



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

PARENT GUARDIAN DIVISION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2013 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

DIVISION OFFICE BOARDROOM

PRESENT:

PAT BOWSLAUGH, TRUSTEE (PB)

AMY GRIFT, MEADOWS

LINDA THIFFEAULT, KING GEORGE

SANDRA KOCH-GENSIOREK, CROCUS PLAINS

KAREN FREEMAN, LINDEN LANES

SHANNON GADBOIS, JR REID

DR. DONNA MICHAELS, SUPERINTENDENT (DMM)

TRACY GAMACHE, HARRISON

NICOLE KOWBEL, WAVERLY PARK

JAMES MURPHY, ECOLE NEW ERA

WANDA BRINE, EARL OXFORD

BARB MILLER, PRINCIPAL REPRESENTATIVE, KING GEORGE SCHOOL

MINUTES

1. Review of Agenda and Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Trustee, Pat Bowslaugh

2. Review of Minutes of April 17, 2013

The Committee minutes of April 17, 2013 were reviewed. A note was made that Shannon Gadbois, JR Reid, will follow-up with Jo-Ann Pasklivich-Holder to check present status of *Community Working Group*.

Business Arising from Minutes of April 17, 2013

Role of Parent Council – Clarified by Trustee Bowslaugh, all members present are part of parent council, operate alike, operate their own executive in their own school, and operate for the betterment of their own school. Each school shares what they do, so it becomes a school report, take back ideas to their own school, celebrate what schools have done (i.e. Farm to School fundraiser).

Cyber Bullying – Has gone nationwide, it is very public. We're working on it, presentations have been made at Board level, BPS very involved.

Youth Revolution – Working to stress the harm on youth drug addiction and alcoholism, encourages healthy lifestyles and choices, Lili Jardine working with students in schools, trying to change student's attitudes surrounding concerns with drugs & alcohol. 300 students involved in the schools. Referred to DMM for comment:

DMM Youth Revolution started in 2009 from Brandon Drug & Alcohol Coalition, which started 9 years ago, Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, CFS, PMH, ACC, BPS, Ecumenical Council, City of Brandon (including the Mayor); trying to do what we can for students to be better educated in drug & alcohol abuse; "We are here for prevention." Coalition has placed new component in physical education in schools promoting healthy living; received Federal government grant. We utilize Lili's talents & services as the coordinator.

"Accepting the Challenge"

PB Are there any questions from the previous minutes?

None

PB I would like to add the topic of Playgrounds to the agenda.

3. Focus on Advisory Committee's Work for 2013/2014 – General Discussion

PB What format would you like to have?

EARL OXFORD Valuable for parents for all different schools to come together, share information collectively, it is a hot spots in terms of what is happening with their parent council, round table of what the schools are doing, generates ideas

ECOLE NEW ERA Similar to others, good idea to see what everyone else is doing

CROCUS PLAINS I agree, involved for 12 years, share information and support each other, sharing is so valuable to see what everyone else is doing, support if issues are happening, last couple years have been really good, back and forth open conversation is very much appreciated

WAVERLY PARK No idea what to expect, sharing is wonderful, good to know what everyone is doing, to have the feed back

KING GEORGE This is new for me, to share information back and forth from Division to the school, issues or concerns, this would be the place, sharing between schools is very valuable

PB In terms of issues, should focus on how to deal with issues. The protocol is really important, there are ways to work through it, DMM would you like to explain

DMM Our job is to resolve problems and continue to strengthen relationships, Division advocates solving problems closest to source, if a parent has a problem with classroom teacher regarding programing, adjustment, assessment reporting, the parent is encouraged to discuss the matter with the teacher, if it is not resolved at the teacher level, parents are encouraged to discuss with principal, if it is not resolved at the principal level, the parent can bring the matter to the attention of Greg Malazdrewicz (GM), Associate Superintendent for resolution, then goes to DMM, DMM seeks to resolve it, if parent is still not happy, the matter goes to Board of trustees. This provides reflection, time to work out issues, keeps relationships at school as strong as they can be; GM & DMM meet with parents to resolve issues not resolved at school. Parents have right to contact their trustees, trustee (unless the matter is a criminal act or breach of civil code) will ask teacher/principal/GM/DMM; Board matters are discussed in private (eg. student expulsion, suspensions, extension of suspensions), dealt with in private by the Board; no public statement; that is the protocol working at it for last 10 years, working quite well;

