



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee Minutes

Wednesday, February 6, 2013 (11:30 a.m.)
Board Room, Administration Office

Present: P. Bowslaugh, Chairperson, M. Snelling, K. Sumner
G. Malazdrewicz.

Regrets: D. Michaels

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee Meeting was called to order at 11:50 a.m. by Trustee Bowslaugh

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Discussions regarding possible future meetings and partnerships were added to the agenda.
The agenda was approved as amended.

3. REVIEW OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Minutes of the December 5, 2012 meeting were received as information.

Trustee Bowslaugh noted that in the Committee Minutes of December 5, 2012, the possibility of promoting School Division highlights in the Brandon Sun had been discussed. At that meeting it had been determined the Communications and Technology Specialist was promoting Division information through a number of venues. However, given the comments which continually appear in "Sound Off" and local social media, Trustee Bowslaugh again raised an inquiry about addressing the misunderstandings circulating in the community. It was suggested the Board needed to consider developing a strategy which would address these issues. Discussions were held regarding the possibility of the Board Chairperson writing articles about various Division initiatives similar to those written by the City and Brandon University officials. Concern was also expressed the Division would need to be strategic in its responses as Trustees did not want to appear to be "battling with the taxpayer through the media."

It was agreed that the Associate Superintendent would follow-up on this proposal with the Communications and Technology Specialist and the Superintendent and report back to the Committee on what communications are currently taking place in the Division and what else could be done to clarify misunderstandings in the Community regarding various issues.

4. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

A) Upcoming Meetings

It was noted the following meetings have been confirmed:

- February 20, 2013 Meeting with students at Betty Gibson School
- February 27, 2013 Meeting with IB students at École Secondaire Neelin High School
- March 12, 2013 Meeting with AP students at Vincent Massey High School
- March 19, 2013 Meeting with students at Earl Oxford School
- April 10, 2013 Meeting with AP students at Crocus Plains Regional Secondary High School
- April 24, 2013 Meeting with students at Linden Lanes School
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It was noted that the meeting with MP Merv Tweed was still to be arranged, likely during the first two weeks of April.

Trustee Bowslaugh requested a proposed date from Committee members for the first Joint City Task Force Committee meeting. It was determined she would attempt to arrange the meeting for February 20, 2013 at 7:30 a.m. it was agreeable to Committee representatives from the City.

Discussions were held regarding a possible meeting with the City's new Chief of Police. Mr. Malazdrewicz confirmed that Senior Administration was meeting with the Chief of Police today to discuss a number of items of mutual interest. The Committee agreed they would like to meet with the Chief of Police at some point in the future.

5. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

A) Review of Aboriginal Education Committee Agenda

The Committee reviewed the proposed agenda for the upcoming meeting of the Aboriginal Education Committee to be held on March 7, 2013. Trustees agreed that it was important to stress to Committee members at the inaugural meeting that they were an "advisory" committee. The Division wanted to hear from everyone, however may not be able to follow through on all recommendations provided. Further discussions were held regarding the invitation of Mr. Kevin Chief, Manitoba Minister of Children and Youth Opportunities to the meeting as well as the purpose of inviting the Minister to the meeting. It was agreed that the invitation needs to come from the Committee and therefore discussions regarding this suggestion would be placed on the agenda following the Committee's inaugural meeting.

B) Possible meeting with Brandon University

Associate Superintendent, Mr. Malazdrewicz spoke to this item. He noted the purpose of the meeting would be exploratory to look at possible areas in which the Division and University may form partnerships, especially as it pertains to the new Healthy Living Centre. It was confirmed that the Division has been a "good neighbor" while construction was taking place. It was agreed further discussions regarding a possible partnership would be timely.

The Committee directed Senior Administration to set up a meeting between mid-May and mid-June with the Brandon University. The Committee also proposed that members of the Division's Facilities and Transportation Committee also be invited to participate in any proposed meeting regarding this matter.

6. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

- Discussions were held regarding the following:
 - o Trustee Sumner noted he had spoken with Lt. Colonel Goodyear who was interested in meeting with the School Division regarding the capacity still available on the two base schools. Lt. Colonel Goodyear wished to speak to the principals first before discussing with the Division. It was agreed that perhaps the next Board Retreat take place in Shilo at which time Lt. Colonel Goodyear would be invited to meet with the Board.
 - o Trustee Bowslaugh brought forth several items for the Committee's information, including:
 - An episode of the CBC's "Doc Zone" regarding the University of Regina.
 - Conversations which had taken place at Chamber Luncheons regarding what businesses want from the education system.
 - A possible meeting with representatives from Maple Leaf once a new Director of Human Resources is in place.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Bowslaugh, Chair

M. Snelling

K. Sumner

D. Karnes (Alternate)