A. Business Arising for Board Action

I. PRESENTATIONS

II. HUMAN RESOURCES

III. SECRETARY-TREASURER

1. THE GORDON SEFTON FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

For Action..... K. Zabowski

The Sefton Family wished to amend the Gordon and Barbara Sefton Memorial Scholarship as follows:

1) In the first preamble paragraph following the name Barbara Sefton the words "strongly supported him in these positions over the years" has been removed and replaced with the words "was a teacher assistant at George Fitton School for many years".
2) The amount of the scholarship be increased from $500.00 to $1,000.00.
3) The term of the scholarship be changed from "until June 2021, or until ten scholarships have been provided" to "until June 2019, or until eight scholarships have been provided".

The Agreement between The Gordon Sefton Family and the Division as amended to reflect these changes is attached as Appendix A. A motion is included in the agenda for Board consideration. Please contact me should you require further information.

RECOMMENDATION:
That the Gordon and Barbara Sefton Memorial Scholarship be amended and approved as follows:

1) In the first preamble paragraph following the name Barbara Sefton the words "strongly supported him in these positions over the years" has been removed and replaced with the words "was a teacher assistant at George Fitton School for many years".
2) The amount of the scholarship be increased from $500.00 to $1,000.00.
3) The term of the scholarship be changed from "until June 2021, or until ten scholarships have been provided" to "until June 2019, or until eight scholarships have been provided".

And the Chairperson and Secretary-Treasurer are hereby authorized to sign the agreement.

2. ADVISORY COMMITTEE

For Action..... K. Zabowski

At the Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee Meeting held on January 10, 2012, the Committee met with various representatives to discuss the possibility of the establishment of an Aboriginal Advisory Committee which would support the Aboriginal Education Learning Specialist. A copy of the Minutes of January 10, 2012 proposing who would sit on the Committee and the Committee's purpose is attached as Appendix B. At the Special Board Meeting held February 21, 2012, the Board agreed Aboriginal Education Learning Specialist position would be brought forward for the 2012/2013 Budget. It is now, therefore, appropriate for the Board to discuss the establishment of an Advisory Committee and whether or not there will be Board representation on such a Committee.

3. RECOGNITION OF TRADE EXPERIENCE

For Action..... K. Zabowski

Article 8.03 of the current Collective Agreement between the Division and the Brandon Teachers' Association provides for the recognition of increments for related experience for teachers holding a special certificate and employed in the areas of vocational industrial education, agriculture and marketing education. These programs are offered at Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School.

Mr. Greg Malazdrewicz, Associate Superintendent and Mr. Darren Hardy, representative of the Brandon Teachers' Association, have reviewed the documentation submitted by Mr. William Derek May for related work experience for increment purposes as follows:

The summary identified Mr. William Derek May, Vocational Industrial Arts Teacher – Culinary Arts at Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School with a total of 245 months or the equivalent of 20.42 years of relevant trade experience.

RECOMMENDATION:

That William Derek May, Vocational Arts Industrial Arts Teacher – Culinary Arts, be granted 3 (three) increments for the first 3 years of trade experience and an additional 7 (seven) increments for the remaining years of experience, providing him a total of (maximum) 10 (ten) increments for work related experience as per Article 8 of the Collective Agreement.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

1. CROCUS PLAINS REGIONAL SECONDARY HIGH SCHOOL OFF-SITE ACTIVITY REQUEST

For Action.....G. Malazdrewicz

Crocus Plains Regional Secondary High School has submitted an off-site activity request (attached as Appendix C for Board of Trustees consideration) for twenty-four (24) grade 11 and 12 high school students, from Crocus Plains Regional Secondary High School to make a trip to Northern Europe from March 21, 2013 to April 1, 2013.

Mr. Terry Osiowy, Principal, Crocus Plains Regional Secondary High School, and Mr. Greg Malazdrewicz, Associate Superintendent, have approved this trip. Approval from the Board of Trustees is respectfully requested.

RECOMMENDATION:
That the trip involving 24 high school students from Crocus Plains Regional Secondary High School to Northern Europe from March 21, 2013 to April 1, 2013 be approved and carried out in accordance with Board Policy/Procedures 4001: Off-Site Activities.

