



# 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., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2013.

## **PRESENT:**

Mr. M. Sefton, Chairperson, Mr. J. Murray, Vice-Chairperson, Mr. P. Bartlette, Mrs. P. Bowslaugh, Mr. D. Karnes, Mr. G. Kruck, Mr. M. Snelling, Mr. K. Sumner.

Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. K. Zabowski, Recording Secretary, Ms. S. Bailey, Live Streaming Video Operator, Ms. K. Boklaschuk.

Senior Administration: Mr. G. Malazdrewicz, Associate Superintendent, Mr. Denis Labossiere, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Ms. B. Switzer, Director of Human Resources.

## **REGRETS:**

Dr. L. Ross, Dr. D. M. Michaels, Superintendent/CEO.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance to the meeting. He noted the absence of the Superintendent and sent a special greeting from the Board of Trustees wishing her a speedy recovery.

## **AGENDA**

### **1.00 AGENDA/MINUTES:**

#### **1.01 Reference to Statement of Board Operations**

#### **1.02 Approval of Agenda**

The following items were requested for In-Camera discussions:

- Two Board Operations matters from Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Zabowski;
- One Property Matter from Associate Superintendent, Mr. Malazdrewicz;
- One Board Operations Matter from Trustee Sefton;
- One Property Matter from Trustee Snelling;
- An inquiry from Trustee Bowslaugh.

Mr. Kruck – Mr. Karnes

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried.

**1.03 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

- a) The Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held February 11, 2013 were circulated.

Trustee Bartlette requested that his Trustee Inquiry be amended. He felt it appeared that his inquiry could possibly be interpreted by the public that more than one incident had taken place whereby a student had been dropped off at the wrong location. He requested an amendment to his inquiry which would state “a bus driver failed to drop off a student at the proper location at the proper time.”

Mr. Snelling – Mr. Karnes

That the Minutes be approved as amended.

Carried.

**2.00 GOVERNANCE MATTERS:****2.01 Presentations For Information**

- a) The Chairperson recognized Issac Kim, a Vincent Massey High School Student, by presenting him with a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of the Board of Trustees for recently winning the University of Toronto National Book Award for 2013. The Chairperson noted how very proud the Board of Trustees were of his accomplishments. Mr. Kim thanked the Board of Trustees for the recognition. He also thanked the staff at Vincent Massey, in particular the school principal, for helping him to achieve the award from the University of Toronto.

**2.02 Reports of Committees**

- a) Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee Meeting

The written report of the Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee meeting held on February 6, 2013 was circulated.

Mrs. Bowslaugh – Mr. Snelling

That the Minutes be received and filed.

Carried.

- b) Facilities and Transportation Committee Minutes

The written report of the Facilities and Transportation Committee meeting held on February 7, 2013 was circulated.

Trustee Snelling suggested the Committee propose a possible timeline to the Brandon General Museum Association for moving the B.J. Hales Collection out of Earl Oxford School. This would then allow the Division to look at using the space in Earl Oxford School for classroom purposes. The Facilities and Transportation Committee Chairperson agreed to add this item to the next Committee agenda.

Mr. Karnes – Mr. Snelling

That the Minutes be received and filed.

Carried.

c) Personnel Committee Minutes

The written report of the Personnel Committee meeting held on March 11, 2013 was circulated.

Mr. Karnes – Mr. Kruck

That the Minutes be received and filed.

Carried.

d) Policy Review Committee Minutes.

The written report of the Policy Review Committee meeting held on March 13, 2013 was circulated.

Mr. Kruck – Mr. Snelling

That the Minutes be received and filed.

Carried.

e) Other

NIL

**2.03 Delegations and Petitions**

**2.04 Communications for Action**

- a) Carolyn Duhamel, Executive Director, Manitoba School Boards Association, February 4, 2013, enclosing the "Authorization to Receive Board Ballots" for the MSBA Convention March 13 to 16, 2013. The form is to be completed and returned to the offices of the MSBA prior to the convention. The Board may authorize as many or as few trustees as they wish, however they suggest a minimum of two.

Referred MSBA Issues.

**2.05 Business Arising**

**- From Previous Delegation**

**- From Board Agenda**

**- MSBA issues (last meeting of the month)**

- a) The correspondence from Carolyn Duhamel, Executive Director, Manitoba School Boards Association, from Communications for Action 2.04a), enclosing the "Authorization to Receive Board Ballots" for the MSBA Convention March 13 to 16, 2013 was discussed. It was agreed Trustee Sefton, Chairperson and Trustee Murray, Vice-Chairperson, would be the authorized designates to receive the Board's ballots.

**- From Report of Senior Administration**

- a) School Reports – NIL
- b) Learning Support Services Presentation –NIL
- c) Items from Senior Administration Report
  - Policy and Procedures 9039 – “Public Relations – Student Parent/Guardian Policy” – Referred Motions.

**2.06 Public Inquiries (max. 15 minutes)**

NIL

**2.07 Motions**

19/2013 Mr. Kruck – Mr. Karnes

That Policy and Procedures 9039 – “Public Relations Student-Parent/Guardian Policy” is hereby rescinded.

