Education Committee Minutes

Monday, March 1, 2010 – 1:30 p.m.
Board Room, Administration Office

Present: R. Coey (Chairperson), B. Jolly, Dr. D. Michaels
Regrets: P. Bartlette, G. Buri (Alternate)

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Trustee Coey called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Education Committee Agenda was approved as circulated.

3. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

NIL

4. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

A) Review of Committee Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting were received as information.

B) Policy 4044 and Procedures 4044 – Appropriate Educational Programming and the On-going Development of HALEP.

Superintendent, Dr. Michaels, circulated a report on the Teacher Consultation Feedback received regarding the proposed changes to Policy 4044 to include HALEP. She noted the feedback involved reviewing the following: 1) Identification Process – Including Tools; 2) Teacher Professional Development; 3) Programming Considerations; 4) Preparation of IEPs; 5) Inclusion of the Requirements for HALEP in Teachers' Annual Growth Plans; and 6) Concerns raised by the teachers who were consulted.

Agreed:
It was agreed that the Committee would review the Feedback Document for the April Education Committee meeting at which time the document will be discussed by all members of the Committee.

C) A Call to Action on Poverty, Housing and Homelessness

The List of Recommendations from The Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, December 2009, regarding "A Call to Action on Poverty, Housing and Homelessness" was referred to the Education Committee for review by the Board of Trustees at the Regular Board Meeting held February 8, 2010. The Committee reviewed in detail, Recommendations 16 through 19 related to Education. The Committee noted that Manitoba has the worst child poverty rate in all of Canada with one out of every four children living below the poverty line. The Committee agreed that poverty costs the education system which in turn impacts School Division budgets. The Committee agreed to support in principle, Recommendations 16 through 19 of the report. The Committee discussed each recommendation as follows:

Recommendation 16 – The Committee agreed with the statement regarding early-years education. They emphasized that early childhood education should be available nationwide for all children regardless of economic status and include nationwide standards and funding as well.

Recommendation 17 – The Committee agreed with the statement regarding funding programs and allocations to emphasize and support initiatives which will keep students engaged in schools. They felt that funding in this area at the Federal level should be targeted funding. There should be clear accountability in each province with respect to this targeted funding. It was suggested that school divisions partner with civic groups regarding dispersal of the Federal funding in this area.

Recommendations 18 and 19 - The Committee agreed with the statements regarding supporting actions to reduce the drop-out rate, which would include the establishment of targets and timelines for all students, including Aboriginal and At-Risk students. The Committee agreed that standards are a needed and important part of the Division's promise to children. They noted that the issue of drop-out rates is a complex issue. It was felt that these issues came back to the need and importance of early childhood education noted in Recommendation 16.

Agreed:
The Committee agreed to send a letter of support to the Senate regarding the recommendations listed in the report which relate to Education. It was further agreed that the letter should be drafted according to discussions held by the Committee as they related to Recommendations 16 through 18.

Recommendation:
That a letter of support be sent to the Canadian Senate endorsing the proposed Recommendations 16 through 19 regarding Poverty, Housing & Homelessness and their relationship to education.

5. BRIEFINGS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION

Nil

6. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

Nil

7. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, April 5, 2010, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., Board Room.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Coey, Chair	P. Bartlette
B. Jolly	G. Buri (Alternate)