School Division/Parent Liaison Committee Minutes

Wednesday, February 17, 2010 7:00 p.m.
Conference Room, Administration Office

"Accepting the Challenge"

Present: Brandon School Division:
B. Jolly, Dr. Michaels (entered at 8:30 p.m.), G. Barnes, S. Lehman.
Parents:
Eva Cameron, Judy Sieb, Karen Colquhoun, Joanne Paskewitz-Holder.

1. WELCOME AND AGENDA REVIEW

The School Division/Parent Liaison Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Bea Jolly, Trustee. The agenda was accepted as circulated.

2. REVIEW OF JANUARY 20, 2010 MEETING

The Minutes were accepted as circulated.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

I) School Supply Lists

S. Lehman, Principal, circulated a written report (attached as Appendix "A") summarizing the principal feedback regarding the school supply lists. The information was discussed at length noting the large number of certain items requested by some schools; requirements for individual teacher programming; concerns expressed by parents over a number of years; the need to be sensitive to costs; and the need for a basic divisional supply list. It was also suggested that parents should feel free to contact their school principal to discuss their concerns regarding the school supply lists. In conclusion it was agreed that:

a) the purchasing of school supplies should remain with the parents;
b) a divisional basic supply list for each grade would be prepared;
c) sensitivity to cost needs to be considered; and
d) information previously assembled by the Parent Group will be brought to the next meeting for further consideration and action.

ii) Student Information Sessions (Grades 5-7)

The Committee reviewed the information circulated regarding the Middle Years Student Voice Forum – 2010. The information was discussed and agreed to. It was agreed the final program format and dates would be finalized at the next meeting.

iii) Healthy Schools Committee Representative

The Parent Group members requested additional information regarding the functioning and responsibilities of the Healthy Schools Committee. Dr. Michaels explained the purpose of the Committee, its role in working in cooperation with the Brandon Regional Healthy Authority and provided examples of some matters considered by the Committee. It was agreed Dr. Michaels would provide a "terms of reference" to Brandon Group Parent Council to assist in obtaining a parent representative to serve on the Healthy Schools Committee.

4. NEW BUSINESS

i) Manitoba Association of Parent Councils Annual General Meeting

The information provided regarding the MAPC Annual General Meeting and Conference and the MAPC Parent Council Recognition Award 2010 was reviewed. The correspondence was received as information with no further action being taken.

5. UPDATE REPORTS

i) Brandon Group Parent Council

No Report

ii) Board of Trustees

Board of Trustee activities were reported on by Trustee Jolly. The budget sustainability enhancements approved were reviewed and the visitation of the Lieutenant Governor-General to King George School and Neelin High School was reported on.

iii) Schools

S. Lehman, Principal, discussed various activities taking place in the schools noting Parent-Teacher interviews, Grade 9 registrations being held over three nights at each high school, and special programs being undertaken.

iv) Senior Administration

Secretary-Treasurer, G. Barnes, reported on the Public Budget Forum held on February 3, 2010, the March 1 and 8 Public Board meetings regarding the 2010/2011 Budget and the facility review presently being under taken.

Dr. Michaels, Superintendent/CEO, noted the teacher staffing process that will be starting shortly, the submission of school mid-year reports on student achievement, and the March update of the 2008-2010 Strategic Plan.

6. WRAP UP AND ADJOURNMENT

It was noted the Committee structure review and parent comments regarding this matter will be considered prior to the end of June. Trustee Jolly thanked the committee members for their attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 7:00 p.m., Administration Office, Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted

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B. Jolly, Trustee

Appendix A

School Supply Lists

Shawn Lehman discussed the three options of changing school supply lists brought forward by the School Division/Parent Liaison Committee (for K-8 schools):

1. Students would be given $40.00 each and it would be put in budget and disbursed through the Division.
2. Parents would pay a flat rate of $40.00 each and schools would buy all supplies for students.
3. The School Division/Parent Liaison Committee would look at a basic school supply list for every student and teachers would have an opportunity to add to this list with an explanation to parents what it will be used for in that particular classroom.

Keypoints of the discussion were:

- leave things the way they are – hard to get consistency – can bargain shop;
- Riverheights latex allergy;
- small issue makes a large concern – there would need to be money for resources to allow teachers to collaborate and make consistent;
- do any other Divisions have consistent lists;
- lists depend on the professionalism of the teacher;
- some schools have standardized lists at each grade level;
- Kirkcaldy Heights parents were supportive to leave as is or give money to the teacher to buy supplies in bulk;
- when administering a fee that the school has to pay, the school ends up paying for fees for parents do don't pay – time factor for administering as well;
- would $40.00 cover all the costs;
- parents should talk to the teacher and principal if there are concerns – this challenges programming;
- Shawn can direct parents with the concerns back to their home schools to discuss;
- state that teachers prepare supply lists according to programming – principals can direct staff to be sensitive to costs but it is part of the teachers professional planning;
- need to be reflective and aware of teachers personal preference – brand names, binder sizes, etc.; and
- approach the Board to see why supplies aren't purchased for schools.

It was agreed that Shawn would report the following back to the School Division/Parent Liaison Committee: **Principals will individually look at their school supply lists and make appropriate changes that support the teachers programming. If you have specific concerns with the school supply lists please speak to school administration directly.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Shawn Lehman