



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, THE BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION, HELD IN THE J. L. MILNE BOARDROOM, ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 1031 - 6TH STREET, BRANDON, MANITOBA, AT 7:00 P.M., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2014.

PRESENT:

Mr. M. Sefton, Chairperson, Mr. J. Murray, Vice-Chairperson, Mrs. P. Bowslaugh, Mr. D. Karnes, Mr. G. Kruck, Dr. L. Ross, Mr. M. Snelling, Mr. K. Sumner.

Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. D. Labossiere, Recording Secretary, Ms. S. Bailey, Live Streaming Video Operator, Ms. K. Boklaschuk

Senior Administration: Dr. D. M. Michaels, Superintendent/CEO, Mr. G. Malazdrewicz, Associate Superintendent, Ms. E. Jamora, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Ms. B. Switzer, Director of Human Resources.

REGRETS:

Mr. P. Bartlette

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone in attendance. He noted Mr. Bartlette sent his regrets as he was unable to attend the meeting this evening.

AGENDA

1.00 AGENDA/MINUTES:

1.01 Reference to Statement of Board Operations

1.02 Approval of Agenda

The Secretary-Treasurer confirmed he had one property matter for in-camera discussion.

Trustee Karnes also requested an in-camera item regarding a property matter.

Trustee Kruck noted he had one item for in-camera discussions.

Trustee Sefton confirmed he had two items under Board Operations for in-camera discussions.

Mrs. Bowslaugh – Mr. Kruck
That the agenda be approved as amended.
Carried.

1.03 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- a) The Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held February 10, 2014 were circulated.

Mr. Kruck – Mr. Snelling

That the Minutes be approved as circulated.

Carried.

- b) The Minutes of the Special Board Meeting held February 18, 2014 were circulated.

Mr. Sumner – Dr. Ross

That the Minutes be approved as circulated.

Carried.

2.00 GOVERNANCE MATTERS:**2.01 Presentations For Information**

The Chairperson recognized Betty Gibson School student, Lauren Stevenson, who won in her age category for the LivPolar Bear competition. Lauren spoke about the art project, her art work and her trip to Ottawa to receive recognition for her art work.

2.02 Reports of Committees

- a) Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee Meeting

The written report of the Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee meeting held on February 6, 2014 was circulated.

Mrs. Bowslaugh – Mr. Kruck

That the Minutes be received and filed.

Carried.

- b) Policy Review Committee Meeting

The written report of the Policy Review Committee Meeting held on February 10, 2014 was circulated.

Clarification was requested with respect to the discussions that were held regarding Policy 4001 – “Off-Site Activities”.

Mr. Kruck – Mr. Murray

That the Minutes be received and filed.

Carried.

c) Facilities and Transportation Committee Meeting.

The written report of the Facilities and Transportation Committee Meeting held on February 13, 2014 was circulated.

Trustee Kruck requested clarification regarding 638 Princess Avenue. The Committee Chairperson noted it was the Convergys Building.

Mr. Karnes – Mrs. Bowslaugh

That the Minutes be received and filed.

Carried.

d) Other - NIL

2.03 Delegations and Petitions

- a) Ms. Alison Johnston, President, Brandon Teachers' Association, spoke to the Board of Trustees regarding the 2014-2015 Brandon School Division Budget. Ms. Johnston provided a snapshot of her own personal teaching history in the Division, noting the challenges, class size, composition and needs of the classes she had taught. She noted that what she described was experienced by other teachers in the Division. She confirmed that Trustees have recognized these issues have an impact on student learning and over the years have worked to address these matters. Trustees have been quick to respond to student needs through the implementation of programming and support services. These were excellent examples of educational goals determining fiscal policy. Ms. Johnston referenced the decisions made through Board motion at the Regular Meeting held October 15, 2014 and noted the impact on these decisions had on staffing. She felt the "year of the pause" became the "year of the staff cuts", with a reduction of 11 FTE teachers being the outcome of the budget deliberations on February 18, 2014. Ms. Johnston referenced the Division's strategic goals noting the difficulty the Board had in meeting these goals when fiscal policy dictates educational goals. She recognized that budget deliberations are never easy but urged the Board of Trustees to revisit the decisions of February 18, 2014 and at the very minimum, to consider staffing at the September 2013 levels.

