



"Accepting the Challenge"

Education Committee Minutes

Monday, December 14, 2009 – 1:30 p.m.

Board Room, Administration Office

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

Regrets: G. Buri (Alternate)

Guests: (Members of the MYSSP Steering Committee) K. Brigden, B. Bolley, R. Felstead, B. Hamilton, M. Peirson, L. Schepp, R. Stallard, B. Stephens

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Trustee Coey called the meeting to order at 1:33 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) Middle Years Student Support Program Steering Committee Presentation (Appendix A)

Representatives from the Middle Years Student Support Program Steering Committee made a presentation regarding a proposal developed for consideration by the Board of Trustees during the upcoming budget process. A copy of the Middle Years Student Support Program proposal is attached (Appendix A).

Dr. Michaels introduced the Steering Committee members in attendance and indicated that the proposal was being presented to the Education Committee as information in advance of its presentation to the Board of Trustees in January 2010 as an item for budget consideration. The MYSSP Steering Committee has been meeting since the fall of 2008 to discuss and research ways in which the MYSSP can be expanded and developed to reach more of our students.

During the presentation, the Education Committee asked questions for clarification including the following:

- What is the anticipated duration of a student's attendance in the program?
- What were the discussions leading to the proposed downtown site?
- Has the Steering Committee considered possible concerns regarding having the MYSSP program located directly above the Neelin High School Off Campus site?
- Will there be a limit to the number of students accepted to the proposed program?
- Where will physical education be taught?
- What is current class size and what has been largest class size of MYSSP?
- Are there children who are not currently being reached by the MYSSP?
- Has the transition of students back to regular classrooms been considered?
- Does moving off site label the students?
- Will this be a reallocation of funds from existing programs?
- Was this recommendation unanimously supported by the Steering Committee?

The Education Committee thanked the MYSSP Steering Committee members for their attendance and for the presentation.

B) International Anti-Homophobia Day - 2010

This item was deferred to the next Committee meeting for discussion.

C) Implementation of Middle Years Assessment of Key Competencies in Math, Reading Comp, Expository Writing and Student Engagement

This item was deferred to the next Committee meeting for discussion.

D) Ongoing Development of HALEP

This item was deferred to the next Committee meeting for discussion.

E) Brandon RHA Regional Report

This item was deferred to the next Committee meeting for discussion.

5. BRIEFINGS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION

Nil

6. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

Nil

7. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, January 4, 2010, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., Conference Room.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Coey, Chair

P. Bartlette

B. Jolly

G. Buri (Alternate)

**Future Design of Middle Years Student Support Program Steering Committee
Program Proposal
December 2009**

Introduction

The *Middle Years Student Support Program (MYSSP) Steering Committee* was formed in the fall of 2008 to review the current model and to make a proposal to the Brandon School Division Board of Trustees regarding the future design of the MYSSP. The steering committee met on a monthly basis to discuss strengths of the current program, areas of need and future directions. Several of the committee members toured two school sites. (John G. Stewart, Winnipeg, Bridges Self-paced Learning Center, Selkirk) The committee members also toured the Neelin High School Off-campus site in Brandon. During this time the idea of an off-site location was considered. A preliminary presentation was made to the Board of Trustees in June 2009.

Purpose

The purpose of this proposal is to recommend that the Brandon School Division Board of Trustees create a Middle Years (MY) Learning Center located at an off-site location.

Rationale for Off-Site Location

The committee suggests that an off-site location for the MY Learning Center would:

- Better address the academic, behavioural, social and emotional needs of students who have extreme deficits in a number of areas.
- Offer an opportunity to address the pronounced needs in a location free from the pressures of a regular classroom and school environment.
- Provide a location free from the powerful pull of negative peer influences.
- Eliminate the stigma associated with long term behaviour issues.
- Provide the chance to interrupt current patterns of negative behaviour entrenched over a period of time.
- Offer a greater opportunity for intense individualized intervention.
- Provide more flexibility in providing individualized appropriate programming for these particular students.
- Offer the students a chance to gain a sense of belonging which they often have not attained in a regular school setting.
- Offer an opportunity for the students to change their behaviour and have a fresh start.

Goals

The goals of the program are:

- To assess and address the needs of students identified with academic, behavioural, social and emotional challenges.
- To prepare the students for return to regular classroom programming.
- To support the student upon return to a regular classroom.

