



Divisional Futures and Liaison Committee Minutes

Thursday, May 20, 2010 12:00 noon

Conference Room, Administration Office

Present: B. Jolly (Chairperson), M. Snelling,

Dr. D. Michaels

Guests:

Representatives of Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services

Tim Whitecloud, Peggy McLachlan, Caroline Thompson, Vince McKay

Regrets: G. Buri, B. Mayes

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

A) Review of Committee Goals 2007-2010

The Committee reviewed the Committee Goal sheet. It was noted that the Committee has played a very important role in the development of numerous initiatives and changes to the delivery of education in the Division. The Committee Governance Goal sheet was updated and it was agreed the goal sheet would be forwarded to the Board of Trustees in August for review. The Committee also agreed that they had met all their goals and therefore did not need to meet any further this term unless directed by the Board of Trustees or upon request from a community organization or group.

4. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

A) Meeting with Representatives of Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services (12:00 to 12:30)

Chairperson, Mrs. Jolly, introduced herself and the representatives of the Divisional & Futures Liaison Committee. She welcomed and thanked those present for attending the meeting. Mrs. Jolly reviewed the role of the Brandon School Division Board of Trustees' Divisional Futures and Liaison Committee and provided a brief overview of the various groups and organizations the Committee has met with over the last several years.

Mrs. Jolly noted the representatives of the Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services (DOCFS) had been invited to meet with the Committee to explore how the School Division can work together with DOCFS to meet the needs of the students of the Brandon School Division.

Representatives of DOCFS noted they had become a fully mandated agency in 1981. They provided the Committee with background information on their organization as well as

information regarding their organizational structure and case loads. They noted the number of students in the Division under their guardianship and the struggles they face as they are obligated to provide services for the children in their care.

Two concerns were raised by the representatives of DOCFS:

1. The length of time it takes to enroll the students in their care into the school system. They noted that many of the children they work with have very high needs and should be enrolled in school and provided with structure as soon as possible. Discussions were held regarding the Division's needs for specific information relating to guardianship, address, birth dates, immunization records, etc. It was noted that DOCFS is the official guardian and therefore the organization is in charge of providing the information requested. Superintendent, Dr. Michaels, will provide a listing of what documentation is required in order to enroll a student in the Division.
2. In-Camera discussions were held regarding a particular student and the Division's dress code policy. DOCFS was advised of the proper channels to follow in order to address this matter. Superintendent, Dr. Michaels, confirmed that gang colours were not allowed in any Manitoba schools as directed by the Minister of Education.

The proposed expansion regarding Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services in Brandon and the adjoining area was also discussed.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chairperson expressed her appreciation for the comments and questions raised by those present. She thanked the representatives of Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services for their input. The representatives of DOCFS exited the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

B) Proposed Policy Regarding School Division/Parent Liaison Committee

The Committee reviewed proposed Policy and Procedures 10XX – “Parent/Division Liaison Advisory Committee”. It was noted that parent representatives had not yet had the opportunity to review the proposed policy and procedures. As this was to be the last meeting of the term for the Divisional Futures and Liaison Committee, it was agreed that the recommendation to adopt the proposed policy and procedures could be brought forth from the School Division Parent Liaison Committee following their regular monthly meeting on June 9, 2010 in order to meet the required timelines to have the policy in place before the end of the school year.

C) Letter from Education Critic

The Committee reviewed the letter from the Education Critic and agreed to receive same as information. The Committee also agreed that a letter should be forwarded to the Education Critic thanking him for his letter and advising him that the Brandon School Division will continue to contact him regarding appropriate educational matters.

Recommendation:

That a letter be forwarded to Cliff Cullen, MLA Turtle Mountain and Progressive Conservative Education Critic thanking him for his letter and noting the Brandon School Division will continue to apprise him on appropriate educational matters.

5. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

NIL

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

B. Jolly, Chair

G. Buri (Alternate)

B. Mayes

M. Snelling