Trustees asked a number of questions for clarification, including areas that the Brandon Teachers' Association might see reductions that did not involve staffing; and suggestions as to how to answer taxpayer concerns, such as those expressed in a letter attached to the current agenda. They noted the work that had been done on past budgets, increases and implementation of programming. Trustees spoke of concerns raised by taxpayers with respect to the ability to afford increased taxes. The Chairperson thanked Ms. Johnston for her presentation.

2.04 Communications for Action

- a) Carolyn Duhamel, Executive Director, Manitoba School Boards Association, February 10, 2014, enclosing the "Authorization to Receive Board Ballots" to be completed and returned to the association office prior to the start of convention. She notes Boards can authorize as many or as few as they wish but recommends a minimum of two. All Board ballots will be released to the first authorized trustee that requests and sign for them. It is then up to the board to determine how the ballots will be subsequently distributed and/or cast. Ballots should be picked up and distributed as early as possible in the convention as they will be required first on Friday morning.

Referred Business Arising.

- b) Floyd Martens, President, Manitoba School Boards Association, February 7, 2014, noting the resolutions package for the annual general meeting in March has been included in the weekly mailing. There are three policy statements for Trustee consideration. These are taken from existing resolutions to capture in broader terms what MSBA believes about specific areas. Should time permit during the AGM, there will be discussion about developing additional policy statements of this nature in other areas of importance to Manitoba school boards. He notes the resolution from the regional meeting package regarding restructuring of the provincial Executive was withdrawn by the sponsoring board and referred back to the Executive. A discussion document will be circulated to all school boards in the coming weeks. The paper will ask boards to indicate via motion by the end of April their support for an association governance review and potential restructuring at this time. As well, at regional meetings Trustees received a report concerning potential changes to the Non-Teaching Pension Plan contribution rates. A memo will be sent post-convention to boards for input on how the Executive is to proceed on this matter. The Executive has also approved the establishment of an ad hoc committee of MSBA's most recent past presidents to examine what essential services members desire of the association and how to best structure the funding of the organization to ensure the viability of these into the future. He encourages boards to make sure some time is spent discussing these items either prior to convention or as the documents arrive at the division

Referred Business Arising.

2.05 Business Arising

- From Previous Delegation

- From Board Agenda

- MSBA issues (last meeting of the month)

- a) The correspondence from Carolyn Duhamel, Executive Director, Manitoba School Boards Association, from Communications for Action 2.04a, enclosing the "Authorization to Receive Board Ballots" for the upcoming MSBA Convention was discussed. Trustees Sefton and Snelling were authorized to pick up the ballots on behalf of the Brandon School Division Board of Trustees.
- b) The correspondence from Floyd Martens, President, Manitoba School Boards Association, from Communications for Action 2.04b, regarding several items that were discussed at regional meetings and follow-up requested by divisions upon receipt of documents and prior to convention, with respect to policy statements; governance review and possible restructuring of the organization; and Non-Teaching Pension Plans was discussed.

Trustee Murray inquired about follow-up discussions with CUPE regarding the Non-Teaching Pension Plans. It was agreed the ad-hoc committee would meet before the MSBA Convention to continue discussions.

Trustee Ross expressed concerns regarding the possible representation on the ad-hoc committee to review the essential services required from MSBA. The Board agreed that Dr. Ross would draft a letter to MSBA on behalf of the Board of Trustees expressing concern.

Trustee Snelling requested clarification regarding the possible increase in MSBA membership fees. He noted the percentage was not clearly identified in the proposed resolution. Trustee Sumner noted that Trustees could speak to the resolution from the convention floor at the AGM.

- From Report of Senior Administration

- a) School Reports - NIL
- b) Learning Support Services Presentation – NIL
- c) Items from Senior Administration Report
 - Trustee Indemnities - All-Day Budget meeting – Referred Motions

2.06 Public Inquiries (max. 15 minutes)

- a) Barb Gribben, Secretary, CUPE Local 737, as well as CUPE Manitoba Sector Secretary, inquired about whether or not Trustees had the required information to make an informed decision concerning the potential changes to the Non-Teaching Pension Plan contribution rates? She asked the following:
 - When was the last premium increase?
 - Has the Division had a holiday vacation from paying premiums since the last premium increase?
 - Do the Trustees know Manitoba is the only province in Canada that has a Defined Contribution Pension Plan for School Support Staff workers?