There are times when people/grandparents get upset, Nancy Gatien, Terri Curtis and Juanita Szteina take that info and provide to DMM; DMM provides direction; redirect back to appropriate source.

Refer to Barb Miller

PRINCIPAL MILLER General conversation, school matters in general, no specifics, all encouraged to direct individual matters to direct teacher, principal etc. general things, like playgrounds, are discussed in this room, I share what I take from this meeting with school principals, so they are aware as well.

DMM Personnel matters – nothing goes uninvestigated at appropriate level, we work closely with BTA to look into matters, there is formal protocol outlined in Collective Agreement for that, CUPE Local for matters for support personnel, transportation, maintenance, sensitive, obligated under Public Schools Act to investigate, and report to Board, proceeds from there.

PB	Refers to brochures at DO reception, please feel free to take them, share with your parent council, that is what they are there for, they answer many questions. I refer to Linda's comment, it is important for people to know that Division has grown astronomically, we have 8300 students now, imagine the number of calls the Division gets, if matters are not followed through protocol.
HARRISON	Sharing is important, Board needs to know what is going on in parent council, in order that there is a pre-emptive solution to things that are happening in the schools;
MEADOWS	Earl Oxford started off well, Meadows put a lot more emphasis in this committee, making sure we have someone here; information coming back so valuable to our parent council; thoroughly enjoy time on council; trying to find ways to grow our group, huge school, dedicated 8-10 members, engage every sector of our diverse school; looking for ways to make this more exciting
J.R. REID	Repeat of what everyone else mentioned, the information, learned so much about other schools, really valuable for us to be here, value trustees participation; become vital piece of parent council meetings, affected our ability on how to fundraise; support from other parents sharing, essential for our success;
PB	Do you have difficulty in getting people to attend? All – Yes
J.R. REID	We've talked about variety of things to get people out to meetings, something like an electronic meeting (adobe connect); it's a quick solution, possibly offer childcare
CROCUS PLANS	We've offered to pay for childcare, bring students in and use parent council funds to pay for childcare, people just have busy schedules,
EARL OXFORD	Our group seems to be the same, kids going into high school next year, it is an ongoing concern, we need to bring an awareness in the newsletter of what we did to contribute to the school; starts people realizing that it does take volunteerism to ensure that this goes back into the school;
LINDEN LANES	We tried for welcome to kindergarten parents, really pushed at young stage; better success;
KING GEORGE	Parents are afraid to volunteer, because of time commitment
PB	When I was a teacher at Meadows, we experienced the same thing then as now, strategy, class web, one person designated from each class, one person to come, take turns to participate; again afraid to join what they might get "hooked" into
EARL OXFORD	With the wonderful new website, is there a way to have it posted on there or through twitter – "Have you considered joining parent council?"
DMM	We would be more than pleased to look into that – Kelli Boklaschuk has all sorts of ways to promote connectivity,
PB	Any there any further comments on this year's work?
DMM	For our November meeting – the Board passed two motions last night, in consultation with all parents/staff/students; each parent on this committee will receive copy of motion and questions for motion for preparation for November's meeting
PB	We empathize with parents as tax payers, added on close to 2500 students, hasn't been 2500 new tax payers to go with each new student; struggle with each decision we make; some of our costs supported by public schools finance Board – portable classrooms – Public Schools Finance Board, other costs associated that we contribute to the function of mobile classrooms;

