BSD/BTA Liaison Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 29, 2011
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Conference Room, Administration Office

Present:

Trustees:	Kevan Sumner, Jim Murray, Pat Bowslaugh, Marty Snelling
Brandon Teachers' Association:	Darren Hardy, Ali Johnson
Senior Administration:	Dr. D. Michaels

Regrets:

Brandon Teachers' Association:	Tammy Tukaluk, Peter Buehler

The joint meeting was held on November 29, 2011 from 4:05 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. as per Article 28.01 of the Collective Agreement between the Brandon School Division and the Brandon Teachers Association.

It was decided that Co-Chairs for this Committee are Darren Hardy, Brandon Teachers' Association, and Jim Murray, Brandon School Division.

The following agenda items were discussed:

1) Structure and schedule of future meetings

It was agreed that this Liaison Committee will meet four times a year or at the call of the Co-Chairs (September, November, January, and June on a Tuesday or Thursday at 4:00 p.m.). The Committee's membership is as per the Collective Agreement. D. Hardy indicated that the Brandon Teachers' Association was considering having additional teachers participate as per the Collective Agreement requirement.

2) Mentorship

Respective models of mentorship for teachers (in particular early career) were discussed. Discussion ensued. Key points of discussion:

- The model for mentorship needs to be a model "made in Brandon" based on research and best practices.
- The requirement for mentorship is clear and present. New teachers are seeking opportunities for discussion with experienced teachers.
- Characteristics of the model required are trust, risk-free, flexibility of access, potential for rapport and relationship building, based on professional developmental needs with personalized activities.
- Collegial assistance is invaluable to assist new teachers in reflecting upon strength/challenges.
- The implementation of a mentorship program would be a most positive initiative.
- The requirements of developing and implementing a mentorship program include commitment and support from the Board; volunteers to start a pilot phase; expansion based on assessment feedback; opportunities for learning in area of educational change.
- The Manitoba Teachers Society is most willing to work in partnership.

It was agreed that a proposed program request of $32,000 would be forwarded to the Board of Trustees for consideration in the proposed operating budget for 2012-2013. Such funds would provide for experienced and new teachers to work together in a pilot program in 2012-2013.

3) Substitute Teachers Working Conditions

This matter was raised by the Brandon Teachers' Association. D. Hardy advised that substitute teachers do not have consistent access to relevant professional development. Upon discussion it was agreed that if addressing this involves cost then a Memorandum of Agreement would need to be amended to the current Collective Agreement. This matter will be discussed by the Board of Trustees.

4) Intramural Teacher Staffing

D. Hardy stated that Brandon Teachers' Association considers the provision of teacher staffing for intramurals important for students participation at noon hour.

The next meeting is to be scheduled towards the end of January, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

D. Hardy	J. Murray
Co-Chair – Brandon Teachers Association	Co-Chair – Brandon School Division