



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, THE BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION, HELD IN THE J. L. MILNE BOARDROOM, ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 1031 - 6TH STREET, BRANDON, MANITOBA, AT 7:00 P.M. (Public), MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: L. Ross, Chairperson S. Bambridge, Vice-Chairperson
P. Bartlette K. Fallis
L. Letain J. Murray

ALSO PRESENT: M. Casavant, Superintendent/CEO
D. Labossiere, Secretary-Treasurer
M. Gustafson, Assistant Superintendent
E. McFadzen, Assistant Superintendent
K. Rance, Live Streaming Video Operator

REGRETS: D. Kejick

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

AGENDA

1.00 AGENDA/MINUTES:

1.01 Approval of Agenda

Senior Administration added seven (7) items to In-Camera.

Trustee Ross added two (2) items to In-Camera.

Trustee Bartlette added one (1) Point of Privilege to the Agenda.

Ms. Fallis – Ms. Letain

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried.

1.02 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings

a) The Minutes of the Board Meeting held September 14, 2020 were circulated.

Mr. Murray – Ms. Letain

That the Minutes be approved as circulated.

Carried.

Mr. Murray – Ms. Bambridge

That the Board do now resolve into Committee of the Whole In-Camera. (6:10 p.m.)

Carried.

IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN-CAMERA**2.00 IN CAMERA DISCUSSION:****2.01 Student Issues**

- Reports
- Trustee Inquiries

2.02 Personnel Matters**- Reports**

- a) Confidential #1 – Personnel Report was presented.
- b) Dr. Marc D. Casavant, Superintendent/CEO, provided an update on two (2) Personnel Matters.
- c) Mr. Denis Labossiere, Secretary-Treasurer, provided an update on a Personnel Matter, answered Trustee questions and received Board direction.
- d) Trustee Ross discussed a Personnel Matter with Trustees and received Board direction.

- Trustee Inquiries**2.03 Property Matters/Tenders****- Reports**

- a) The Secretary-Treasurer provided an update on a Property Matter.
- b) The Secretary-Treasurer provided information on a Property Matter.

- Trustee Inquiries**2.04 Board Operations****- Reports**

- a) The Secretary-Treasurer provided an update on a Board Operations Matter.
- b) The Secretary-Treasurer provided information on a Board Operations Matter and answered Trustee questions.
- c) Trustee Ross provided information on a Board Operations Matter.

- Trustee Inquiries

Mr. Murray – Ms. Fallis

That the Committee of the Whole In-Camera do now resolve into Board. (7:00 p.m.)

Carried.

The Chairperson called the public portion of the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with a traditional heritage acknowledgement.

3.00 PRESENTATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**3.01 Presentations For Information****3.02 Communications For Information**

- a) Mr. Rick Oakden, President, Westman Retired Educators' Association (WREA), September 10, 2020, addressed to Dr. Linda Ross, Chairperson, Board of Trustees, extending their expression of support to the members of the Brandon School Division Board of Trustees during these trying times of the COVID-19 pandemic. They recognize that these unprecedented conditions have created varied and excessive challenges for the Board, all

BSD staff, and the families and students within the Division and beyond. WREA members all maintain an understanding and heartfelt concern for the thousands of BSD students and staff who are striving to do their best to succeed.

Received and filed.

3.03 Communications For Action

- a) Ms. Karen Tole-Henderson, Past President, and Ms. Virginia Helmer, President, Manitoba Music Educators' Association (MMEA), August 21, 2020, addressed to Dr. Linda Ross, Chairperson, Board of Trustees, and Dr. Marc Casavant, Superintendent/CEO, requesting that the Board of Trustees and Senior Administration reconsider the "pause" to Band and Choral classes for the beginning of the school year. The MMEA understands that extra precautions will need to be taken to ensure that singing and playing wind instruments can be done safely. They note that there are a number of safe alternatives that can be provided to students in choral and band classes, including the proposed "Teacher Focus and Timetabling for High School" (Page 20, BSD Re-Opening Schools Plan).

