



# BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL 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 9:00 A.M., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020.

## **PRESENT:**

Dr. L. Ross, Chairperson, Ms. S. Bambridge, Vice-Chairperson, Mr. P. Bartlette, Ms. K. Fallis, Ms. D. Kejick (arrived at 10:32 a.m.), Ms. L. Letain, Mr. J. Murray.

Mr. D. Labossiere, Secretary-Treasurer, Ms. B. Sangster, Recording Secretary, Ms. K. Rance, Live Streaming Video Operator.

Senior Administration: Dr. M. Casavant, Superintendent/CEO, Mr. M. Gustafson, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Elaine McFadzen, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Eunice Jamora, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

The Board met In-Camera from 9:10 a.m. to 9:55 a.m.

## **REGRETS:**

## **CALL:**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and referred to the Call.

The meeting had been called for the purpose of considering the following:

- a) Budget Deliberations for 2020-2021

Dr. Linda Ross, Chairperson, provided opening remarks and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Trustee Ross noted that budget deliberations is a responsibility that Trustees take very seriously because the decisions made on this day impact the education of all students.

The Budget and Sustainability Requests recommended for consideration were presented as follows:

## **Trustee/Board Committee Budget Requests:**

Busing – Home Economics and Industrial Arts	\$86,100
Full Day/Every Day Kindergarten – Green Acres School (1.5 FTE)	\$79,700

## **Senior Administration Budget & Sustainability Requests:**

### Vice Principals at:

École Harrison (0.5 FTE), Betty Gibson School (0.25 FTE) and Maryland Park School (0.25 FTE)	\$109,200
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Speech Language Pathologists (2.0)	\$182,000
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Accessible Learning Resources and Professional Learning	\$150,000
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<b>Total Senior Administration Budget &amp; Sustainability Requests for 2020-2021:</b>	<b><u>\$607,000</u></b>
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The Budget and Sustainability Requests were discussed with Trustees speaking for or against each recommended enhancement item with the following results:

- 1) Busing – Home Economics and Industrial Arts – **APPROVED (5-1 – Trustee Kejick absent) - \$86,100**

Trustee Ross spoke to this item, noting that to get to Home Economics and Industrial Arts classes that take place in a different school, students are required to arrange their own transportation or use the Brandon Transit Service, which is free for Home Economics and Industrial Arts students to use.

Trustee Murray spoke against this item. He noted that the Division worked with the City of Brandon years ago to ensure that buses ran on a schedule that was close to the Division's Home Economics and Industrial Arts classes. He believes that learning to ride a bus is a life skill for the students. Trustee Murray does not believe providing school buses is necessary and feels that the number of parent complaints is not anywhere proportionate to the number of students in the programs. Trustee Murray suggested that instead of busing, this money be put into support staff, i.e. Educational Assistants in the classroom.

Trustee Fallis asked Mr. Mathew Gustafson, Assistant Superintendent, to provide an update on the number of students attending these two programs after they were made optional last year. Mr. Gustafson responded that the students in Industrial Arts decreased by approximately 1/3, and the students in Home Economics decreased by approximately 1/6.

Trustees asked questions for clarification.

Trustee Ross indicated she has been opposed to this request in the past, but that the Brandon Transit bus schedule no longer aligns with the Division's Home Economics and Industrial Arts classes. She added that society has changed and life is less safe than it once was, and the Division's priority is that students get to school safely.

Trustees Bartlette indicated that he sees this as a program cost, and as the Division funds all of its programs, why wouldn't it fully fund this program. If transportation is one of the costs of delivering that program, then so be it. Trustee Bartlette indicated concerns regarding the shift in the Brandon Transit schedule, in that it is no longer a good fit and there will be some other issues related to that. He supported the request.

Trustee Bambridge also spoke in support of this request. This request was approved by the Board.

- 2) Full Day/Every Day Kindergarten – Green Acres School (1.5 FTE) – \$79,000. **AMENDED TO Three (3) Schools (4.0 FTE) – APPROVED (6-1, Trustee Bartlette opposed) - \$404,800**

Trustee Bambridge spoke to this item, noting that government funding in the future is uncertain due to the Education Review currently taking place. She believes that in the 2020-2021 Budget, the Board

needs to make room for 3 Full Day Every Day Kindergarten classes, and work as hard as possible to eventually make this available for every student in the Brandon School Division.