Even the “thought” of using space at ACC for shop, home ec. and possibly band, there are many hurdles to go through, government owns building; many components, submission going in this week to deputy minister of education to decide whether they will let us pursue using the building; restructuring the building to suit our needs, in Brandon Sun today; accurate reflection of where we’re at, started at a meeting just like this

J.R. REID

Is there any lunch program information from last year; refer to DMM

DMM

The policy review committee of the Board is looking at the whole matter related to lunch programs, lunch rooms, supervision – looking at whether it is possible to have lunch room space & program available to all students in BSD, Board wasn’t ready to look at it as a whole, meeting on Monday, October 21st to get Principals’ view on the issues related to lunch room operation and what it would take to have all students have the opportunity to stay for lunch; parents have critical role in operation; parent run are parent run; we try not to interfere in parent lunch programs unless there is a need to look at financially. The committee will take info and look at whether it is prepared to recommend to Board that this become a budget matter or status quo remains, status quo is working but there are issues with it; the issues are known.

4. Playgrounds

PB

I wanted to bring up to speed on what happened in 2011; parent councils came to us under the impression there was a significant amount of money that looked like surplus at end of June; “we need it for our playground” (\$100,000.00); contacted Keith Thomas, MSB employee all kinds of safety; went to every school and prepared a chronological list of repairs, showing which schools were most needy to least needy;

PB handed out document titled “Brandon School Division School Playground review July 2011”

This has been sent out to schools a few times, please share with your committee; we are working closely with the City of Brandon and came idea that as our playgrounds are un-gated, they become a component within the city, could city help us financially; BSD would put up up \$30,000 for each school which will be matched by the City. Total of \$60,000 for each school, beyond that schools are on their own to reach the cost of the new structure. Specifically, Waverly Park – Bob Lee said actual cost for materials for their new play structure would have been \$190,000, people in community donated work in all kinds;

It is really important when securing funds, as people sometimes like to donate sums of money, funds can be sent to the Division through the “Friends of Education” fund and designated specifically for XX school playground, they are held in account here until you are ready to build, we will issue tax receipts for any amount over \$10.

Does “work in kind” – get receipted – refer to DMM

DMM

We have no way of knowing, there is no appraisal process for what work in kind is worth, charitable organizations do not apply.

PB

The designation needs to be specific to school (playground/library etc)

MEADOWS

Meadows has the Interactive playgrounds with the environment. It is a fully accessible playground, we were able to secure lots of grants, it isn’t made from gravel, looks like wood chips; for wheelchair/walker access; grants are available if you were going that route, based on that criteria,

PB

If there was a group that wanted to hear about interactive playgrounds, I could secure speaker/

Are there any questions about playgrounds?

No

5. School Reports

MEADOWS

- New principal, Dave Lim;
- Major parent council fundraiser completed (magazines);
- “Made in Manitoba breakfast” for entire school; 25 minute presentation on agricultural and foods we eat;
- Pizza day by parent council,
- Movie night for November,
- Meeting next week for elections for executive

J.R. REID

- Elections in spring, one new person as secretary;
- Working on our constitution and fundraising goals;
- Welcome back BBQ September 18th; parents sign up for activities with email;
- Fundraiser completed participation 33%;
- Parent council letter went out advising of what happened last year;
- School is packed, even the staff room has been converted to a classroom

EARL OXFORD

- Good start; transition from last year, settling down with all changes;
- Influx of bus students to school;
- Staffing changes;
- Change up fundraising, being aware of student population;
- Movie night;
- Magic show fundraiser – highly successful across Canada, we’re doing investigation into this ; involve students for minimal cost;
- Not doing ladies night this year low turnout last year; lack of volunteers;
- Playground - \$11,000 shy of what we need; \$4000 - \$5000 put away each year to get our goal; impact won’t be able to provide as much funds back to school (teacher’s wish list);

