



"Accepting the Challenge"

Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee Minutes

Friday, February 4, 2011 – 11:30 a.m.

Board Room, Administration Office

Present: P. Bowslaugh, G. Kruck, (Alternate), K. Sumner, Dr. D. Michaels, G. Barnes.

ACC Guests: Mark Frison, President, Alan Copeland, Vice-President, Academic, Pat Stoddart, Dean Academic Services, Karen Hargreaves, Dean, School of Health & Human Services, Barry Gooden, Dean, School of Trades and Technology, Akapelwa Mweemba, AC Manager.

Regrets: M Snelling.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

In the absence of the Committee Chairperson, Mr. Snelling, it was agreed Mrs. Bowslaugh would assume the position of Acting Chairperson for the meeting. The Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee Meeting was called to order at 11:50 a.m. by the Committee Acting Chairperson, Mrs. Bowslaugh.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee Agenda was approved.

3. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

NIL

4. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

A) Equity and Sustainability in Education (Meeting with Assiniboine Community College (ACC) representatives)

Acting Chairperson, Mrs. Bowslaugh, thanked all in attendance for their participation. She reviewed the role of the Brandon School Division Board of Trustees' Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee and highlighted their work to date. The Board's Governance Goals were distributed to all in attendance. The goals specifically related to the Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee were noted.

Representatives of ACC provided information regarding the current partnership with Crocus Plains High School, the BRHA and ACC regarding the Comprehensive Health Care Aide course being offered at Crocus Plains. They also spoke about the possibility of partnering with Crocus Plains High School with respect to the high school's environmental studies program. ACC noted they would like to work with each high school to address their school's individual needs such as the Neelin Off-Campus program, the Vincent Massey design program or the Crocus Plains web-design program. The possibility of establishing a Memorandum of Understanding between the School Division and the Community College was noted and it was agreed the matter would be pursued further.

Low participation rate in post-secondary education was also discussed. Several suggestions were made to market the benefits of pursuing post-secondary education in Brandon and specifically at ACC. Trying a program out for a day; working with school counselors, presentations at high schools to provide a broader understanding of the opportunities available; and better use of technology to advertise future possibilities were all discussed. It was agreed this was an area the Division and ACC could work together on to provide Division students with a better understanding of the post-secondary opportunities available.

The Division requested information regarding the four month Educational Assistant course currently offered at ACC, noting the Division felt the course was not meeting their needs in the area of health care requirements. The Division noted Educational Assistants need to understand their legal liabilities; what it means to work in the schools; and understand the socialization of children; as well as the health care requirements. The Division also did not feel four months was sufficient enough time for training and inquired about the possibility of a full year program for General E.A.s and longer than that for the other levels with a practicum to be included. ACC representatives noted they are currently having trouble filling the Educational Assistant program. They confirmed their graduates do get jobs but unfortunately they are not full time positions. They also struggle with interesting existing E.A.s to take the course and would appreciate any help from the Division in encouraging their employees to take this course. It was agreed that the Division and College would work together to address the concerns raised through the College's Advisory Committee which the Division currently has a representative who works with the Committee.

The Division and College discussed the low EDI rates of some children currently entering Kindergarten. The Division noted the steps they are taking to address this matter and requested the College highlight this trend with their Early Childhood Education students. The Dean of Health and Human Services requested the EDI report be forwarded to her. The Superintendent agreed to do so.

Discussions were also held regarding the impact of the immigrant population on the School Division. College representatives inquired about graduating students and the possible need for bridging to take place between the Division and the College for immigrant students. It was agreed this was positive contact that needed to be made between the college and the three high schools.

Mrs. Bowslaugh concluded the meeting by thanking the representatives of the Community College for their participation. She highlighted the various discussions held noting the College and Division had agreed to work together on the following:

- Developing a Memorandum of Understanding;
- Discussing the Division's needs with respect to Educational Assistants;
- Reviewing marketing strategies;
- Developing further partnerships;
- Providing the College with information regarding the Division's EDI results.

5. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

NIL

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

6. NEXT REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING: 11:30 a.m., Friday, February 18, 2011, Board Room.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Snelling, Chair

P. Bowslaugh

K. Sumner

G. Kruck (Alternate)