



# Divisional Futures and Liaison Committee Minutes

Tuesday, February 23, 2010 – 12:00 noon.

Conference Room, Administration Office

Present: B. Jolly (Chairperson), G. Buri, Dr. D. Michaels, G. Barnes

Guests: Dr. B. Poff, Dr. Scott Grills, Steve Montague, Katie Gross

Regrets: B. Mayes, M. Snelling,

## 1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Divisional Futures and Liaison Committee Meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Chairperson, Trustee Jolly.

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Divisional Futures and Liaison Committee Agenda was approved.

## 3. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

NIL

## 4. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

### A) Brandon University Strategic Planning Committee

Chairperson, Mrs. Jolly, introduced herself and the representatives of the Divisional & Futures Liaison Committee. She welcomed Dr. Poff and the other members of the Brandon University Strategic Planning Committee and thanked them for attending the meeting. Mrs. Jolly reviewed the role of the Brandon School Division Board of Trustees' Divisional Futures and Liaison Committee noting the various community groups the Committee has met with over the past several years. She asked what the Brandon School Division could do to help Brandon University with the development of their Strategic Planning.

Mrs. Jolly then chaired an informal discussion with respect to the above-noted question. The key issues arising from the discussions are:

- The representatives from the Brandon University noted they wished to formalize the educational partnerships with the Brandon School Division and would like to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU);
- It was suggested the MOU contain some of the following points:
  - o Student Transition – Teachers and Professors working together to explore what needs to happen to make the transition from high school to university easier for students;
  - o Dual crediting;
  - o Mutual professional development;
- The changing demographics and Aboriginal education issues were discussed at length. The Committee spoke about the various initiatives in place such as BBSAP to help address some of the issues facing Aboriginal students in the Brandon School Division;
- The Brandon University noted they are working on creating a more welcoming atmosphere for all students;
- It was noted that first year university can be difficult for any student in the system. The possibility of access to student mentorship for all first year students, was discussed;

- Dual credits for all students, not just the exceptional students, was discussed. It was noted that there was an opportunity to do this through the off-campus program to provide students with a view of what university is like. On-site visits were also noted;
- The possibility of bringing back past Aboriginal students who have succeeded educationally to speak to students about their possibilities was noted;
- Joint recruiting of overseas students to enroll in the Division's International Baccalaureate program with the possibility of continuing on to Brandon University was discussed. It was noted that neither institution could afford to do such recruiting alone; but together could be very successful. The increase in immigrant families to the school division and the possibility of sponsoring other family members was also noted. Discussions were also held regarding the possibility of providing conditional admission to Brandon University based on students coming over to complete schooling in the Brandon School Division and then continuing on to Brandon University;
- The benefits of mini-university and taking students to the University to use the library or Evans theatre were noted by the Division;
- Suggestions were made regarding the possibility of having the Brandon University Student Executive meet and network with the various High School Student Councils through leadership forums;
- The Learning Through the Arts initiative at Alexander School was highlighted. It was noted that the Division wished to link the program through the Crocus Plains Regional Secondary High School's arts program. The next step would be to link the program to Brandon University. The University confirmed they would be interested in helping through their Creative Arts and Fine Arts programming and students;
- The Brandon University also discussed the possibility of co-sponsoring a day at university for Grade 11 students to attend the facilities; take-in some guest lectures and possibly providing a free course to encourage students to attend their institution.

The meeting concluded with the agreement that the next stage would be to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Brandon University and the Brandon School Division. Dr. Donna Michaels and Dr. Scott Grills would work together to create a draft MOU which would then be reviewed by both Committees before finalizing.

**5. OPERATIONS INFORMATION**

NIL

**6. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 9, 2010, City Council Chamber – meeting with the Poverty Committee.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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B. Jolly, Chair

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G. Buri (Alternate)

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B. Mayes

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M. Snelling