



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

Education and Community Relations Committee Minutes

Monday, December 14, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.
Boardroom, Administration Office

Present: S. Bambridge C. Ekenna
K. Fallis B. Foley
J. Gobeil D. Kejick
L. Letain J. Murray

Also Present: D. Labossiere M. Casavant
M. Gustafson E. McFadzen

Regrets: L. Ross

1. COMMITTEE ITEMS

A. **Research Request – Dr. Cathryn Smith, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, Brandon University: *Rural Remote Learning in Westman***

Dr. Marc D. Casavant, Superintendent/CEO, reviewed his memorandum to the Education and Community Relations Committee. The objective of this research is to identify effective approaches for delivering remote learning to students in the Westman region. The research questions is “what beliefs, practices and strategies are critical to remote rural learning?”.

The Brandon School Division Research Advisory Committee submitted a recommendation for approval, indicating that they believe this study has merit in assessing the effectiveness of the remote learning initiative. The importance of participation being voluntary is emphasized.

Dr. Casavant recommended approval of this request, given that participation is voluntary, and the data received will be of benefit to the Brandon School Division. The study aligns with the principle of continuous improvement. The COVID-19 pandemic has provided the Division with the challenge and opportunity to deliver programming via remote learning, and welcomes data that will help inform practice in this area going forward.

Trustees asked questions for clarification.

The Committee agreed to the recommendation as presented.

Recommendation:

That the Board approve the research request from Dr. Cathryn Smith, Brandon University, for the research project entitled “*Rural Remote Learning in Westman*”.

2. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

NEXT MEETING: Monday, January 11, 2021, 6:00 p.m., Boardroom.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Letain