V. SENIOR ADMINISTRATION RESPONSE TO TRUSTEE INQUIRIES

1. TRUSTEE INQUIRY –INQUIRY FROM GLEN KRUCK – B.J. HALES MUSEUM

For Information.....D. Michaels

At the February 27, 2012 Regular Board meeting, Trustee Kruck requested information regarding the placement of the B.J. Hales Museum Collection at Earl Oxford School. A report noting the chronological development on this matter, including history on the origins of the collection and excerpts from Committee Meetings and Board Meetings, is attached as Appendix D for the Board's information.

B. Administrative Information

I. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. PERSONNEL REPORT

For Information ..... B. Switzer

Included in the agenda package as Confidential #1 is the Personnel Report, a listing of resignations and employment approved by the Superintendent of Schools and Secretary-Treasurer since the last meeting.

II. SECRETARY-TREASURER

1. BUS ACCIDENT

For Information ..... K. Zabowski

Correspondence has been received from the Supervisor of Transportation advising of an accident on Wednesday, February 29, 2012, at approximately 4:41 p.m., involving bus 40-29, while on relief duty assignment on route Red 9. The bus struck a hydro pole. No apparent injuries were sustained by the driver of the bus or its passengers. There were three students on board at the time of the accident. There was significant damage to the pole and very little damage to the bus. At no time did the hydro line come in contact with the bus as they remained intact and were supporting the damaged pole. Approximate damage to the pole was estimated to be $5,000. The accident was reported to Manitoba Public Insurance. This is provided as information.

2. 2012/2013 FRAME BUDGET

For Information ..... K. Zabowski

At the March 12, 2012 Regular Board Meeting, the Final Budget for 2012-2013 and the Special Levy Requirement were approved.

The Brandon School Division 2012-2013 Financial Budget (FRAME) as submitted to The Public Schools Finance Board and revised budget pages are provided for your information as Appendix E.

3. BUS ACCIDENT

For Information ..... K. Zabowski

Correspondence has been received from the Supervisor of Transportation advising of an accident on Friday, March 16, 2012, at approximately 3:00 p.m., involving bus 40-29, while on regular route assignment on route Red 9. The bus was struck by another vehicle from the rear while the bus was stopped at a traffic light Northbound on 1st St. at Park Avenue. The driver of the other vehicle is 100% at fault. No apparent injuries were sustained by the driver of the bus. There were no students on the bus at the time of the accident. There was little to no damage to the school bus, however the other

vehicle's damage will exceed $1,000. The accident was reported to Manitoba Public Insurance. Brandon Police were in attendance at the scene of the accident. This is provided as information.

III. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

1. SCHOOL INFORMATION

For Information ..... D. Michaels

A. QUALITY TEACHING

QUALITY TEACHING AT ÉCOLE O'KELLY SCHOOL
Report prepared by Ms. Angela Voutier, Principal, École O'Kelly School

The key goals for our school are in literacy, numeracy, and citizenship.

K-8 Literacy - To improve the literacy skills of our students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 in the areas of: Making connections & reflecting when reading, improve fluency & comprehension and using conventions & more descriptive words appropriately.
Work in the literacy area at O'Kelly has been focused around the use of RTI programming in classrooms for literacy/guided reading support. Staff has been busy using our new Levelled Literacy program and implementing this in our Early Years Literacy Support program while Literacy Place Resources have been acquired and implemented at Kindergarten and Middle Years. There is a continued focus on the implementation of the write traits school wide, and we are acquiring and promoting multi-cultural literature through library programs. The literacy committee also planned and carried out a very successful "I Love to Read Week" and writing is being encouraged with some new initiatives like Poetry Coffee house and author's corner.

K-8 Math - To improve the Numeracy skills of our students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 in the areas of problem solving and in the development of numeracy profiles. It has been a busy so far for our Numeracy committee. They have developed a Math continuum for K-3 development and implementation and are putting the finishing touches on a Numeracy learner profile to use for year end reporting. Both Early Years and Middle Years staff continue the use of Origo Math strategies, and three classrooms have invested in the Mathletics software to implement. This program has been enthusiastically received students and parents.

