



"Accepting the Challenge"

Facilities/Transportation Committee Minutes

Thursday, October 14, 2010, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room, Administration Office

Present: D. Karnes, Chairperson, P. Bartlette, J. Murray (Alternate),
G. Barnes, M. Clark.

Regrets: M. Snelling, G. Malazdrewicz, R. Harkness.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Karnes, Chairperson called the Committee meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The Facilities/Transportation Committee Agenda was approved as circulated.

3. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS:

NIL

4. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

a) **Natural Gas Rates**

Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Barnes, noted he had been reviewing natural gas rate information from both Manitoba Hydro and Just Energy. He stated the Division has never signed a contract in the past but has always had a floating rate, however, natural gas rates continue to drop and he wondered about the Division looking at locking in a rate under \$.20 per MCF. He noted he would not want to do anything on this until after November 1, 2010. He also confirmed that customers are given a five day window in which to lock in rates and therefore the Committee must determine whether they will hold a special meeting within that five day window, or give him authorization to sign an agreement and lock in natural gas rates should they fall below \$.20 per MCF for a 3 to 5 year period. The Committee discussed the matter including the differences in the agreements proposed by Manitoba Hydro and Just Energy; whether or not to hold a special meeting or provide the Secretary-Treasurer with authorization; whether the contract should be for three years or five years. It was agreed the Secretary-Treasurer would be given authorization to lock in the price at \$.21 per MCF for a three to five year period. Anything over that price and the Secretary-Treasurer was directed to call a special meeting of the Facilities and Transportation Committee to review the matter before making any final decisions.

Recommendation:

That the Secretary-Treasurer be authorized to sign an agreement to lock in natural gas rates at a rate below \$.21 per MCF for a 3 to 5 year period.

b) **Trustee Inquiry – Bussing Concern**

The Committee reviewed the Trustee Inquiry regarding bussing children from the Brookwood area to Riverheights School instead of Linden Lanes school, which had been referred to the Committee from the Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held on September 27, 2010. Director of Facilities and Transportation, Mr. Clark, distributed a map of the area and spoke to the matter. He noted the students in the area of concern were in the Riverheights catchment area and were therefore bussed to Riverheights School. He confirmed that should the students in that area wish to go to Linden Lanes School they can do so under School of Choice, however, they would not be bussed as they are within walking distance as determined by policy. The Brandon School Division does not double bus students from the area to either Riverheights School or Linden Lanes. The matter was discussed and Trustees asked questions for clarification regarding pick-up points, the number of children involved in the catchment area, capacity at Linden Lanes School, and Baragar information for the area. It was agreed

that the matter was a non-issue as children in the Brookwood area who were part of the Riverheights catchment could attend Linden Lanes School through "School of Choice" and would not be bused to Linden Lanes School because the school was within walking distance as set out in policy.

c) Fleming School Update

Mr. Mel Clark, Director of Facilities and Transportation, noted that the Department of Labour has approved repairs to the Fleming School boiler for one heating season only. He further stated he had received confirmation that INAC would be paying to repair the boiler at Fleming School.

Mr. Barnes, Secretary-Treasurer, noted five tenders for the Fleming School site had gone out and to date he had only received one tender. He confirmed the tender closed on October 15, 2010. He noted that following the closing he and the Director of Facilities and Transportation would review the tenders and bring back a recommendation to the Facilities and Transportation Committee in November. The proposed recommendation would then go to the Board for approval with the recommendation then being forwarded to the Public Schools Finance Board for their approval. The Committee discussed the matter in detail. Political ramifications regarding timelines; the optics of holding a special meeting prior to elections or after elections to review the tenders; holding a public meeting versus an in-camera meeting on the matter; and reviewing the matter with the Public Schools Finance Board before going public with a recommendation were all discussed. It was agreed that the matter needs to be dealt with before the end of December, in order to complete the sale of the property by July 1, 2011. It was further agreed that the matter should be dealt with after elections at a full Board, Committee of the Whole, meeting in order to provide any new Board members with information regarding the process which has been taking place over the past four to eight years with respect to the sale of the property. It was also agreed that the Board would review the recommendation with the Public Schools Finance Board who must authorize the sale of the Fleming School site, before the Board goes public with a recommendation on this matter.

