



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, THE BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION, HELD IN THE J. L. MILNE BOARDROOM, ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 1031 - 6TH STREET, BRANDON, MANITOBA, AT 7:00 P.M. (Public), MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2020.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: L. Ross, Chairperson K. Fallis
D. Kejick L. Letain
J. Murray

BY PHONE: S. Bambridge, Vice-Chairperson
P. Bartlette

ALSO PRESENT: M. Casavant, Superintendent/CEO
D. Labossiere, Secretary-Treasurer
M. Gustafson, Assistant Superintendent
E. McFadzen, Assistant Superintendent
K. Rance, Live Streaming Video Operator

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with a traditional heritage acknowledgement.

AGENDA

1.00 AGENDA/MINUTES:

1.01 Approval of Agenda

Trustee Bartlette added one Point of Privilege to the agenda.

Ms. Fallis – Ms. Letain

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried.

1.02 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings

a) The Minutes of the Board Meeting held June 22, 2020 were circulated.

Ms. Kejick – Ms. Bambridge

That the Minutes be approved as circulated.

Carried.

2.00 IN CAMERA DISCUSSION:

2.01 Student Issues

- Reports

- Trustee Inquiries

2.02 Personnel Matters**- Reports**

- a) Confidential #1 – Personnel Report was provided as information.

- Trustee Inquiries**2.03 Property Matters/Tenders****- Reports****- Trustee Inquiries****2.04 Board Operations****- Reports****- Trustee Inquiries****POINT OF PRIVILEGE:**

Trustee Bartlette advised the Board and Senior Administration that he would be resigning from his Trustee position effective September 30, 2020.

3.00 PRESENTATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**3.01 Presentations For Information****3.02 Communications For Information**

- a) Dr. Linda Ross, Chairperson, Board of Trustees, Brandon School Division, January 8, 2020, addressed to the Honourable Kelvin Goertzen, Minister of Education, noting that vaping has become a serious concern in the Brandon School Division. Vaping suspension records for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years (up to November 12, 2019) were provided for reference. Dr. Ross cited the Canadian Government's Official website, which states that children and youth are especially susceptible to the harmful effects of nicotine, including addiction. Information on the website also speaks to the harmful effects of vaping liquid and the chemicals used for flavour in vaping products. Further, the Canadian Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health called for measures including restrictions on the accessibility and availability of vaping products, and reducing the appeal of products to youth, including plain packaging, health warnings and regulating the sale and marketing of vaping products and flavourings.

Dr. Ross noted that Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island are leading the way to help restrict the use of e-cigarettes, by making changes such as banning sales of flavoured e-cigarettes and juices and raising the legal age to buy tobacco and e-cigarettes from 19 to 21. Dr. Ross asks that the Provincial Government review and revise, as necessary, the current laws on vaping, as action is required to address this issue.

Received as information.

- b) Mr. David Yeo, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, K-12 Education Division, Manitoba Education, August 14, 2020, addressed to Dr. Linda Ross, Chairperson, Board of Trustees, responding to Dr. Ross's letter of January 8, 2020, regarding the Brandon School Division's concerns around the use of vaping products by students. Mr. Yeo indicates that Manitoba Education is currently updating the Substance Use/Misuse and Addictions curriculum, which includes nicotine and vaping. Along with current school-based programs designed to address the use of tobacco and vaping products, additional teacher resources are being developed. Mr. Yeo notes that as of December 2019, Health Canada announced new proposed regulations which will further restrict the promotion of vaping products aimed at reducing

advertising exposure to youth. Contacts for public health messaging and information on additional resources on vaping are also provided. Mr. Yeo encourages school communities to be proactive in promoting student wellness and thanks the Brandon School Division for raising concerns on this important issue.

Received and filed.

3.03 Communications For Action

4.00 REPORT OF SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Marc Casavant, Superintendent/CEO, thanked Senior Administration and their Executive and Administrative Assistants, Manitoba Education and the Chief Medical Officer for the amount of work that has gone on in this province to create a re-opening of schools plan, both at the Provincial level and at the local level.

The Superintendent/CEO provided highlights on the following items from the August 24, 2020 Report of Senior Administration:

- Administrative Information
 - Suspensions
 - Suspension Report for the 2019-2020 School Year
 - Manitoba Education Correspondence:
 - Letter from David Yeo Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Manitoba Education
 - Proclamation re: Peace Days – September 15 to September 21, 2020

Trustee Murray asked questions for clarification regarding 9-12 Vocational Programing under the COVID-19 restrictions.

Mr. Mathew Gustafson, Assistant Superintendent, responded that while the yellow level alert is active, the Division would be 50% in-class learning and 50% remote learning. If the Division moves into the orange level, schools will bring students into vocational areas for practical pieces, and concentrate on theory aspects during the remote learning piece.

Dr. Casavant added that the Division is still looking at operating as a yellow alert, as there has been no direction that education is shifting to the orange alert. If Divisions do move to an orange alert, Grades 9-12 would be educated from an online remote system so that K-8's could be adequately spaced out and use some of the high school spaces to assist with this.

Trustee Murray asked Senior Administration to explain why there has been a pause in music education.