The MMEA has shared Returning to Manitoba Music Classrooms Recommendations for school reopening with members and with Superintendents across Manitoba. They note that it will be more difficult for students to "fit" Band and Choir back into their timetables if it is not included from the start. There is a huge concern that a "pause" will have long-term negative effects on these programs. The Board of Trustees is encouraged to seriously reconsider the proposed pause and to include Band and Choir classes from the beginning of the fall semester.

Trustee Ross spoke to this item, noting that several people have expressed concerns about having paused Band and Choral in the schools this semester. She had previously asked Senior Administration to provide information on how this decision was made, feeling it would be useful to have that background. In July 2020, Brandon School Division prepared a School Re-Opening Plan that had three (3) potential scenarios. Scenario one was that all students would be in-class learning, scenario two would be in-class learning, with additional public health measures, and scenario three would mean very limited use of schools.

The Brandon School Division resumed with scenario two. In the plan that Brandon School Division submitted to the Province, Band and Choral were in place for scenario one, and electives would be cancelled in scenarios two and three. In August of 2020, the Division scheduled a meeting for middle-years Band, Industrial Arts and Home Ec teachers to brainstorm ideas on how to meet the anticipated public health guidelines once they were released. The Province did provide guidance and protocols in early August for grades K-12, which is provided below:

Welcoming Our Students Back: Restoring Safe Schools: COVID-19 K-12 School Settings Practice Guidance and Protocols" August 24, 2020:

"For extracurricular activities such as choral and music, schools will need to carefully assess their ability to continue. Musical activities involving singing or wind and brass instruments may increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Choir practices and band practices pose a higher level of risk, and special consideration should be given to how they are held, the room ventilation, and the distance between performers. Instruments should not be shared between students. As there are no specific interventions that eliminate the risk from these group activities at this time, it is difficult to provide specific guidance for choral or for wind instruments. Schools may consider cancelling these activities for the upcoming year or initially for the fall term, as further evidence on their risk becomes available. Schools that proceed must ensure that they take additional precautions and follow

Manitoba's Restoring Safe Services: Guidelines for Vocalists and Instrumentalists at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restoring/music-guidelines.html>."

Trustee Ross also shared information from Manitoba's COVID-19 – Guidelines for Vocalists and Instrumentalists document:

"...choirs or musical theatre activities should not be allowed, due to a higher risk of transmission through singing compared to speaking. Infected people may transmit the virus over greater distances through their saliva or respiratory droplets while singing and when playing certain instruments such as wind or brass instruments." https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/covid/restoring-vocalists-instrumentalists.pdf

Additionally, the Association of Music Administrators of Manitoba also created a document supporting the return to music classrooms. The Division agrees with the advocacy and the importance of music that is stated in that document, which also includes considerations for implementation. While some of the required measures could be met, there are a number of conditions that could not be met, including distancing, maintaining cohorts, transportation, and physical space for band class sizes.

Trustee Ross spoke on the difficulties of holding the classes outside during Manitoba's fall and winter, a shortage of classroom space, ventilation for classrooms, and lack of time for sanitization between classes.

Due to those constraints and the inability to meet the public health directive, it was decided to pause Music, Choir, Industrial Arts and Home Ec. This plan can be re-evaluated for semester two if things change.

Trustee Bartlette spoke to this item, noting that it is not casually dismissing the fact that there are going to be negative outcomes for some students. First and foremost, the Board and Division has to be concerned with the safety of all.

Trustee Murray also spoke to this item, noting that the Division is doing the very best it can to accommodate all the students that it can within the parameters that are being laid out by the Province. He added that he felt it was the right direction for concerned groups to approach the Province to request that changes be made to the guidelines. He does not like that these programs are paused, but understands why they were paused and agrees with the decision that was made.