Ms. Gribben concluded her inquiry by asking if the Brandon School Division Board of Trustees will support an increase to the Non-Teaching Pension Plan contribution?

Trustees noted they did not have the information Ms. Gribben was requesting. Discussions were held regarding the information the Trustees were to receive post-convention. It was noted by the Secretary-Treasurer that the matter had been discussed at Regionals and a section on this item had been included in the MSBA package for Regional meetings. The Board reiterated the need for the ad-hoc committee regarding CUPE pensions to meet prior to the MSBA Convention.

- b) Alison Johnston, President, Brandon Teachers' Association, inquired about the Board's budget process for release of information to the public. She asked if preliminary information could be brought forward earlier.

Trustee Sefton noted the Board had met on February 5th following the funding announcement and that information was posted to the website the next day. He confirmed that anything posted earlier would have been hypothetical. However, he noted the Board would take Ms. Johnston's request under advisement.

2.07 Motions

11/2014 Mr. Karnes – Mr. Murray

That the Trustees be paid the appropriate indemnity for attending the All-Day Budget meeting held February 18, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Trustee Sumner, citing The Public Schools Act and the Board By-Laws, noted that all such motions regarding indemnity should be brought to the Board prior to the event taking place and not after.

Carried.

12/2014 Dr. Ross – Mr. Snelling

That Policy and Procedures 8001 – “Disposal of Equipment and Materials” is hereby reaffirmed.

Carried.

13/2014 Mr. Snelling – Mr. Karnes

That Policy and Procedures 8002 – “Use of Expendable Equipment in Schools by Outside Organizations” is hereby reaffirmed.

Carried.

14/2014 Mr. Sumner – Mrs. Bowslaugh

That a wheelchair school bus be provided to the Society of Manitobans with Disabilities for their March Break Program from March 31st to April 4th, 2014 at the current rates subject to approval by the Supervisor of Transportation and the Manitoba Transport Board.

Carried.

15/2014 Mrs. Bowslaugh – Mr. Kruck

That a school bus be provided to the YMCA for their YMCA Summer Days Camp from July 2, 2014 to August 22, 2014 at the current rates subject to approval by the Supervisor of Transportation and the Manitoba Transport Board.

Carried.

2.08 Bylaws

NIL

2.09 Giving of Notice

NIL

2.10 Trustee Inquiries

NIL

3.00 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

3.01 Report of Senior Administration

Mr. Labossiere, Secretary-Treasurer, spoke to the information regarding the decisions made on February 18, 2014 with respect to the 2014-2015 Budget Deliberations contained in the Report of Senior Administration.

Superintendent, Dr. Michaels highlighted the following from the Report of Senior Administration:

- Quality Learning at Green Acres School;
- Quality Teaching at Valleyview Centennial School;
- Quality Support Services at Kirkcaldy Heights School;
- The Suspension Report;
- The EAL Update;
- The Brandon Police Services Town Hall Consultation.

Trustee Murray expressed concern regarding the length of suspension for drug related incidents. He felt the Division may be too lenient when dealing with students bringing illegal substances into the schools. Mr. Malazdrewicz, Associate Superintendent, noted the policy was very broad in what was reported in this area. He confirmed that Senior Administration did review this matter on a regular basis and was very cognizant of the Board's position regarding this matter.

Mr. Murray – Mr. Snelling

That the February 24, 2014 Report of Senior Administration be received and filed.

Carried.

3.02 Communications for Information

- a) Carolyn Duhamel, Executive Director, Manitoba School Boards Association, February 5, 2014, addressed to Mr. David Mandzuk, Dean of the Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba, thanking him for meeting with MSBA to take about the University of Manitoba's revised After-Degree Bachelor of Education program. They specifically applaud the emphasis in the revised program on instruction in literacy and numeracy across the K-12 spectrum, on Aboriginal education and diversity issues in the classroom, and on creating positive learning environments for all students. They are confident that the U of M revised After-Degree Bachelor of Education program will provide a high quality pre-service education program for future teachers in Manitoba.

Ordered Filed.

- b) The Honourable James Allum, Minister of Education and Advanced Learning, February 10, 2014, advising that the George Fitton School – New Gymnasium and Child Care Facility project has been approved. The Division may now proceed with the construction of this project according to the terms and conditions of the award outlined and attached.

Ordered Filed.