LINDEN LANES

- Elections & constitution were complete last year;
- Just having our first major fundraiser, everything slated to go, family orientated carnival, movie night & dance, bring out parents & families and let kids have fun,
- Last year we raised funds to put a new sound system in the gym, try to do something big for every year for people to aim towards;
- We’re open to suggestions on good ideas, how to get involved etc., change it up a bit;

NEW ERA

- Student enrolment lower this year (470);
- Committee working on outdoor playground space, environmentally friendly, competition,
- Welcome back BBQ, good turnout;
- We gave away 60 school t-shirts to Kindergarten students,
- We have spirit day every Friday;
- Veggie fundraiser \$4000 raised, up \$300-400 this year, having this before thanksgiving paid off; turned money around to math resource teacher & kindergarten program (musical instruments & puppets); 7 & 8 money for art supplies; choir program t-shirts; Knit Wits fundraiser (animal, WWF toques & mitts scarves) knitwits.com (\$20 - \$12.50)

CROCUS PLAINS

- New Principal (Mathew Gustafson);
- High Schools still have high school fundraisers, hockey, football etc; current Grade 11 for their Grade 12 trip to France air/hotel fundraising for bus to/from Winnipeg, money for kids; waiting for Board approval;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just had our meet the teacher night, • We're doing Sobeys cards and Mom's Pantry, the usual things; • Something very exciting this year; our curling team 22 kids this year, we have a new teacher involved as coach, up to at least 5 teams
WAVERLY PARK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the teachers very well attended; • Magazine sales finished yesterday, switched companies this year, • Pizza day; • Working on tree planting grant hoping for 5-6 trees before ground freezes
KING GEORGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have quite a few new members, • Welcome back BBQ • Terry Fox Run; • Peak of the Market \$1790 (50% profit); • We have an ongoing fundraiser ink cartridges & cell phones; • Artist in the School The Coffee Man; • We're setting money aside for long-term repairs & maintenance on playground; • We have nearly ¾ of school staying for lunch; • Question: Are we reviewing the pay structure for parent council paid supervisors, is there a list from schools? Pay for 1.5 hours or 1.0 hours? - TC to review lunch room report – put on agenda for November
HARRISON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have house t-shirts, kids appreciate being part of school; teams within the school; students earn tickets points for their house to win, part of HALEP; • Peak of the Market with a donation to the Samaritan house, classes helped Samaritan House by sorting out food; • BBQ & dance tomorrow with Minute to Win It, • Gr. 8 to Quebec; • New subcommittee under parent council, high school end of French education – extend programming into high school level;
PB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One major concern; crossing of street on Queen's (route for ambulance) speed limit on streets, no crossing guards, no bus turnaround; kids running across street not in crosswalk; COP, cars not stopping for bus, possibly making a bus turnaround; <p>Speed & traffic zones are on trustee's radar, principals were asked to provide areas of concern; all brought in and compiled and sent to the City; we talked about it in May/June; councillors, trustees, senior admin, BSD not responsible for speed zones but this is in the works with the City</p>
HARRISON	Craig has discussed matter with Mel (transportation) about turnaround.
PB	Futures & Community Relations Committee – visiting schools, bring back to Trustees
J.R. REID	Decisions made by consensus – do we have to use a formal motion for decisions on money
EARL OXFORD	They should be formalized for your protection
DMM	Protection yes, funds are open to audit and are audited on an on-going basis by Secretary Treasurer

PB

I appreciate your contributions and thank you for being here. I wish you well in your upcoming meetings

6. Date of Next Meeting Wednesday, November 20, 2013

Follow-Up

- ❖ Is it possible to post on the BSD website/individual school websites or through the BSD Twitter account a post related to joining parent council? (refer matter to Kelli Boklaschuk)
- ❖ October 15, 2013 Board Meeting, two (2) motions passed – provide copies of motion and questions in preparation for meeting on November 20, 2013
- ❖ November 20, 2013 Agenda Item: Lunch Room Report (TC to provide committee members)

Meeting Adjourned