



"Accepting the Challenge"

Finance Committee Minutes

Monday, March 15, 2010 – 10:00 a.m.
Board Room, Administration Office

Present: B. Mayes, Chairperson, G. Buri, R. Coey, Dr. D. Michaels,
G. Barnes.

Regrets: L. Ross (alternate)

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Finance Committee Meeting was called to order at 10:20 a.m. by Committee Chairperson, Mr. Mayes.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Finance Committee Agenda was approved as circulated.

3. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

A) Budget 2010-2011

Discussions were held regarding the various Board Meeting and Stakeholder Consultations which took place during the 2010-2011 budget deliberations. It was felt that the January 18, 2010 meeting providing the Board with the status quo budget information, as well as the meeting with representatives of Manitoba Education regarding the funding announcement had been beneficial. Concern was expressed regarding the lack of participation by the Brandon taxpayer at the public consultation, even with moving the date of the consultation so that it did not coincide with the Lt. Governor's Winterfest. The Secretary-Treasurer reviewed the Board's requirements under the Public Schools Act with respect to informing the public regarding the proposed budget. Suggestions to resolve the various issues raised were discussed with the following possibilities being brought forth:

- cancel the public consultation and move to meeting with various groups in a smaller setting;
- communicate earlier with the Province regarding the funding announcement and tax incentive grant;
- make more of an effort to invite each of the parent group chairs directly;
- make more of an effort to include and listen to senior students;
- possibly work with the Chamber of Commerce to speak at their January luncheon regarding the proposed budget;
- develop a quarterly flyer for all Brandon taxpayers, similar to what the Brandon Regional Health Authority is currently doing.

Further discussions were held regarding future budgets and the possibility of increased class sizes without any suggestions of reductions. The Committee also requested that the Board of Trustees be provided with a list of enhancements and reductions voted on over the past four years.

4. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

A) 2010 – 2011 Pupil-Teacher Ratio

The pupil-teacher ratio calculations resulting from the 2010/2011 budget decisions were reviewed by the Committee. The Committee inquired as to whether or not the pupil-teacher ratio had decreased since 2006 and requested this information from Senior Administration. It was noted that classroom positions have decreased due to an increase in out-of-ratio positions and this information would be provided to the Board of Trustees together with the list of enhancements and reductions approved over the last four

years. It was further noted that the Administrator of Student Support Services and the Elementary SSP Teacher position were being restructured as part of the Collaborative Learning Community restructuring. Trustees requested clarification regarding the Superintendent's discretionary positions, the unassigned positions, the number of EAL teachers in the Division and the number of positions funded by grants. It was noted principal meetings would take place shortly with Senior Administration reviewing instructional plans for the next school year.

B) Confirm Payment of Accounts (February)

The payment of accounts for February circulated to the Committee were reviewed. The payment of accounts as circulated was accepted.

C) Review Monthly Reports (February)

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Kevin Zabowski, reviewed the monthly financial reports as circulated noting the status to date. The Committee asked questions for clarification. The financial report was accepted.

D) Draft Policy – Major Project Requirements

Trustee Coey circulated a proposed draft policy and procedures which expanded on the proposed policy prepared by Senior Administration by providing a brief description under each heading listed in the procedures. It was agreed a newly revised draft copy would be provided at the April Finance Committee meeting.

5. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

NIL.

6. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, April 19, 2010, 10:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

B. Mayes, Chair

G. Buri

R. Coey

L. Ross (alternate)