Issues Affecting Referred Students

The issues affecting students referred to this program are often complex and may include:

- Truancy and school refusal
- Family issues
- Academic and learning
- Gang pressures
- Social difficulties
- Involvement with the legal system
- Mental health disorders (Attention Deficit, Oppositional Defiant, Attachment, etc.)
- Emotional Behavioral Disorders
- Substance Abuse

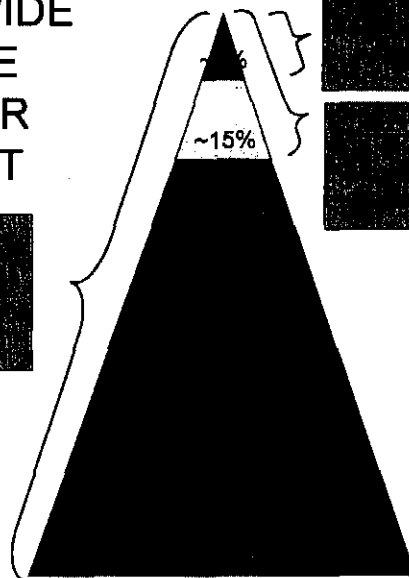
Historical Statistics

Statistics of the Middle Years Student Support Program (MYSSP) 2003-2009

Year	# of Students in MYSSP	% of grade 7/8 students in BSD (1032- total # of 7/8s based on 2009-2010)
2003-2004	11	1.06
2004-2005	9	.8
2005-2006	12	1.16
2006-2007	13	1.25
2007-2008	12	1.16
2008-2009	11	1.06

*students referred to the program are considered in the top 5% of the pyramid.

CONTINUUM OF
SCHOOL-WIDE
POSITIVE
BEHAVIOR
SUPPORT



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*From *Challenges to Possibilities: Planning for Behaviour, Man. Ed. Training and Youth*

Outcomes

The program identifies the following outcomes:

- Students will take in an active role in their programming towards success.
- Students will experience a sense of belonging in an environment of respect, safety, and trust.
- Students individual academic programming needs will be met through the development of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) and/or Behaviour Intervention Plan (BIP).
- Students will be taught skills and strategies to assist them in learning appropriate social and emotional behaviours.
- Direct planning and support with the receiving school will occur when a student is ready to return to a regular classroom.
- A continuum of services to support students at the MY Learning Center will be developed (eg; resource, counselling, social work, school psychologist)
- Parents will be encouraged to connect as partners in the process.
- Partnerships in collaboration with the community will be formed (YMCA, Art Gallery, CATC etc.)

Key Actions

Key Actions to support the program outcomes:

- To create a Middle Years (MY) Learning Center.
- That the MYSSP Steering Committee is disbanded and an Operational Committee be formed.
- Revise and refine model including intake process and programming protocol.
- Off-site location to be finalized.
- Facility infrastructure to be in place.
- Finalize budget.
- Establish administration and staffing of program.
- Connect with community partnerships (YMCA, Art Gallery, CATC).
- Continued research and professional development.

Budget

One teacher (currently in place)	\$ -
One additional teacher	\$66,300
One Educational Assistant (currently in place)	\$ -
One additional Educational Assistant	\$23,500
1 FTE to cover Social Work, Psychology, Resource, Counsellor	\$83,100
Rent & Utilities	\$13,000
Staff Parking	\$ 2,000
Transportation/bussing for students	\$ 3,000
Professional Development for staff	\$ 300
Custodial personnel and cleaning supplies	\$ 2,500
Classroom materials and resources	\$ 2,500
Technology (computers, smart board)	\$ 7,000
Consumables (paper, photo copier)	\$ -

Telephone/fax	\$ 500
Nutritional component (microwave, fridge, toaster, utensils, dishes)	\$ 1,500
Food budget	\$ 2,500
Furnishings (from stock)	\$ -
Materials	\$ -

Administration – to be determined

Recommendation

The Middle Years Student Support Program Steering Committee proposes to the Brandon School Division Board of Trustees that the creation of a Middle Years (MY) Learning Center at an off-site location be included in the 2010-2011 budget preparations and that funding is subsequently provided for all the programming elements.