B. QUALITY SUPPORT SERVICES

QUALITY SUPPORT SERVICES AT WAVERLY PARK SCHOOL
Report prepared by Mr. Bob Lee, Principal, Waverly Park School

Waverly Park is focusing Quality Support Services in the 2011 / 2012 School Year in the following areas:

Literacy: Specialist supporting school initiatives with writing. The BSD Literacy Specialist provided a writing session for all staff on February 4, 2012. We used this opportunity to discuss and promote the value of literacy beyond the English as an Additional Language (ELA) classroom and provide strategies for all subject areas to incorporate writing strategies to support all learners.
Numeracy: Specialist supporting school advancement with Origo math and exploration of online math initiatives such as Mathletics. The Brandon School Division Math Specialist has also provided sessions on a variety of topics for Early and Middle Years staff over the course of this school year which all grade levels have attended.
At Risk Learners: Divisional Program Facilitator and clinical staff involved with monthly review of student needs and offering support to address these needs. We have also utilized Professional Development sessions designed to support funding applications and other "resource" areas related to struggling learners. Our EA staff has also taken advantage of Professional Development opportunities offered on conference days, most recently dealing with behaviorally challenged students.
ICT: Brandon Scholl Division ICT staff have set up our wireless network, (we most recently have added a cart of laptops and I-Pads), and provided instruction on the challenges of the wireless system and looking at apps and software that will further enhance this new hands on engagement and practical tool for student success.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE AND STATISTICAL INFORMATION

SUSPENSIONS

SCHOOL	NO./STUDENTS	NO./DAYS	REASON
Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School	7	3,5,15	Assaultive, Drug and Alcohol, Unacceptable
King George School	1	3	Assaultive Behaviour
Vincent Massey High School	2	3	Unacceptable Behaviour

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL) ENROLMENT REPORTING / FEBRUARY 2012

The Brandon School Division Currently has 1209 English as an Additional Language (EAL) Students.

- 26 new registrations for the current school year were received in February 2012;
- 3 students left the Brandon School Division from February 1 – 29, 2012.

The number of new EAL registrations received to date for the 2011/2012 school year is as follows:

Month of Registration	Number of New EAL

	Registrations Received
August 2011	3
September 2011	188
October 2011	20
November 2011	18
December 2011	7
January 2012	9
February 2012	26
Total	271

The current school totals are as follows:

	Current Total	Students who have left the Division	EAL Discontinued (Stage 5+)
Alexander	0		
Betty Gibson	103	5	
Crocus Plains	145	17	1
Earl Oxford	63	1	
George Fitton	85	4	
Green Acres	20	1	
Harrison	1		
J.R. Reid	21		
King George	74	4	
Kirkcaldy Heights	23	1	
Linden Lanes	20		
Meadows	122	5	
Neelin	30	3	
New Era	152	9	
O'Kelly	10		
Riverheights	59	1	
Riverview	46	1	
Spring Valley	19		
St. Augustine	38	2	2
Valleyview Centennial	11	1	1
Vincent Massey	133	8	2
Waverly Park	34	1	
Total	1209	64	6

The number of students who left Brandon School Division from February 1 - 29, 2012 is 3 (three).

Of the three (3) students that left the Brandon School Division:

- one (1) student moved to Ontario.

- one (1) student moved to China.
- one (1) student left (work force/post secondary. Grad last year).

Two (2) students changed catchment areas within the Brandon School Division from February 1 – 29, 2012.

2. DIVISIONAL INITIATIVES

For Information ..... D. Michaels

A. QUALITY LEARNING

COMMUNITY DRUG AND ALCOHOL EDUCATION COALITION MEETING / FEBRUARY 16, 2012

The most recent meeting of the Community Drug and Alcohol Education Coalition Committee was held on February 16, 2012. The following updates were discussed:

Federal Funding Update

Lana Daniel reported the status of the funding for Drugs and Tobacco Initiatives is focused on three parts; Prevention, Funding and Health Promotion. These programs are engaged with parents that focus on the issues, what the needs are and the differences. Ottawa is monitoring the use of pharmaceuticals and mis-use. They track the trends and changes. The Drug Strategy Community Initiatives Fund will be ending March 31, 2012.

Marianne Penner reported on the roundtable meetings with several groups; housing, income levels, influx of workers coming from across Canada, workplaces and drug use in the workplace and accessibility to drugs is easier to get than alcohol.

Trustee Kruck questioned if there was an evaluation (AFM did provincial studies) when funding was cut off; not able to evaluate any at the government level available? It was determined that the "Canada Alcohol Monitoring Survey" was done.