Carried.

20/2013 Mr. Murray – Mr. Karnes

That in accordance with a Motion passed in March, 1998, the Division continues to participate in the central purchase of school buses for the 2013/2014 budget year.

Carried.

21/2013 Mr. Karnes – Mr. Murray

That support in the amount of \$21,000 funded through accumulated surplus for the proposal from Crocus Plains to construct a Field House and In-Ground Sprinkler System be approved subject to review by the Division’s Director of Facilities and Transportation and successful funding from Community Places.

Trustee Karnes proposed an amendment to the motion as follows:

“That a loan in the amount of \$21,000 funded from accumulated surplus for the proposal from Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School to construct a Field House and In-Ground Sprinkler System, to be repaid by Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School over four school years, be approved.”

Mr. Karnes noted he had met with Mr. Freiheit, teacher, Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School, Mr. Osiowy, the school principal, and Mr. Zabowski, Secretary-Treasurer, to discuss this item prior to bringing forward the amended motion. He confirmed the reason the Friends of the Plainsmen did not receive the funds last year was because Community Places ran out of money and therefore the Friends of the Plainsmen had to reapply for this year. Mr. Karnes confirmed additional fundraising would cover extra costs. He also confirmed that Mr. Osiowy, the school principal, is in full support of this item and would be willing to pay back the loan over four years through other school funds and with the assistance of Friends of the Plainsmen. Mr. Karnes provided further information on the sprinkler system that would be included; who all would use the facility; why the facility is needed; storage space in the facility; and fitness space in the facility. He further confirmed he had received four letters from parents expressing concern regarding the current changing arrangements provided for students playing on the outdoor fields at Crocus.

Trustee Kruck requested the amended motion be revised to include the qualification from the original motion that approval was "subject to review by the Division's Director of Facilities and Transportation and successful funding from Community Places".

Discussions were held regarding the possibility of funding this project from funds set aside for portables should the Division not receive the 12 portables requested. It was felt that this was something that could not be dealt with until the Division learned how many portables they would be receiving.

Trustee Murray referencing discussions held on Budget Day, requested clarification regarding the accumulated surplus and the effect this motion would have on the budget line.

Trustee Bowslaugh asked the Board to consider the students and the benefits to them should the Board approve this motion. Given the concerns regarding changing space, she felt the Board couldn't afford not to approve the motion.

Trustee Bartlette noted he was not willing to reduce the accumulated surplus by \$21,000. The Board had made a decision regarding the accumulated surplus and he could not support suddenly changing that decision.

Trustee Sumner agreed with Trustee Bartlette. He was unwilling to move on the decisions made regarding accumulated surplus. He felt funding needed to be provided some other way, but not from accumulated surplus, just days after discussing it at the All-Day Budget meeting.

Trustee Kruck agreed with Trustees Sumner and Bartlette. But he also felt that since this was a temporary loan he could support the motion.

Trustee Sefton confirmed he was opposed to the motion. He noted he was a strong supporter of Crocus Plains, but loan or grant, the money was still coming from accumulated surplus and he could not support it. He confirmed the Board made a commitment not to use accumulated surplus. He noted on Budget Day the Board was presented with a \$400,000 item for learning resources and cut it to \$200,000. These were learning resources for the classroom and it was troublesome that a few days later the Board was now looking at taking money from accumulated surplus to fund this request. He also noted this exact same item had come forward to the Board previously and here it was one year later being brought forward again. He confirmed it was not with joy that he would be voting against the motion.

Trustee Snelling requested clarification regarding how much money would be provided by Community Places.

Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Zabowski, confirmed there would also be an ongoing cost of water consumption in the approximate amount of \$1,400 per year, should this item be approved.

**AMENDED MOTION:**

That a loan in the amount of \$21,000 funded from accumulated surplus for the proposal from Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School to construct a Field House and In-Ground Sprinkler System, subject to review by the Division's Director of Facilities and Transportation and successful funding from Community Places, to be repaid by Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School over four school years, be approved.

Carried. (5-3 Trustees Sumner, Bartlette and Sefton opposed).

**2.08 Bylaws**

NIL

**2.09 Giving of Notice**

NIL

**2.10 Trustee Inquiries**

NIL

**3.00 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:****3.01 Report of Senior Administration**

The Secretary-Treasurer distributed revised information on the Board's budget deliberations of February 19, 2013. Mr. Zabowski provided information regarding cost per pupil over the last several years noting the cost per pupil has increased over the years, and although the funding per pupil has also increased, it still falls short of the Division's cost per pupil. He also reiterated that the Division is currently 4<sup>th</sup> lowest in the Province with respect to cost per pupil and even with the proposed budget increases, the Division will remain one of the lowest in the Division with respect to cost per pupil. Mr. Zabowski also spoke to the budget day adjustments made as a result of the Board's decision to adjust the pupil-teacher ratio to account for the 2.7 FTE teaching positions which had previously be funded from accumulated surplus. This adjustment to the pupil-teacher ratio resulted in a mill rate increase of 8.2% rather than the 8.5% which had been noted on February 19, 2013. The Secretary-Treasurer noted this would result in a tax increase on a \$200,000 home of \$113.57 per year of \$9.46 per month, and an change in school taxes of \$410.00 on a business valued at \$500,000.