Referred Business Arising

4.00 REPORT OF SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

The Superintendent/CEO provided highlights on the following items from the September 28, 2020 Report of Senior Administration:

- Administrative Information
 - Celebrations:
 - Riverview School – Tipi Tour Project Ceremony/Celebration
 - Two (2) Brandon Police Service Members taking part in outdoor activities with St. Augustine School students
 - Thank you to Peter Bartlette for his lifelong commitment to the Board and in his previous role as an educator.
 - Presentations:
 - Graduation Rate Report – M. Gustafson, M. Wilson

Trustees asked questions for clarification.

Ms. Bambridge – Ms. Fallis

That the September 28, 2020 Report of Senior Administration be received and filed.

Carried.

5.00 GOVERNANCE MATTERS

5.01 Reports of Committees

5.02 Delegations and Petitions

5.03 Business Arising

- From Previous Delegation

- From Board Agenda

- a) Correspondence from Karen Tole-Henderson, Past President, and Ms. Virginia Helmer, President, Manitoba Music Educators' Association (MMEA), from Communications for Action 3.03 a) regarding Band and Choir classes and asking the Division to reconsider the pause to these programs.

- MSBA Matters

- a) Call for Nominations and Resolutions 2021

5.04 Public Inquiries (max. 15 minutes)

5.05 Motions

58/2020 Mr. Bartlette – Ms. Bambridge

That the amount of \$600,000 from the Operating Fund Accumulated Surplus be allocated to the School Bus Capital Reserve Fund for future replacement and expansion of the school bus fleet.

Carried.

59/2020 Ms. Bambridge – Mr. Bartlette

That the annual Resolution Appointing Signing Officers, be approved as presented.

Carried.

5.06 Bylaws

5.07 Giving of Notice

5.08 Trustee Inquiries

6.00 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING/COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – 7:00 p.m. (Public), Tuesday, October 13, 2020, Boardroom.

Trustee Ross indicated that the Board has decided to move to Committee of the Whole instead of into individual committees. This was prompted by three (3) empty Trustee seats, and was felt it would be easier with these vacancies. The Board has committed to try it for at least one (1) year. By the Board meeting as a whole, it would be valuable especially for new Trustees in helping to

familiarize them with the issues within the Division and bring them up to speed more quickly. This means the first meeting of the month will be a meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

Trustee Letain indicated that she felt this would give a broader perspective and better knowledge base of all the Committees involved, and looks forward to new members on the Board.

Trustee Fallis also supported moving to Committee of the Whole.

b) **TRUSTEE BY-ELECTION:**

- Advance Voting Day – Thursday, October 22, 2020 – 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., City Hall
- Election Day – Wednesday, November 4, 2020 – 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., various locations

The Secretary-Treasurer noted that information on candidates will be posted on the Brandon School Division website starting on Tuesday, September 29, 2020.

Trustee Ross acknowledged that it was Trustee Bartlette's last meeting before his resignation from the Board of Trustees. She thanked Trustee Bartlette for his service and contributions to discussions around the table. The Board wishes him great happiness in the future.

Point of Privilege:

Trustee Bartlette noted it has been his privilege to serve the citizens of Brandon for the past 14 years on the Brandon School Division Board of Trustees. He thanked Brandon for the opportunity to represent them as decisions were made around the table. He thanked the Trustees past and present and those who have added so richly to his life.

Due to COVID-19:

- Brandon School Division Board Meetings will take place with no members of the public present, until further notice. We invite everyone to watch live streaming of the Board meetings on our website: <https://www.bsd.ca/board/meetings/Pages/board-meeting-live-streaming.aspx>

Mr. Bartlette - Ms. Bambridge

That the Board do now resolve into Committee of the Whole In-Camera. (7:50 p.m.)
Carried.

IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN CAMERA (7:52 p.m.)

Mr. Murray – Ms. Bambridge

That the Committee of the Whole In-Camera do now resolve into Board. (8:19 p.m.)
Carried.

7.00 ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bartlette – Ms. Fallis

That the Board do now adjourn (8:20 p.m.)
Carried.