Jane (Brandon Regional Health Authority) indicated that they are looking at another Youth Survey for the fall of 2012; expanding into adult surveillance with student identifiers. Vanessa Hamilton and Nancy McPherson are the contact people for this survey.

Marianne discussed the local funding and extended funding details and is working at getting everything organized and into place. In regards to the application process, tentative proposal date is for April 1, 2013.

Setting Priority Directions for 2012/2013 Arising Out of Logic Model

Lili Jardine, Community Drug & Alcohol Education Coalition Coordinator, explained how the student forums have worked through the community and with parents. The Addictions Foundation of Manitoba handles referrals from schools. Sessions are quite full and are connecting with higher functioning parents. There are some limitations with "at risk" parents.

Vanessa Hamilton brought forward some details of the forthcoming Youth survey. The Brandon Regional Health Authority (BRHA) has worked in collaboration with Healthy Families, Manitoba Housing, Child and Family Services, Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee and Reverend Paul Sakasov.
The Coalition indicated there is a need to focus more with the "parents at risk". Health Canada consultants confirmed that there is no specific Federal study to focus on this group because all youth are at risk.

Brandon Police Service has connections with all agency programs; Manitoba Liquor Control Commission, Brandon School Division schools, Brandon Regional Health Authority and Assiniboine Community College. Staff Sergeant Doug Thompson brought up the topic of town hall meetings and open forums. They had noticed that discussion became more and more open and had more of a positive outcome.

Dr. Donna Michaels shared details of the September 2005 forum for Crystal Meth and the next forum in 2007, Friends of TJ, for cocaine.

The committee discussed whether they should have more spread out forums throughout the year or if the forum topic ideas should be controlled more by the parents. This would help to know what resources would be made available to them.

Shirley from Addictions Foundation of Manitoba indicated that people can't get sidelined on the "hot topics". Alcohol abuse is still an important issue. There is a large stigma with this topic; making it hard to reach out to parents. Another issue is that children have such easy access to prescription medication today.

Jayne Troop, Brandon Regional Health Authority, and Lili Jardine, Student Leadership Teacher, Vincent Massey High School, discussed the Healthy Sources Program.

Mathew Gustafson, Principal, Vincent Massey High School indicated that an alcohol topic forum would not lead to attendance. He feels the use of social media would create an initial interest as parents don't often know what to do.

Trustee Kruck brought forward that the BNRC would be interested in partnering with these associations and that there is funding available.

The Youth Revolution has a positive impact on students, parents and the community.

Laura Moar, Brandon Friendship Centre, would like the Youth Revolution to attend but feels that any presentations should take place at the Friendship Centre. Through the programs and information provided they can reach out to the families in a more effective manner.

Discussions took place on how to plan a way to organize a method to reach out to parents. A model could possibly be set up for early June. Vanessa Hamilton, Shirley Kendzierski, Brandon Police Service, Trustee Linda Ross, Trustee Glen Kruck, Brandon Friendship Centre and the Brandon School Division are all very supportive of this idea.

Partner Updates

Addictions Foundation of Manitoba

- Engaging a strategic planning process. This should be developed by October 2012;
- They have hired a company to handle internal surveys and focus groups;
- The most recent trends for the community are: Alcohol, impaired driving and prescription medication addiction; and
- The National Conference is being held April 18 & 19, 2012. Lili Jardine will be attending and speaking on the work of the Coalition.

Assiniboine Community College

- A Wellness coordinator from HR has been doing more presentations regarding stress management and mental health.

Brandon Chamber of Commerce – no report

Brandon Friendship Centre

- Several presentations have taken place regarding addictions.

Brandon Ministerial Association

- A letter of thanks was sent to Reverend Paul Sakasov for his contributions to the Coalition.

Brandon Police Service

- Media for positive partnerships, MPI R.I.D. (Reduce Impaired Drivers) program is underway.

Several educational pamphlets are being used:

1. COPPS Program
2. MB Liquor Commission
3. MB Finance – Tobacco Use
4. Brandon School Division – working in house with children
5. Brandon Regional Health Authority, Brandon University is staying in touch with various agencies.
6. TADD/MADD

Overall, the Brandon Police Service is very happy with the community Drug and Alcohol Education Coalition.