Trustee Karnes inquired about future storage of the archival material and out-dated computers currently stored at Fleming School. Discussions were held regarding the storage of the out-dated computers until such time as the computers can be scrubbed and disposed of. It was noted that disposal of these computers had been contracted out to an individual who worked on them after hours. Mr. Clark, Director of Facilities and Transportation, noted a cold storage building could be built on the Administration Office grounds. Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Barnes, suggested a change in procedure with respect to disposal of computers and that the computers be scrubbed on site rather than moved from one storage space to the next before being disposed of. Discussions were also held regarding the possibility of displaying the archival material in an empty classroom at Riverview School. It was agreed that Mr. Clark and Mr. Barnes would look into several workable options with respect to storage of the out-dated computers and the archival material before the sale of the Fleming site is complete as some of the possible storage scenarios may involve a budget enhancement.

d) Neelin High School Off-Campus

Trustee Karnes inquired about the possibility of a tax sale taking place with respect to the property leased by the Division for the Off-Campus program. Mr. Clark, Director of Facilities and Transportation noted he had contacted the owner who advised he had taken on a new partner who was prepared to pay the taxes. Mr. Clark would follow-up to see if the taxes have been paid.

e) Bussing to Alexander School

Trustee Karnes inquired about the number of students from Brandon riding the bus to Alexander School. Mr. Barnes, Secretary-Treasurer, noted that 20 students from Brandon were riding the bus to Alexander School. He also noted seven Alexander area students were picked up on route to Alexander School for a total of 27 students. It was noted that approximately one-third of the student population at Alexander School came from the City of Brandon. Trustee Karnes inquired as to how many of those students were reclaimed from homeschooling. It was noted that at least three of those students had been previously homeschooled.

f) School Enrollment Numbers

It was confirmed that a breakdown of the Division's enrollment numbers would be presented to the Board at their Regular meeting to be held on October 25, 2010, by the Associate Superintendent.

g) B.J. Hales Museum Renovation Update

Mr. Clark, Director of Facilities and Transportation, provided a verbal report regarding the renovations to B.J. Hales Museum to be located at Earl Oxford School. It was noted that due to extended illness on the carpentry crew and outstanding projects that need to be completed from the current budget, he could not guarantee the renovations would be completed by the end of June. Discussions were held regarding the possibility of out-sourcing the project if needed. Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Barnes, confirmed that Senior Administration would be meeting with the Brandon University on October 21, 2010 to discuss the establishment and possible partnership of the museum display at Earl Oxford School.

h) Trustee Inquiry – Bussing Concern

The Committee reviewed the Trustee Inquiry regarding bussing of a 6 year old who has to transfer buses at a high school. Mr. Clark, Director of Facilities, noted loading zones are supervised although roll call is not taken. Roll call is taken at the school and the Home School Liaison Officer calls the parent if a child is not in school.

i) École Harrison Parking Lot

Further to a Trustee Inquiry at the regular Board meeting held on October 12, 2010, the matter of École Harrison was discussed. Trustee Karnes noted he had driven by the parking lot. It was agreed this parking lot was for staff parking and students should be dropped off in appropriate spots designated along the street curb. Mr. Clerk, Director of Facilities and Transportation, agreed to review the signage at this location.

5. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

a) Valleyview Roof Update

Mr. Clark, Director of Facilities and Transportation, provided a verbal report regarding the replacement of the Valleyview Centennial School Gymnasium Roof noting the renovations had now been completed and all that was left was the flashing to be put on.

b) Green Acres Roof Update

Mr. Clark, Director of Facilities and Transportation, provided a verbal report regarding renovations and repairs to the Green Acres School Roof noting a detail had been missed on the blue prints regarding framing and flashing but that the matter had now been resolved and the gym was in use by the school.

c) PSFB Matters – In-Camera

In-Camera discussions were held regarding certain PSFB matters.

6. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: TBA

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Karnes, Chair

P. Bartlette

M. Snelling

J. Murray (Alternate)