The Associate Superintendent highlighted the following items from the Report of Senior Administration:

- Fountas and Pinnell assessment at Green Acres School;
- Initiatives at École Secondaire Neelin High School targeting improvement of numeracy awareness with students;
- Quality support services at Valleyview Centennial Schools which address literacy issues;
- Semester Suspension Results.

Mr. Murray – Mr. Kruck

That the February 25, 2013 Report of Senior Administration be received and filed.

Carried.

### **3.02 Communications for Information**

- a) Robert J. Fraser, Chair, Board of Trustees, River East Transcona School Division, February 7, 2013, noting the Board of Trustees for the school division unanimously supported the nomination of Trustee Wayne Ritcher for the position of Director Region 5 of the Manitoba School Boards Association.

Ordered Filed.

- b) Robert J. Fraser, Chair, Board of Trustees, River East Transcona School Division, February 7, 2013, noting the Board of Trustees for the school division unanimously supported the nomination of Trustee Peter Kotyk for the position of Vice-President for school boards larger than 6,000 of the Manitoba School Boards Association.

Ordered Filed.

- c) Robert Rivard, President, Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA), February 8, 2013, addressed to The Honourable Nancy Allan, Minister of Education, noting the MSBA Executive had reviewed Bill 18, *The Public Schools Amendment Act (Safe and Inclusive Schools)*. He notes at a recent meeting of the provincial Social Justice Coalition concern was expressed regarding the proposed new PSA section 41(1.8) which reads, in part that "A respect for human diversity policy must accommodate pupils who want to establish and lead organizations..." Their concern is that the onus of initiating such activities or organization has been placed upon the shoulders of the sometimes-vulnerable individuals who may already be negatively impacted by circumstances at school. In particular they reference activities or organizations which relate to "the awareness or understanding of, and respect for, people of all sexual orientations and gender identities" as research indicates these students are less likely to feel safe at school than the general population or visible minority groups. They have therefore provided a proposed amendment to the wording to address this concern which would state that "A respect for human diversity policy must accommodate activities and the formation of organizations that..." This change would strengthen the legislation by shifting the focus of responsibility from students, and by explicitly empowering staff to initiate appropriate action.

Ordered Filed.

### **3.03 Announcements**

- a) Education Committee Meeting – 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 26, 2013, Board Room.
- b) Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee Meeting with IB students – 12:20 p.m., Wednesday, February 27, 2013, École Secondaire Neelin High School.
- c) Special Board Meeting – Public Budget Presentations – 7:00 p.m., Monday, March 4, 2013, Board Room.
- d) Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee Meeting – 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 6, 2013, Board Room.
- e) Joint Meeting with Brandon City Council – 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 6, 2013, Riverbank Discovery Centre.
- f) Facilities and Transportation Committee Meeting – 11:30 a.m., Thursday, March 7, 2013, Board Room.

- g) Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee Meeting – 7:00 p.m., Thursday, March 7, 2013, Board Room.
- h) Personnel Committee Meeting – 12:00 p.m., Monday, March 11, 2013, Board Room.
- i) NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – 7:00 p.m., Monday, March 11, 2013, Board Room.

Mr. Murray – Mr. Kruck

That the Board do now resolve into Committee of the Whole In Camera.

Carried.

#### IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN CAMERA

#### **4.00 IN CAMERA DISCUSSION:**

##### **4.01 Student Issues**

###### **- Reports**

###### **- Trustee Inquiries**

##### **4.02 Personnel Matters**

###### **- Reports**

- a) Confidential #1 – Personnel Report was noted.
- b) The request for a position change noted in Confidential #2 was approved. A motion would be brought forward following all In-Camera discussions.

###### **- Trustee Inquiries**

##### **4.03 Property Matters/Tenders**

###### **- Reports**

- a) The Associate Superintendent provided an update on a property matter.

###### **- Trustee Inquiries**



**4.04 Board Operations****- Reports**

- a) The Secretary-Treasurer presented a proposed agenda for the Joint Meeting with the City of Brandon and asked for any further items which should be added.
- b) The Secretary-Treasurer presented a list of proposed key messages with respect to the budget.

**- Trustee Inquiries**

- a) Trustee Sefton requested direction on a Board Operations matter. The Board provided their direction.
- b) Trustee Bartlette inquired about a Board Operations matter. Trustees provided their opinion however, no direction was given.

Mr. Murray – Mrs. Sumner

That the Committee of the Whole In Camera do now resolve into Board.

Carried.

22/2013 Mr. Kruck – Mr. Sumner

That the Recommendations presented in Confidential #2 are hereby approved.

**5.00 ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Murray – Mr. Bartlette

That the meeting does now adjourn (8:51 p.m.)

Carried.

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Chairperson

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Secretary-Treasurer