
Parent /Guardian/ Division Advisory Committee

Wednesday, October 10, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.
Board Room, Administration Office



Present:

Trustees Kevan Sumner, Pat Bowslaugh, and Marty Snelling;
Greg Malazdrewicz, Associate Superintendent; Barb Miller, Principal
Representative, Alexander School

Colin Chapnick, Riverview Parent; Sandra Couling, Alexander Parent; Mel Tallant-Townsend, Green Acres Parent; Wanda Brine, Earl Oxford Parent; Marc Lavoie, O'Kelly Parent, Amy Grift, Meadows Parent; Leah Phillips, Betty Gibson Parent; Robert Pilloud, Kirkcaldy Parent; Deanna Popadynetz, Waverly Park Parent; Michelle Atamanchuk, St. Augustine Parent; Heather Dodds, Linden Lanes Parent, James Murphy, New Era Parent; Shannon Gadbois, J.R. Reid Parent; Sandra Koch-Gensiorek, Crocus Parent; Jo-Ann Pasklivich-Holder, St. Augustine Parent

Regrets:

Dr. Donna Michaels, Superintendent, Kevin Zabowski, Secretary-Treasurer
Karen Slawinsky, Harrison Parent

1. REVIEW OF THE AGENDA AND OPENING REMARKS

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Trustee Sumner.

2. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 15, 2012 AND BUSINESS ARISING

The Committee minutes of April 18, 2012 were reviewed. The following items were added to the agenda:

- a) Cross walk safety
- b) Evaluation letter
- c) Roteract
- d) Parent Forum
- e) Bussing for HomeEc / Industrial Arts

3. Review of Policy/Procedure 1020 "Parent/Guardian/Division Advisory Committee"

The committee reviewed the Policy and Procedure 1020.

4. SCHOOL REPORTS

Earl Oxford

- A lot of focus of concern pertains to the question of what is happening with Earl Oxford School. There is a need to keep everyone informed.
- Fundraising is underway.
- Looking for parent volunteers.

O'Kelly School

- Playstructure is now complete. No major concerns.

Meadows School

- Focusing on the changes in class sizes and new configuration.
- Parent run Lunch Program

Betty Gibson School

- Looking for Parent volunteers
- Parent Council
- Now have grade seven students
- Fundraising limitations
- Playstructure plans have been completed.

Kirkcaldy School

- Space review for class size and capacity for 20K3 initiative. There is only one empty classroom left.

Waverly Park School

- No major concerns other than class sizes in the classrooms.

St. Augustine School

- Fundraising for the playstructure in underway.
- Great forums.

Linden Lanes School

- A new Parent Council has been underway. There is some clarification on how to set up the Parent Council. MB Education has an online document with this information and the Provincial parent council can be contacted by phone.

École New Era School

- A lot of parents attended the 3 public forums. There is concern of moving of students to another school. The school is quite full but they are dealing with the space issue.
- Fundraising is going well.

J.R. Reid School

- Completed the Lunch Program Survey

Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School

- As there is no formal Parent Council for this high school, any issues or concerns can be brought to Sandra's attention and she will approach the Principal. Information will be posted on the school's website.

Riverview School

- School is going paperless with their newsletters. There is concern over this as there is limited access to computers in parents home and not everyone has a printer. The Parent council is willing to pay for the paper to keep having it printed and sent out to homes. The school has decided to do this without asking the parents input.

Alexander School

- New portable at the school.
- Well attended Parent Council meetings.
- Great response for parent volunteers for different events during the school year.

- Lunch program; approximately 66 students enrolled

Green Acres School

- There is some concern over the size of the gymnasium
- On going fundraising for a new playstructure. Who is next in line for a new playstructure?
- Request for a quarterly report from Kevin Zabowski for the Friends of Education
- Lunch Program currently has 58 students enrolled.

5. PUBLIC FORUMS

There was good attendance; highest at New Era, for the three public forums. The Board of Trustees has reviewed the results from the survey. They gathered some great information with some poignant questions raised. The Board will meet on October 15, 2012, to discuss the results of the input and to move forward onto the next step of planning. They are aware of the space issues. It was clarified that the Department of Education decides how occupancy is determined. There were questions on our comparison to Garden Valley School Division. The growth they faced could help us with our changes in our school division.

6. NUTRITION POLICY

It was confirmed that all schools are following the Nutrition Policy. The carbonated beverages have been removed from all vending machines from the high schools.

7. BUSSING GRADE 7 & 8 STUDENTS

This concern was brought to the Board at budget time. This is reviewed on an annual basis. Interest was expressed to ask the city to work with the school schedules. There are approximately 2700 students on busses per day. Solutions can be done at the school level. In the future these steps will be made prior to the Home Ec/IA classes begin:

- More information to the parents on Brandon Transit system;
- Inform the parents ahead of time; and,
- Site specific solutions

8. CROSS-WALKS

There is a Provincial initiative for school pedestrian safety. The Board of Trustees has been asked to provide "priority" locations to be set up with school pedestrian and school speed zones. The following are the suggestions:

- 1) 13th Street and VanHorne
- 2) 13th Street by Betty Gibson School
- 3) 10th Street by the 7-Eleven
- 4) 18th Street & Victoria Avenue
- 5) West of Riverview School at the Yield signs
- 6) Speedzone signage on Park by Waverly Park School
- 7) 12th Street by Betty Gibson School

There was a question on how to promote and recruit adult crossing guards. The Brandon School Division has never filled this position as it was usually performed by Citizens on Patrol.

9. INPUT INVITED

Jerry Storie has been hired to do a survey on behalf of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Storie will be contacting Parent Council Presidents and letters will be sent out shortly. Mr. Storie will also be doing a review on the Superintendent, Dr. Donna Michaels. The survey and results will be completed by December.

10. ROTERACT

This club has been organized by the Rotary Clubs for 12-18 years olds. The purpose for this club is to develop support for community and to discuss world issues. This is also recognized for Senior Year students to work as a credit towards their graduation. More information is available online.

11. PARENT FORUM

The Y Revolution is organizing a Parent forum “A Better High” on Wednesday, October 17, 2012 at Central United Church at 7:00 pm. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Sumner thanked everyone for their active participation and input.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, November 21, 2012, 7:00 p.m., Board Room, Administration Office.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Sumner

P. Bowslaugh