Trustee Bartlette added that he would like to leave it up to Senior Administration to determine where the needs are for the additional three (3) Full Day Every Day Kindergarten classes.

Trustees discussed this item further, asking questions for clarification regarding schools with more than one Kindergarten classroom, teacher costs and possible school capacity issues.

Trustees agreed to the addition of All Day/Every Day Kindergarten in three (3) schools, and tentatively set budget for 8 classrooms.

3) Vice-Principals at:

- École Harrison (0.5 FTE)
- Betty Gibson School (0.25 FTE)
- Maryland Park School (0.25 FTE) – **AGREED (7-0) - \$109,200**

Dr. Marc Casavant, Superintendent/CEO, spoke to this item. He indicated that Senior Administration continues to hear from School Leaders about the areas of complexity in leading schools and the value of these Vice-Principal positions. In the past these positions have been allocated by the Superintendent/CEO. He has worked with the School Leaders to develop a formula base to drive this, and the result of that formula would require that Senior Administration add another one (1) FTE in this area.

Trustees spoke in favour of this request and unanimously agreed to this item.

4) Speech Language Pathologists (2.0 FTE) – **AGREED (7-0) - \$182,000**

Mrs. Elaine McFadzen, Assistant Superintendent, spoke to this item, noting that these SLP positions will assist with the needs of the pre-school children coming into the Division. The Division has had increases in the number of students who are school-aged who require services, and there is currently not enough SLP support for those students. SLPs also have a large impact in the classroom providing recommendations in regards to assistive technology. Mrs. McFadzen indicated that the Lifeskills programs in the Division would benefit from a Full-time Lifeskills SLP to meet the needs in terms of communication for those students.

Trustees asked questions for clarification regarding the current number of SLP positions within the Division, the number of schools they work in and how their caseloads have increased over the last few years. Mrs. McFadzen responded that there are currently 9.7 SLP positions within the Division, and they currently work across 3-4 schools. The caseload of each SLP is well over 100 students.

Discussion took place regarding vision, hearing and speech language assessment and SLP recruitment.

Trustees unanimously agreed to this request.

Trustee Ross spoke on the budget process. She addressed the fact that even though the Budget Deliberation meetings are now shorter in duration, more time is being spent on budget planning all year long. Once this budget is set in March, the Board will begin planning for the next year's budget. Trustee Ross explained that Trustee budget requests are reviewed by the appropriate Board

Committee before being brought forward to Budget Deliberations. This means that the Board is continuously looking at the budget and making decisions as they go. There is a line by line assessment being done throughout the year, so that Trustees are now better informed as far as what is going on with budget than they perhaps were in the past.

5) Accessible Learning Resources and Professional Learning – **AGREED (7-0) - \$150,000**

Mrs. McFadzen spoke to this item, indicating there is a need for students to have access to supports to be successful in the classroom. These supports would go with the student from class to class, year to year, school to school. The teacher needs to know how the student uses the device, and then receives training on the device. Mrs. McFadzen spoke on the lending library in the Administration Office, where a school team can decide they want to try a device with a student. If the device works, the student keeps it and another is purchased for the lending library. Further discussion took place on Tier III support materials, prescriptive, program-based materials, Professional Development, subscriptions, and picture devices.

Trustees unanimously agreed to this item.

Trustee Ross indicated that the budget requests from Trustees and Senior Administration totaled \$932,100. She asked Mr. Denis Labossiere, Secretary-Treasurer, to provide an update on the 2020-2021 Special Requirement and the Special Levy for 2020.

Mr. Labossiere responded that the tentative budget results in a 0.37% increase in the Special Requirement (below the 2.0% cap set by the Minister), and a (1.77%) decrease in the mill rate for 2020. This also results in an annual increase of \$20.78 or 1.18% on an average home valued at \$270,000.

Trustee Ross advised that Public Budget Presentations will take place on Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom, and anyone wishing to make a presentation that evening should contact the Secretary-Treasurer's office.

Ms. Letain – Ms. Kejick

That the meeting do now adjourn (11:24 a.m.)

Carried.

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Chairperson

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Secretary-Treasurer