Mr. Gustafson reviewed the August 13th communication from Manitoba Education, which provided school divisions with direction and guidelines on how to create their back to school plans. There were areas in the document that spoke to choir and wind instruments. Musical activities involving singing or wind and bass instruments may increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Choir practices and band practices pose a higher level of risk and special consideration should be given to how they are held, room ventilation and distance between performers. As there are no specific interventions that eliminate the risk from these group activities at this time, it is difficult to provide guidance for choral or wind instruments. Schools may consider cancelling these activities for the upcoming year or initially for the fall term as further evidence on the risks becomes available. Senior Administration reviewed the information and had to have plans out by the end of that week. When

looking at the age of the Division's music rooms, the size, the ability to be able to spread people out, the ventilation within that, the steps that would be needed to sanitize the music stands and the percussion equipment, it quickly became evident that the Division was not going to be able to meet the standard that would have been set. The Division sees large value in those classes, so they have been paused for the first semester, with the hope that if the guidelines or directives change, the Division will be able to re-instate those courses for this year.

Trustee Bambridge asked questions for clarification regarding the yellow and orange alerts in the Prairie Mountain Health Region.

The Superintendent/CEO advised there was an assumption that the orange alert meant that everyone in Prairie Mountain Health was under the orange alert. The understanding now, in correspondence from the Department of Education, is that the Prairie Mountain Health Region has been put under orange, but education will be directed sometime before school starts to determine whether or not divisions within Prairie Mountain Health will be an orange or yellow alert.

Trustee Bambridge asked about the plan for special needs students during the alerts.

Ms. Elaine McFadzen, Assistant Superintendent, responded that Special Needs children are a priority in the Division, and that they are in school programming every day.

Trustee Murray thanked Senior Administration for their answers to his questions, as this means the public now has a place to hear information around the vocational and music programs.

Ms. Bambridge – Mr. Murray

That the August 24, 2020 Report of Senior Administration be received and filed.

Carried.

5.00 GOVERNANCE MATTERS

5.01 Reports of Committees

- a) Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting
The written report of the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting held on August 19, 2020 was circulated.

Trustee Bartlette asked Mr. Denis Labossiere, Secretary-Treasurer, to speak on the difference in the final Maryland Park School Tender amounts due to COVID-19.

The Secretary-Treasurer responded that in order to meet COVID guidelines and distancing, some of the changes from the original Tender quantities were a reduction in group tables, and an increase in individual student desks and tables. This increased the cost of the Tender from approximately \$401,000 to \$412,000 (\$11,000).

Mr. Bartlette – Ms. Bambridge

That the Report be received and filed.

Carried.

5.02 Delegations and Petitions

5.03 Business Arising

- From Previous Delegation

- From Board Agenda
- MSBA Matters

5.04 Public Inquiries (max. 15 minutes)

5.05 Motions

50/2020 Ms. Kejick – Mr. Murray

That the Tender from the following vendors in the total amount of \$412,495.73 (including taxes) to supply and install furniture at Maryland Park School, funded through the New School Capital Reserve, be accepted.

Accent Environments Inc.	\$ 182,957.81
Art Metz Contract Interiors	36,303.43
Christies Office Plus	166,491.26
Schoolhouse Products Inc.	26,743.23
Total	\$ 412,495.73

Carried.

51/2020 Mr. Murray – Ms. Kejick

That the proposal from Johnson Controls in the amount of \$277,594.20 (plus applicable taxes) for facility lighting upgrades at Vincent Massey High School and École Harrison, funded through the 2020-2021 Operating Budget, be accepted.

Trustee Bartlette asked the Secretary-Treasurer to provide a breakdown of the costs for this project.

The Secretary-Treasurer advised that the cost of \$277,594.20 is pre-tax. With tax, the total cost is approximately \$301,000. There is a MB Hydro rebate of just over \$40,000 and a Climate Action Incentive Fund (CAIF) grant of \$227,000. Net cost to the Division is approximately \$34,000 for replacing the lights at Vincent Massey High School and École Harrison.

Carried.

5.06 Bylaws

5.07 Giving of Notice

5.08 Trustee Inquiries

Trustee Bartlette asked for the details around the changes to transporting students by school bus.

The Secretary-Treasurer advised that due to restrictions and guidelines to ensure Division students are safe, an additional five (5) buses have been added to accommodate and transport as many students to the schools as possible.

In discussions with the Province, the priority for busing was for eligible students in the following order:

- All Kindergarten to Grade 12 students living outside the City of Brandon boundaries (rural) will continue to receive school bus transportation.
- All Kindergarten to Grade 12 students with special needs will continue to receive school bus transportation.

- All Kindergarten to Grade 8 students that attend Alexander School and O'Kelly School will continue to receive school bus transportation.
- All Kindergarten to Grade 8 students within the City of Brandon boundaries (urban) that that have more than 1.6 kilometers to walk in order to reach their designated school will continue to receive school bus transportation.
- The Division is suspending school bus transportation within the City of Brandon for all Grade 9-12 students.

The focus is to transport the Division's most vulnerable/youngest students to school.

6.00 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Inaugural Board Meeting – 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, September 8, 2020, Boardroom.
- b) NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – 7:00 p.m. (Public), Monday, September 14, 2020, Boardroom.

Due to COVID-19:

- Brandon School Division Board Meetings will take place with no members of the public present, until further notice. We invite everyone to watch live streaming of the Board meetings on our website: <https://www.bsd.ca/board/meetings/Pages/board-meeting-live-streaming.aspx>

7.00 ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Murray – Ms. Fallis

That the Board do now adjourn (7:30 p.m.)

Carried.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer