. The Associate Superintendent noted that the family should also be contacted to ensure the Division is following the original wishes when the Division received the collection.

C) Natural Play Spaces

Mr. Karnes noted he had been approached by Parent Council representatives regarding the possibility of constructing "natural play spaces" instead of the traditional adventure playgrounds. Trustee Murray confirmed the School Division Parent Guardian Advisory Group had received a presentation by Mr. Perry Roque of the City of Brandon regarding this item. He noted that although the proposed natural play space may not be cheaper, the difference in long term maintenance, challenge to the imagination, and enhancement to a neighbourhood suggested this form of play space is a viable option. The Director of Facilities and Transportation spoke to the protocol involved when a Parent Council wishes to build a playground. He noted the same protocol would be required for a natural play space with input to be provided by Mr. Keith Thomas of the Manitoba School Boards Association. Discussions were held regarding liability and the need to look further than the Manitoba School Boards Association regarding the possible liability involved. It was noted Mr. Perry Roque would be available as a resource to any Parent Council interested in pursuing this option.

Trustee Bowslaugh inquired as to whether or not playgrounds could be built in stages as Parent Councils had the funds available. Mr. Clark, Director of Facilities and Transportation confirmed that as long as the whole plan was approved, the playgrounds could be built in stages.

D) Neelin High School Off-Campus

Mr. Karnes, Committee Chairperson, noted that at a recent meeting with the City of Brandon discussions had been held regarding the use of the Convergys basement by the Division. Mr. Malazdrewicz spoke to the unique environment of the current Off-Campus location and the importance of maintaining the unstructured quality of the physical space. He noted that he has been in discussions with the Director of Facilities and Transportation regarding the possible use of the Convergys building as a remote facility for administrative use rather than as a classroom space. This matter would be discussed further by Senior Administration prior to the next budget.

E) Westman Retired Educators Association/Brandon General Museum Association – (In-Camera)

This item was discussed in-camera.

6. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

- Mr. Clark, Director of Facilities and Transportation, provided an update on the following projects:
 - Crocus Plains Welding Shop
 - Valleyview Roof
 - Vincent Massey Roof
 - Vincent Massey Gym Roof
 - Neelin Science Lab
 - Crocus Science Lab
 - George Fitton Day Care and Gym

7. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, April 3, 2013, 11:30 a.m., Board Room

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Karnes, Chair

J. Murray

K. Sumner

P. Bowslaugh (Alternate)