Brandon Regional Health Authority (BRHA)

- Teen Clinic feedback positive and supportive with more frequent sessions in demand
- The proposal to Manitoba Health denied additional space; they will see what other options are available.
- A proposal for funding for Youth Suicide Prevention; Sources for Strength.
- Mental Health National Summit/PAX Program; this is a "good behavior program" that is effective in managing students with ADHD.

Brandon School Division Schools

- Dr. Michaels noted an increase in parent meetings in regards to behavioural suspensions. Some parents are at a loss with what to do and where to get information. There has been more counseling since September 2011 to present time because of the complex issues. The Addictions Foundation has provided great support and the School Division continues to use them as a referral option.

High Schools

Neelin

- Implementing the National Student Survey next week; Grade 9's are more settled into the high school environment

Vincent Massey

- National Student Survey; second year in progress. Trends are decreasing with the early years.
- Suspensions are down.

Youth Revolution Update

- Working on over 130 projects
- Youth Revolution Summit – February 22, 2012
- Festival of the Arts – Drum Café
- Health Canada Conference – Toronto – March 31/2012
- SPIN Committee – Wellness Day
- Invited to AFM Conference (April 2012)
- Working on an evaluation in April (will make available to the Committee)

Brandon University

- Student stress levels are high

The next meeting date is to be determined at a later date.

ÉCOLE SECONDAIRE NEELIN HIGH SCHOOL CAREER DAY 2012 / FEBRUARY 29, 2012

The idea of a Career Day for Neelin students was proposed last year by the school's administration in response to feedback received from students as part of the *Tell Them from Me Survey*. Neelin's Career Day focused on all grade 11 and 12 students in hopes of exposing them to a variety of careers. The endeavour would also serve as a great springboard activity for all students that would attend the Brandon Career Symposium one week later. Ms. Romanowski (Guidance Counsellor) and Ms. Charles (Career Development teacher) were asked to create an event that would invite local professionals into the high school where students would be given a first-hand look into a 'Day in the Life' of someone in a career of their interest.

A list of local professions was brainstormed with the idea of attracting professionals who would then share their experience in careers that would peak the interest of the majority of our students. Those who confirmed their attendance included a: lawyer, psych nurse, registered nurse, police officer, firemen, dentist, veterinarian, funeral director, social worker, real estate agent, and a representative for apprenticeship training who discussed programming for all trades careers.

The sessions were well attended by the students and we believe this was due in part to the fact that students were able to select professions that they were genuinely interested in. Members of the Neelin staff who supervised the students provided feedback on the sessions and mentioned:

"They (presenters) were well prepared for the presentations and had a wide range of information leading into the profession, working in the profession, and also thoughts about how long most people last in the profession too. I really believe it was a valuable experience for the students."

"He (presenter) came prepared, had a handout for the kids, engaged them with questions (i.e. "does anyone know anywhere in Brandon where a psych nurse may work?", "what is schizophrenia?", "does anyone know of any other mental disorders other than schizophrenia?", etc.). He had lots of questions and answered them really well and overall was a great presenter!" The kids were very engaged.

"I had the firefighter and he was great. He really interacted with the kids and answered all questions thoroughly. He was really interesting to listen to...and I heard his speech twice!"

"The lawyer did an excellent job of making the career sound interesting, flexible, and attainable. A few students even stuck around following the presentation to ask more specific questions, and I had one student in particular say that it changed his mind on taking a year off from school and it has steered him now in the direction of law after a two year time period at BU (which he wasn't even considering prior to today)."

A wide range of comments from teachers and students was received from this activity. Neelin looks forward to taking this information into consideration for next year's 'Day in the Life', a second annual Career Day! The day proved to be quite a success for the students and also allowed members of the community to return to high school for the afternoon.

MULTI-AGENCY PREVENTION PROGRAM (MAPP) EXECUTIVE MEETING / MARCH 1, 2012

The most recent meeting of the Multi-Agency Prevention Program (MAPP) Executive Meeting was held on March 1, 2012. The following updates were discussed:

Purpose and Focus of March 1, 2012 Meeting

The history of the Multi Agency Prevention Program (MAPP) was reviewed. Chief Atkinson confirmed a balance of $26,959.05 for the committee account.

An in-depth discussion ensued on the purpose of the MAPP Committee and if it is beneficial to have this committee continue.

