



"Accepting the Challenge"

## Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee Minutes

Monday, May 7, 2011 – 1:00 p.m.  
Board Room, Administration office

Present: P. Bowslaugh (Chairperson), J. Murray (entered 1:20 p.m.), K. Sumner (exited 2:20 p.m.), Dr. D. Michaels.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by the Chairperson, Trustee Bowslaugh.

### 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was amended to include discussions regarding the presentation by Dr. Rob Santos. The agenda was approved as amended.

### 4. REVIEW OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the Minutes of the meeting held March 13, 2012.

### 5. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

NIL

### 6. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

#### A) **Networking with EAL Partnerships**

The request to work toward networking in the area of EAL partnerships had been referred to this Committee from the Education Committee through the Board of Trustees. It was noted the Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee had already met with a number of stakeholders in this area including: Maple Leaf, City of Brandon, and the Brandon Regional Health Authority. It was agreed it was important for the Committee to also meet with the following groups on this topic:

- a) The Ecumenical Council of Brandon regarding the support services they provide;
- b) The Brandon Regional Health Authority regarding the importance of enforcing the proper immunization rules for school age children;
- c) The Westman Immigration Services regarding translation services and other items of mutual interest;
- d) Representatives/Leaders from the various immigrant communities. It was agreed this meeting would be particularly beneficial. It was suggested that a number of strategies be utilized to obtain representation from the immigrant community, including:
  - i. asking school principals to help identify leaders who would be willing to speak on behalf of their community;
  - ii. place on the agenda of the next School Division Parent Council Meeting asking School Parent Councils to take a request back to their own school to help find representatives; and

- iii. discuss with Maple Leaf as they may be aware of community leaders who have children in the Brandon School Division.

It was agreed these meetings would be arranged for the fall, with the meeting with immigrant community leaders and representatives to take place in November, 2012.

## **B) Stakeholder Meetings**

The Committee reviewed the list of stakeholder meetings to take place during the month of May. Discussions were held regarding the posting of the Aboriginal Education Learning Specialist and the development of an Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

## **C) Items from Board Meeting – April 23, 2012**

### Bussing of Grade 7 and 8 Students to Home Economics and Industrial Arts Classes:

It was noted this item had been referred to the Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee meeting following a delegation by a concerned parent regarding the use of Public Transit to transport students to Home Ec/Industrial Arts. The Committee had been directed to write a letter to the Parent Councils of each school to determine if there were similar concerns by other parents in the Division. The Committee directed Senior Administration draft a letter to all school Parent Councils requesting feedback on the current bussing arrangements for Grade 7 and 8 students to Home Economics and Industrial Arts classes. The Committee also asked that information be provided by each Parent Council regarding the lunch program currently offered in their respective school.

### Girls' Volleyball Team Shorts:

Discussions were held regarding a parent concern about the length of the high school girls' volleyball team shorts. It was felt this was not a matter for the Board of Trustees but rather a discussion which needed to take place between parents and coaches. Superintendent, Dr. Michaels, noted the School Division/Parent/Guardian Advisory Committee had requested that a letter be forwarded to the Manitoba High School Athletics Association (MHSAA). Senior Administration was directed to write a letter to MHSAA noting parent concerns.

Further discussions were held regarding the relationship between the local media and school athletic programs. It was agreed the media would be invited, together with the Communications Technology Specialist, to a meeting in the fall to discuss the matter in more detail.

The Committee agreed a letter would be forwarded to all Parent Councils requesting feedback on the current bussing arrangements of Grade 7 and 8 students to Home Economics and Industrial Arts classes. The letter will also request information be provided by each Parent Council regarding the lunch program currently offered in their respective school. Senior Administration was directed to attend to this matter at an Administrative level.

The Committee further agreed a letter would be forwarded to the Manitoba High School Athletics Association (MHSAA) noting some parents had expressed concerns regarding the length of the girls' volleyball team shorts. Senior Administration was directed to send a letter on behalf of the Committee.

**D) Dr. Rob Santos – Early Development Forum Presentation**

Discussions were held regarding the presentation made by Dr. Rob Santos at the Early Development Forum held Friday, April 20, 2012. It was agreed the presentation had provided valuable information for educators, school administrators, parents and community. The Committee requested the following link be added as a resource to the Brandon School Division website:

[http://www.gov.mb.ca/healthychild/edi/pancan/pres\\_edimb.pdf](http://www.gov.mb.ca/healthychild/edi/pancan/pres_edimb.pdf)

**7. OPERATIONS INFORMATION**

NIL

**8. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, June 12 2012, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Board Room.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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P. Bowslaugh, Chair

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J. Murray

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K. Sumner

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M. Snelling (Alternate)