



"Accepting the Challenge"

# Education Committee Minutes

Monday, September 17, 2012, 12:00 noon  
Board Room, Administration Office

Present: P. Bartlette (Chairperson), P. Bowslaugh, M. Sefton (Alternate),  
Dr. D. Michaels,

Regrets: M. Snelling

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## 1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Education Committee Meeting was called to order at 11:50 a.m. by the Committee Chairperson, Mr. Bartlette.

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Bowslaugh requested discussions regarding the following:

- Music program for O'Kelly and Alexander Schools;
- The Career Symposium;
- Friends of Education thank-you ad.

The agenda was approved as amended.

## 3. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

### A) Review of Committee Governance Goals

Trustee Bartlette asked Superintendent, Dr. Michaels, what would be the Division's next steps as it relates to graduation rates. Dr. Michaels confirmed she would be meeting with the high school principals on September 26, 2012 at which time discussions would take place regarding expectations for completed courses at the end of each grade. Trustees requested discussions also take place regarding the number of grade 9 students who graduate within four years or less.

Trustee Bartlette requested an update on the program reviews currently taking place. Superintendent, Dr. Michaels, confirmed a draft report on the Grade 7 and 8 electives would be brought to the Board table by the end of October. She also confirmed that a review was being conducted of the International Baccalaureate program and the Advanced Placement program and a report should be presented to the Board of Trustees in November.

With respect to the implementation of the At-Risk Youth Program and the Upper Deck program at Off-Campus, Trustee Bartlette requested Senior Administration provide an executive summary in due course.

#### **4. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS**

##### **A) Vocational Assessment Protocols**

Trustee Bartlette provided background information relating to the history of the Committee's request for this information. Discussions were held regarding the type of assessments and counseling provided to meet student needs and at what point in the school career this guidance is provided. Questions were asked for clarification regarding cost; need in the school community; narrow eligibility requirements. Further discussions were held with respect to the need for a full guidance program in the middle years. The role of the counselor in the school was reviewed and it was agreed the Committee would like to have school counselors attend a future meeting of the Committee to discuss their role in detail. Trustee Bowslaugh requested clarification as to qualifications and requirements in the Division to be a school counselor. The Committee thanked Senior Administration for providing the information regarding vocational assessment protocols.

##### **B) Career Symposium**

Trustee Bowslaugh asked whether or not the Division contributes to the Career Symposium. She also inquired as to what preparation takes place at the school level prior to attending the symposium. It was noted the Grade 9 students have an assignment to follow when attending the symposium. Dr. Michaels, Superintendent, confirmed the symposium was an Education Ministry initiative and therefore controlled by the Ministry. Trustee Bowslaugh inquired about what the Division or the Education Committee's responsibilities were for directing this fair. It was agreed that as this was an Education Ministry issue it was not part of the school division's mandate. Dr. Michaels noted the Division could inquire about the Ministry's plans for the future of the symposium.

##### **C) Music Programs for O'Kelly and Alexander**

Trustee Bowslaugh advised that she was able to contact Mr. Thomas Mathews, a teacher at Erickson, who taught music through the internet. She confirmed she had spoken with Mr. Mathews and he would be willing to talk to the Division about the possibility of Skyping with students at O'Kelly and Alexander School for music.

##### **D) Friends of Education Advertisement**

Trustee Bowslaugh reiterated her concerns from the previous Committee meeting regarding the newspaper ad placed on behalf of the Friends of Education Committee. Trustee Bartlette spoke to the matter confirming the ad had been discussed in detail at the Friends of Education Committee prior to making a final decision.

#### **5. BRIEFINGS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION**

The following briefings on developments in education were received as information by the Committee:

- Success By 6 Peel – Charter of Rights;
- Public School Indicators for Canada, the Province and Territories, 2000/2001 to 2008/2009;
- Competing Priorities – Education and Retirement Saving Behaviors of Canadian Families.

**6. OPERATIONS INFORMATION**

NIL

**7. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, October 15, 2012, 11:30 a.m. Board Room.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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P. Bartlette, Chair

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P. Bowslaugh

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M. Snelling

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M. Sefton (Alternate)