



"Accepting the Challenge"

Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee Minutes

Tuesday, June 12, 2011 – 11:30 a.m.
Board Room, Administration office

Present: P. Bowslaugh (Chairperson), J. Murray, K. Sumner, Dr. D. Michaels.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 a.m. by the Chairperson, Trustee Bowslaugh.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as circulated.

4. REVIEW OF COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the Minutes of the meeting held May 7, 2012.

Discussions were held to review again the meetings the Committee would like to hold during the 2012-2013 school year with respect to EAL partnerships. It was agreed the meeting with the Ecumenical Council would be postponed for the timebeing. The meeting with the Brandon Regional Health Authority would be arranged following the completion of restructuring of the Regional Health Authority, and would include other Divisions which may be part of the restructured RHA. The meetings with Westman Immigration Services and representatives/leaders from respective immigrant communities would continue as discussed previously.

Trustee Bowslaugh reported on her meeting with Carla Richardson at the City of Brandon regarding bussing of Grade 7 and 8 students to Industrial Arts and Home Economics via City Transit. It was agreed the Committee would not do anything further until the feedback requested from Parent Councils on this matter has been received and reviewed. Further discussions on this item, if required, were to be tabled until late October, early November.

5. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

A) Review of Committee Work - 2011-2012

Trustees reviewed their governance goal responsibilities and the work completed by the Committee during the 2011-2012 school year. It was noted the Committee held more than 24 meetings during the past school year with numerous stakeholder groups. The various Sub-Committees of the Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee also held numerous meetings during the school year.

In order to continue their governance goal work, the Committee requested the following stakeholder meetings be arranged for the 2012-2013 school year:

- The remainder of the schools which the Committee has not yet previously visited;
- MP Merv Tweed.

6. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

A) Joint City Task Force Ad-Hoc Committee

The Minutes of the Joint City Task Force Ad-Hoc Committee meeting held on May 23, 2012 were reviewed and received. (Appendix "A").

7. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

NIL

8. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: TBA

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Bowslaugh, Chair

J. Murray

K. Sumner

M. Snelling (Alternate)

Appendix A

"Sharks" Committee meeting
May 23/12
Neighborhood Renewal Office
7:30am
City Hall

Present: Murray Blight, Jan Chaboyer, Marty Snelling, Kevan Sumner, Pat Bowslaugh

Regrets: Jim Murray, Stephen Montague

Topics for Discussion:

Bussing for Grades 7/8 Shop and Home Ec.: Information shared that BSD trustees have had some communications from concerned parents but the number of complaints are minimal in number albeit there have been articles in the Brandon Sun (Sound Off). BSD notes that this item was not accepted as a budget item. Several parents have voiced satisfaction with the current arrangement at the Parent Group Meeting. The Parent Councils have an opportunity to bring information to the first meeting in the Fall Term. It was noted that running school buses to transport students is a duplication of cost to tax payers and not reflective of the city's "Green" goal.

Note: Pat would attempt to get to the public meeting (tonight) regarding City Transit. This did not happen but Pat met with Tim Saunderson and Carla Richardson the next day. They reported on their efforts designed to enhance students' knowledge of bus stops, bus routes, transfers and the use of bus passes. Packages are prepared for distribution at each school. Carla also reported on the ability of drivers to contact the office if problems arise. This was a very enlightening visit.

Speeds in School Zones: This topic had been supported by City Council. Trustees pointed out that crosswalks can be a concern. Trustees continue to be supportive of safety. (Please note that MSBA is taking a supporting stand.)

Proposed Youth Forum: Jim and Stephen not available but suggested time is next spring.

Memorandum of Understanding: It was suggested that this be a stand alone document clarifying that BSD and the City will work together on items of mutual concern and benefit such as bussing, school zone topic, school property, playgrounds,etc.

Playground update: appreciation expressed to the City for cost sharing for playgrounds.

First Nations update: Following numerous meetings with the First Nations, Métis , Inuit Communities, and an accepted budget proposal. postings have now been made for the hiring of two positions to support First Nations youth (including engaging their parents).

The Name of this Committee: The term "SHARKS" may be seen in negative overtones so time was spent on considering a more neutral moniker such as "BSD/City Task Force" or Liaison Committee although "committee" suggests a more formal meeting which this is not meant to be identified as such. A final decision will be made in the Fall.

Update on PSFB: Trustees reported briefly on the visit from the Public Schools Finance Board reps who confirmed that there will be two new portables for New Era, one for Alexander and that the (Gymnasium) addition to George Fitton is now "on the horizon"..... NOTING ALSO that new additions to schools are to include child care facilities

School Enrollment: Trustees reported that our EAL population is now at 1240 as part of our total population of 7928 (Sept./11 count).This growth is taxing our facilities and most schools are virtually at maximum capacity. Trustees also cited the two announcements of maximum 20 per class at K - Grade 3 and that school attendance is mandatory up to age18 both of which require extra space.

Brandon Police Service Support: Trustees noted the greatly appreciated support for our Senior Years Schools for which a full time officer is assigned. Noted also are the very valuable programs offered to the Early and Middle Years students as well as the "Adopt-a-Cop" program.

Housing Situation: due to time constraints this topic was deferred to next meeting.

Awards: Trustees shared their pride in the students who have recently done well in National Events including three award received by Crocus Vocational Program students at national Competition, a bronze award by an École Harrison student at Canada Wide science Fair as well as King George School receiving the Indigo Award in the amount of \$67000.

B.J. Hales Museum: Councillors expressed the desire to have this collection remain in Brandon. Some of the history of the collection was shared by trustees and the subsequent quest to find a home for it.

Two additional topics will be on the agenda for the next meeting: Canada Games and consideration for the additional cultural groups in our city.

NEXT MEETING;

- Concern was expressed at finding a time when all could be present.
- Two choices are offered: Tuesday, June 12 or Tuesday, June 19. A 6:00pm meeting time was suggested.
- PLEASE confirm which date will be best..... especially Stephen. I will send a memo as soon as I have the responses.... preferably by Friday at the latest.