



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee

Monday, May 27, 2013
1:00 – 3:00 pm
McLaren Room / Administration Office

Present:

Trustee Pat Bowslaugh; Greg Malazdrewicz, Associate Superintendent; Amie Martin, Aboriginal Education Consultant, Brandon School Division; Delvina Kejick, Teacher, New Era School; Kevin Tacan, Aboriginal Elder, Brandon School Division; Tammy Hossack, Little Teaching Lodge; Brenda Myran, Teacher, New Era School; Erla Cyr, Social Worker, Brandon School Division

Regrets:

Susie McPherson, DOCFS; Lorrie Norquay, RHA; Lorissa Addison; Bonnie Alston, Teacher, New Era School Frank Tacan, Brandon Friendship Centre; Leah Laplante; Randa Nadjiwon Cancade, Brandon Friendship Centre; Gail Cullen, Brandon Friendship Centre; Rachelle Wilks, Manitoba Metis Federation; Jace Pratt; Verna Demontigny, Elder, Manitoba Metis Federation; Shari St. Paul, Little Teaching Lodge; Amelia Tacan; Mae Petri, Cree Elder; Robert M. Ironstand; Roy Dearing, Assiniboine Community Centre; Jaclyn Kejick; Jae McKinnon

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Trustee Bowslaugh. Trustee Bowslaugh welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. REVIEW OF MARCH 7, 2013 MINUTES

Trustee Bowslaugh reviewed the March 7, 2013 minutes. The minutes were accepted as is.

Delvina brought forward that she feels that classroom teachers need to be a big part of Amie's focus to educate the Brandon School Division students more effectively. It was concerning to her that it was mainly Brandon School Division staff attending the meeting. Delvina felt that the Committee needs to have a quorum of at least sixty percent (60%) community members in order to proceed with the meetings. Trustee Bowslaugh noted that this is exactly what the Committee would like to see.

3. AGENCY SHARING

Amie noted that she has had problems with how to get names of people to contact for initiatives.

Tammy reported that there are thirty seven (37) students coming from the Head Start Program. The Head Start Program is for children ages 3 to 5, but concentrate on age 4 before they go to Kindergarten. The Program is already full for fall with six (6) students on the waiting list.

Assessments are completed on the students before they exit the program and information is sent to the Kindergarten teachers to assist with classroom planning.

Tammy noted that she is available to go to the schools to assist with the students' transition.

4. HIGHLIGHTS OF PROPOSED 2013/2014 ABORIGINAL EDUCATION SPECIALIST WORK PLAN

Amie has visited all school principals and some teachers regarding implementing "Integrating Aboriginal Perspectives into Curricula". The response was good in many ways.

Trustee Bowslaugh gave direction to Amie to work with the more receptive schools first as she isn't able to work with all the schools at once anyways.

Mr. Malazdrewicz noted that there is always an implementation process. Other schools will pick up the programming as they see how things are implemented.

Amie has been working with all of the schools to see what initiatives they would like to put into the work plan for next year.

Brenda noted that she would like it if Amie would present more information to the teachers. With schools like New Era, it may be easier as the teachers are better versed and have used some of the resources already. The conversion process is lacking. We need to get the staff on board. It has taken years of process to build trust and the relationship.

The "From Cultural Awareness to Cultural Competency" professional development has seen about one hundred staff go through over the past few years. This has been very beneficial in building awareness.

Kevin noted that we do not have enough Aboriginal teachers to teach the curriculum. Brandon School Division needs to go to the universities to let the students know what expectations Brandon School Division has for the students to get employment with Brandon School Division. Recruitment!

Mr. Malazdrewicz noted that Brandon University students could self identify and a meeting could then be set up for the students to learn about the Brandon School Division and Brandon School Division staff could encourage them to apply.

Are the School Division Aboriginal positions being used the way they should – AAA workers, BSSAP, etc?

Kevin felt that the Strategic Planning meetings held a few years ago brought awareness to the principals that Aboriginal Students are struggling.

Highlights of Amie's work plan included:

- Going to schools to teach instead of pulling teachers out for professional development
- Create a resource handbook for teachers
- Create an Aboriginal Education plan with Aboriginal teachers, principals, to get structured events

- Parent nights to get information to parents on curriculum, assessments, right and responsibilities
- Work with other Specialists to integrate Aboriginal perspectives into curricula
- Work with Grade 7 and 8 students to work on a career plan
- Work on an Aboriginal Education pamphlet/brochure

5. COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT

Community contributions include:

- Career Fair
- Recruitment Officer Brandon University – Vincent Massey High School students took a tour with Kevin
- Need to bring Aboriginal role models into the classroom for students to meet i.e. Police

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Bowslaugh thanked everyone for their active participation and input.
The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

NEXT REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING

To be determined – third or fourth week in September 2013 (lunch to be provided).

Respectfully submitted,

P. Bowslaugh