



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

Education Committee Minutes

Thursday, February 25, 2016 11:30 a.m.

Boardroom, Administration Office

Present: S. Bambridge (Chairperson), P. Bartlette, G. Buri,
P. Bowslaugh (Alternate).
M. Gustafson.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Education Committee Meeting was called to order at 11:32 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Bartlette noted he had one item to add to the agenda.

Trustee Bowslaugh noted she had three items to add to the agenda.

The agenda was approved as amended.

3. PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

The Committee notes from the Thursday, January 29, 2015 Alexander School Visit were received as information.

4. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

A) Research the Implementation of Year-Round Schooling

Researching the implementation of year-round school was discussed and the Committee noted some of the following questions surrounding the idea:

- Who is doing year-round schooling?
- What are the benefits?
- What has occurred in other places?
- What is happening today?
- What changes occurred as a result of year-round schooling?

Mr. Gustafson, Assistant Superintendent, asked for more guidance and specifics from the Committee to direct his research and noted that in a 2011 study, 3000 schools in the US were using a year-round schooling model, and in a 2009 study, 100 schools in Canada were using a year-round schooling model. The Committee requested that Mr. Gustafson provide research on the following:

- Current existing year-round schooling models;
- The year-round schooling implementation process;
- The impact on student learning;
- Cost implications.

Mr. Gustafson noted that he would research literature available and that this would be fairly comprehensive. He stated he can provide the information by the end of this year or early next year.

Trustee Bambridge asked that a synthesis of data, in a report, be brought back to the Education Committee next fall, focusing on Canadian models. Mr. Gustafson indicated that he would report on the Canadian models, but that most of the research found will likely come from the United States.

B) Summary of 2015-2016 Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers of Arts Curriculum

The Committee reviewed the 2015/2016 Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers of Arts Curricula document provided by Mr. Gustafson. Trustees asked questions for clarification. The shortage of substitute teachers was discussed.

5. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

A) Sub-Committee Reports

Brandon Community Drug and Alcohol Education Coalition

Trustee Bartlette provided a verbal report from the February 25, 2016 meeting.

Friends of Education Fund

Trustee Buri noted that there is nothing to report as the next meeting occurs in April.

6. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

Additional Agenda Items

Graduation Rates

Trustee Bartlette spoke on the graduation rates and noted that the general public has a misunderstanding of the graduation rate due to the ways it is calculated. Mr. Gustafson added that the definition of successful graduation is important in calculating grad rates.

Example:

- a) the day you start grade 9 to the day you complete grade 12 – totaling four years; or,
- b) you achieve 30 credits.

The Committee discussed drop-outs and those students with special needs and how they are calculated into the graduation rate. Trustee Bartlette wants clarity with the public, and feels the Division has a responsibility to be clear.

Mr. Gustafson will bring the current definition used to calculate the graduation rate in Brandon School Division, and research information on how the Province tracks this information. Mr. Gustafson will bring definitions and information to the next Education Committee meeting.

Music Teacher – Spring Valley School

Trustee Bowslaugh spoke on the request for a music teacher at Spring Valley School. Discussion took place on contacting the Colony to find out if they would be supportive of this. Mr. Gustafson will refer this to Mr. Greg Malazdrewicz, Assistant Superintendent.

Joy Smith Foundation

Trustee Bowslaugh spoke on information boards that Joy Smith has available regarding predators in the sex trade and noted the schools may want them inserted in health studies, etc.

Student Feedback

Trustee Bowslaugh received feedback from a student regarding the suggestion that anti-bullying posters be put up in the schools. The student indicated that no students will look at them, and that lots

of students have anxiety and depression and that it would be better to find ways to deal with that. Mr. Gustafson will pass this information along to Mr. Malazdrewicz and the student services group.

7. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, March 24, 2016, 10:00 a.m., Boardroom.

The meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. Bambridge, Chair

P. Bartlette

G. Buri

P. Bowslaugh (Alternate)