



"Accepting the Challenge"

## **Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee Minutes**

Wednesday, November 7, 2012 (11:30 a.m.)  
Board Room, Administration Office

Present: P. Bowslaugh, Chairperson, M. Snelling, D. Karnes (alternate),  
Dr. D. Michaels.

Regrets: K. Sumner

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### **1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee Meeting was called to order at 11:50 a.m. by Trustee Bowslaugh

### **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Trustee Bowslaugh wished to include the following items for discussion:

- Parent issue with respect to Synervoice calls;
- Draft letter to Student Councils.

The agenda was approved as amended.

### **3. REVIEW OF COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The Minutes of the October 3, 2012 meeting were received as information.

### **4. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS**

#### **A) Follow-up from October 3, 2012**

- **Stakeholder Meetings**

It was noted due to the Growth and Sustainability consultations, the Education Committee consultations with students, and the Finance Committee stakeholder consultations, the Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee stakeholder meetings had been placed on hold until after the Christmas holidays.

The Committee did request that the following stakeholder meetings be arranged between January and the end of the school year:

- Brandon University;
- Assiniboine Community College – through the Dean of Vocational Trades;
- Westman Immigration;
- MP Merv Tweed;
- Schools whom the Committee has not yet met;
- AP and IB students.

It was further requested the meetings with the AP and IB students be the first meetings to be arranged in the New Year. Discussions were held regarding meeting with the Judicial Committee again. However, it was agreed the Committee would wait until after the At-Risk

Youth Program had been running for one school year before meeting with the Judicial Committee again.

## 5. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

### A) Possible Partnership with the Chamber of Commerce

The Committee referenced discussions held between the Chamber of Commerce and the Finance Committee with respect to the upcoming budget. It was noted that the Chamber of Commerce had volunteered to partner with the Brandon School Division to lobby the government and provide input to students as to the importance of education. The Committee agreed the joint task force committee between the Brandon School Division and the Chamber of Commerce should be reestablished to pursue this partnership. It was agreed a recommendation would be brought forward to the Board of Trustees proposing the establishment of the partnership committee.

#### Recommendation:

That a Joint Task Force Committee between the Brandon School Division and the Chamber of Commerce be established to pursue a partnership in promoting education and that Trustees \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ serve on the Committee for the 2012-2013 school year.

### B) 2013-2014 Budget Deliberations

Discussions were held regarding possible programming needs requests for the 2013-2014 School Year. The Committee requested clarification from Senior Administration as to which schools currently have a BSSAP worker and which schools are in need of such a program. The Committee was advised that the BSSAP program is in three schools: George Fitton; King George; and New Era. Discussions were also held regarding the possibility of assigning a BSSAP worker to work between two schools. It was agreed the matter would be brought forth as a possible programming needs request and the position to be assigned to schools with the greatest needs as determined by Senior Administration.

Trustees also explored the possibility of providing a budget line that would allow students to explore such activities as attending Chamber lunches. It was agreed this could be handled through an increase to the Division's Community Relations Budget line.

### C) Parent issue with Synervoice Programming

Superintendent, Dr. Michaels spoke to this matter noting the issue had been resolved and the parent's number removed from all general call procedures however the parent would still receive calls for attendance and emergency matters. Discussions were held regarding the possibility of establishing an "opt-out" procedure at the beginning of the school year should a parent decide they do not wish to receive calls other than for attendance and emergencies.

### D) Vincent Massey Cyber Bullying Parent Meeting

The Committee inquired about the parent meeting which had taken place at Vincent Massey High School with respect to the Cyber bullying workshop. Discussions were held regarding the current anti-bullying initiatives which take place in the school. It was agreed that staff from Vincent Massey High School might be able to meet with the Committee in December to discuss the Cyber bullying workshop which had taken place at the school.

**E) Letter to Student Councils**

Trustee Bowslaugh shared a proposed draft letter to be distributed to student councils advising that the Board of Trustees, and in particular the Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee, are available to meet with student council representatives at any time to discuss their concerns. It was agreed the proposed letter would be forwarded to the Board of Trustees for their approval. (Appendix "A")

**Recommendation:**

That a letter be forwarded to the three high school student councils advising that the Brandon School Division Board of Trustees and/or Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee are available at any time to meet with representatives of the three high schools to discuss any concerns of mutual interest.

**6. OPERATIONS INFORMATION**

- The Committee agreed to keep the December Committee Meeting date on December 5, 2012 as originally scheduled.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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P. Bowslaugh, Chair

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M. Snelling

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K. Sumner

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D. Karnes (Alternate)

Draft Letter to three High School Student Councils

Dear Council Members

Congratulations on becoming a member of Student Council for your school. It is a great honour to represent your student body throughout the current school year. It is also an opportunity to enhance many of your lifelong skills such as communication, problem solving, and leadership.

By way of this letter the Trustees of the Brandon School Division want you to know that we, as elected individuals, bear public accountability for the ongoing success of all our students and staff. As part of our work, in September, 2012, we met with representatives from your Councils. At that time we concluded two points. First of all, our meeting was held too early in the term. Secondly, we know it is a huge time commitment and may be impacting your class time.

With these observations we offer an option of our coming to your school to meet with you. We think this may work better for you. We encourage you to contact us at 729-3114 to arrange a meeting.

We offer our sincere wishes for a dynamic school year for your school and look forward to communicating with you.

Yours truly,

M. Sefton  
Board Chair  
Brandon School Division  
Board of Trustees