- c) Joanne Muller, Secretary, Board of Reference, Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning, February 11, 2014, enclosing the award of the Board of Reference with respect to the hearing held February 6, 2014 in Souris, Manitoba.

Ordered Filed.

- d) The Honourable James Allum, Minister of Education and Advanced Learning, February 14, 2014, noting it has come to his attention that a test was administered at a Manitoba high school that contained questions and potential responses that were obviously out of date and inappropriate for a Manitoba classroom. He finds this unacceptable. All tests in Manitoba must be accurate, up-to-date and reflect the high standards of quality that Manitoba parents expect from the system. Therefore, he expects that every test be reviewed for accuracy before it is used in the class room. Board Chairs are responsible for overseeing the educational leadership of their division. He knows Boards work tirelessly to ensure the best for all students in Manitoba and he is confident that the superintendent of the division in question has taken this concern seriously and the appropriate course of action for this

situation is being taken. Great things are happening in Manitoba schools and there is no reason to believe this has happened elsewhere in the province. However, he wants to be clear that schools must uphold the highest standards as it is our responsibility to ensure that our children get the highest quality education possible here in Manitoba.

Ordered Filed.

- e) Gord and Dot Burgess, February 16, 2014, asking the Board of Trustees to give teachers the same budget as last year and let them figure it out. The Division gets a budget and they have to live within it. They contacted CPP and were advised the CPP increased by .09% and OAS by .01% last year. Why not follow them? They see nothing wrong with minimum class size of 15 for extra or specialty courses/classes and suggests a possible fee be charged. Then only the people who are really interested would apply. They feel this generation of children would realize the importance of finance, budgeting, working when they try to buy their first car – you can only buy what you can afford and not what you want. Cut at least 2% this year and then 0% for the next four and see if the Division can get out of this mess. Even if you have an increase of only 1% you affect their spendable income. Less money for Wheat King season tickets, less money for canvassing, less money for United Way, less money for business. Do you think Brandonites wanted to stop any of this? They stopped because they are being taxed to death and so they are stopping some of the extras. Older seniors with no extra private pension or no indexing, minimum wage earners, low income, unemployed, disabled, single income families are all negatively impacted.

Referred to Budget Deliberations.

3.03 Announcements

Point of Privilege: Trustee Sefton confirmed that the Minister of Education would be visiting on Thursday, February 27, 2014 and wished to meet with the Board of Trustees.

- a) Education Committee Meeting – 11:30 a.m., Monday, March 3, 2014, Board Room.
- b) Special Board Meeting – Public Presentations re: 2014-2015 Operating Budget – 7:00 p.m., Monday, March 3, 2014, Board Room.
- c) Friends of Education Committee Meeting – 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 5, 2014, Conference Room.
- d) Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee Meeting – 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 5, 2014, Board Room.
- e) Facilities and Transportation Committee Meeting – 11:30 a.m., Thursday, March 6, 2014, Board Room.
- f) Personnel Committee Meeting – 9:00 a.m., Monday, March 10, 2014, Board Room.
- g) NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – 7:00 p.m., Monday, March 10, 2014, Board Room.

Mr. Sumner – Mr. Snelling

That the Board do now resolve into Committee of the Whole In Camera.

Carried.

IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN CAMERA

4.00 IN CAMERA DISCUSSION:**4.01 Student Issues**

- Reports
- Trustee Inquiries

4.02 Personnel Matters

- Reports
 - a) Confidential #1 – Personnel Report was noted.
 - b) Trustee Kruck requested information regarding material presented during In-Camera at the All-Day Budget meeting.
- Trustee Inquiries

4.03 Property Matters/Tenders

- Reports
 - a) Trustee Karnes provided information regarding In-Camera discussions held at the Facilities and Transportation Committee meeting. The Board provided direction.
 - b) The Secretary-Treasurer provided information regarding a Board Property Matter.
- Trustee Inquiries

4.04 Board Operations

- Reports
 - a) Trustee Sefton spoke to a request he had received regarding Budget protocol.
 - b) Trustee Sefton provided information regarding a request received from the Minister of Education and Advanced Learning.
- Trustee Inquiries

Mr. Kruck – Mr. Snelling

That the Committee of the Whole In Camera do now resolve into Board.

Carried.

5.00 ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Bowslaugh – Mr. Snelling
That the meeting does now adjourn (9:35 p.m.)
Carried.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer