



"Accepting the Challenge"

Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee Minutes

Thursday, April 19, 2012 – 11:30 a.m.

Conference Room, Admin Office

Present: P. Bowslaugh, Chairperson, M. Snelling (Alternate), Dr. D. Michaels

Guest: Inspector Doug Thompson, Brandon Police Service

Regrets: K. Sumner, J. Murray

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 a.m. by Chairperson, Trustee Bowslaugh.

2. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

A) Meeting with Representative of City of Brandon Police Department.

The Chairperson welcomed Inspector Doug Thompson to the meeting. Inspector Thompson brought greetings on behalf of the Chief of the Brandon Police Service.

Mrs. Bowslaugh provided information regarding the responsibilities of the Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee. She noted the various groups, organizations and stakeholders the Committee has met with over the past several years. Mrs. Bowslaugh cited the impact these Committee meetings have on the Division's budget as a result of the conversations held and the information provided.

Discussions were held regarding the role of the School Resource Officer (SRO) in the Division. Superintendent, Dr. Michaels, provided background information pertaining to the development of this position and placement in the schools. Trustee Snelling noted the positive impact of the SRO stating that in his years as a Trustee he has seen a decrease in both expulsion hearings and suspensions. Inspector Doug Thompson highlighted the benefits to the students, staff and community. Trustees asked questions regarding the workload of the officer assigned to this position; the number of positions required; and the best strategy for obtaining additional positions. It was noted two officers at each level would allow for better planning and a consistent presence in the schools. It was agreed networking with the appropriate government officials on a regular basis; current statistics; and the recognition of the safety benefits to all would help bring awareness of the need for additional staffing in this area.

Discussions were also held regarding the "Adopt-a-Cop" program; the benefits to the officer assigned to the school; and the issue of equity with respect to such programming. Further discussions were held regarding various topics of mutual interest with respect to promoting and maintaining a safe school environment.

The Chairperson thanked Inspector Thompson for his attendance and active participation.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Bowslaugh, Chair

J. Murray

K. Sumner

M. Snelling (Alternate)