



"Accepting the Challenge"

Education Committee Minutes

Monday, September 21, 2009 – 1:30 p.m.
Conference Room Administration Office

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

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Trustee Bartlette.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Education Committee Agenda was approved as circulated.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR/CONFIRM REGULAR MEETING DATES/REVIEW COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES.

It was agreed Ramona Coey would serve as Committee Chairperson for 2009/2010. It was further agreed that the Education Committee Meetings would be held on the 1st Monday of each month as follows:

Monday, October 5, 2009	1:30 p.m.
Monday, November 2, 2009	1:30 p.m.
Monday, December 7, 2009	1:30 p.m.
Monday, January 4, 2010	1:30 p.m.
Monday, February 1, 2010	1:30 p.m.
Monday, March 1, 2010	1:30 p.m.
Monday, April 5, 2010	1:30 p.m.
Monday, May 4, 2010	1:30 p.m.
Monday, June 7, 2010	1:30 p.m.

4. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

NIL

5. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

A) REVIEW OF INITIATIVES & ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION IN 2008-2009

The Committee reviewed the various initiatives and items considered during the 2008-2009 school year, including the following: Celebration of Learning/Evening of Excellence; French Milieu School/French Immersion Single Track Implementation; Distribution of Religious Material in Schools; New Report Cards, HALEP Program; Alexander School's designation as a Creative Arts School; BRHA Teen Health Clinic; and Ready for School Kits. The Committee discussed the status of the various initiatives and any further action that may be required. The Committee noted they would like to see a report on the balanced school day including any other schools which may be interested in this initiative and the steps being taken to make schools aware of this initiative.

B) REVIEW OF GOALS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF AREAS OF INTEREST, RESEARCH & REVIEW FOR 2009/2010

The Committee reaffirmed the Committee Goals set out in Motion 102/2009 which included a focus on delivery of augmentive technology for students with special needs; consideration of a .5 teacher for the transition phase for students moving from Grade 3 to Grade 4; directing Senior Administration to conduct a review of the current Senior High School programming prior to the 2010/2011 budget; and a review of pre-kindergarten and Early Years education prior to the 2010/2011 Budget deliberations.

The Committee discussed, at length, the need to increase the basic reading competency of Grade 3 students across the Division. The action required and the resources necessary to implement the required action, as well as possible budget implications, were reviewed. It was agreed that a strong belief statement with expectations and direction be brought forward to the Board of Trustees for endorsement and implementation.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Brandon School Division Board of Trustees recognizes and endorses the importance of literacy development in young children and youth. To this end the Board of Trustees is requiring the School Division to address through its focus on literacy, the basic reading competency of 3rd grade students and that the Board of Trustees requests eighty (80%) percent of these children be able to demonstrate achievement levels that confirm this competency. That in situations where this is not possible that the Board of Trustees be apprised of the number of students not reading at a Grade 3 level and the reasons for such.

The Committee also discussed the possibility of increased flexibility in school models, structure, and programming for student access at the senior years. Senior Administration was directed to review this matter and report back to the Committee in due course.

C) REPORT FROM CONFRATUTE PARTICIPANTS, JULY 2009

Discussions were held regarding the Confratute held in July, 2009. The Committee asked that a report by participants be presented at a Board Meeting for all Board of Trustees.

D) COMMUNICATIONS FOR MSBA

The MSBA(MAST) letter addressed to The Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs was received. It supports Provincial efforts to meet with Federal officials in addressing Aboriginal educational priorities. It was agreed that a letter of support be forwarded from the Brandon School Division Board of Trustees and that the letter include relevant Divisional statistics.

RECOMMENDATION:

That a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs supporting Provincial efforts to meet with Federal officials in addressing Aboriginal educational priorities together with relevant statistics from the Brandon School Division supporting this request.

E) LETTER FROM MINISTER BJORNSON

The Committee received the letter from The Honourable Peter Bjornson, Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth, addressed to Mr. Ian Grossant regarding Grades 11 and 12 Physical Education, as information.

F) TRUSTEE INQUIRY – HOME ECONOMICS CURRICULUM

The Committee noted the inquiry of Trustee Mayes regarding a review of the Home Economics curriculum. Trustee Jolly noted she had contacted the Home Economics Consultant at the Department of Education regarding this matter. She was advised that the Division can change the curriculum to include whatever it would like to have added such as parenting; budgeting; independent living; etc. Superintendent, Dr. Michaels, noted a review of the Industrial Arts/Home Economics curriculum in the Brandon School Division is currently in progress.

5. **BRIEFINGS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION**

The Committee reviewed and received as information the document entitled "Accountability Nudges Districts into Changes in Culture".

6. **OPERATIONS INFORMATION**

NIL

7. **NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, October 5, 2009, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., Conference Room.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Coey, Chair

P. Bartlette

B. Jolly

G. Buri (Alternate)