Mr. D. McGregor, CEO, Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba

On the topic of the need for the Committee, Mr. McGregor indicated the need exists as there is an increasing number of high or at risk situations. Grades 5-10 are the most "at risk" age group. There are 12 year olds who are involved with the judicial system.

Mr. Vince MacKay, Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services

Mr. MacKay agreed with Mr. McGregor. Their agency deals with many family issues including addictions, poverty, younger families, and historical abuse.

Ms. Marycia Sieklicki , Director, Manitoba Prosecutions/MB Justice

There are a lot of youth age 12 and up involved in the judicial systems.

Ms. Sarah Maher, John Howard Society

Their agency is dealing with many younger and younger individuals. The struggle is that the youth have such self protected modes of being. They are hard to convince of any type of change or want to accept any type of help. The short form process is working for referral purposes and providing sufficient information.

Mr. McGregor clarified that parents sign an information release form for MAPP so that all agencies can obtain the same information. This is another good reason for

the committee to get together; so that everyone is aware of any changes that have to be made to work together more efficiently.
It was noted that there are no effective youth programs for arson or theft prevention.

Ms. Ivy Vergen, Probation Services

Ms. Vergen explained that their agency has dealt with a few 12 year olds (court mandated) but most of their cases involve 14 year olds and older. Many of the cases have very specific information that has parent/guardians involved. Ivy sees this committee as beneficial for proper release of information.

Ms. Shirley Kendzierski, Director, Addictions Foundation of Manitoba

The committee and the AFM are very proactive for the team approach. There are two active programs that support confidentiality and it is important for the MAPP committee to go in the same direction. MAPP has helped this option come together. The parent pieces of information are very important. Dauphin has a program in operation right now. Brandon has a need for this too but requires a clear vision as to what the goal is.

Mr. MacGregor commented that some of the focus has been lost.

Chief Atkinson proposed that the John Howard Society prepare a proposal for the Youth Gang Prevention Program Fund. The details for this fund are attached as Appendix B.

Dr. Michaels raised a question: Is there a necessity to share information as designed? (Cooperation/collaboration/consultation)

Mr. MacGregor agreed with both. With the two-tiered model there is more focus on the child and family. There is a requirement to have a higher level to focus on youth at risk. Ms. Kendsierski discussed the rural front line staff and how they meet with the case workers directly. The coordinator keeps the process held together. There is a lack of information at times; so, it's more complicated to help those who need it.
Ms.Vergen said a case conference is possible. Why duplicate service?
Ms.Kendzierski questioned which organizations are all involved on each case?
Dr. Michaels indicated that there is much investigating as to which organization is working with whom. Meanwhile the youth are not getting the help they need. If the agencies were to update the MAPP committee would it be well received by the front line workers?
Ms. Vergen clarified that this would add a lot of extra work to caseloads. The workers would be reluctant to do this process.

Chief Atkinson would like to put the focus on only specific amount of MAPP committee. Mr. MacGregor explained that as long as four agencies were involved it was acceptable and that is part of the MAPP Agenda.

Dr. Michaels, Brandon School Division

Dr. Michaels raised another question as to what programs are available. Without knowing what is available, the continuity issues are being moved through the system. This enables parent cases and youth cases to fall "through the cracks." Currently there are 20-30 children who are in this situation. A coordinator position would help bridge this gap. It was noted that a lot of the "at risk" students don't have families. It would be beneficial to open up the program to make the MAPP committee an ordered program.

A general consensus to move forward with the MAPP committee was decided. A proposal will be drawn up by Sarah Maher. The committee has authorized some funds to get this process started. It was agreed that $5000.00 would be used for an assessment tool that helps youth at risk.

Sarah confirmed to send the request but will require letters from committee members.

Encouraging outcome from all these meetings.

Chief Atkinson spoke about the Mental Health Conference with Justice Canada. An invitation has been extended to the Committee. This conference is for developing a "turn about" program for Brandon. This program is directed for children ages 12 years and up. The information is attached as Appendix A. Vince expressed interest in attending this conference.

The next meeting date is to be determined at a later date.

B. QUALITY SUPPORT SERVICES

QUALITY SUPPORT SERVICES AT VINCENT MASSEY HIGH SCHOOL

Report prepared by Mr. Mathew Gustafson, Principal, Vincent Massey High School

A Framework for Assessing Student Engagement

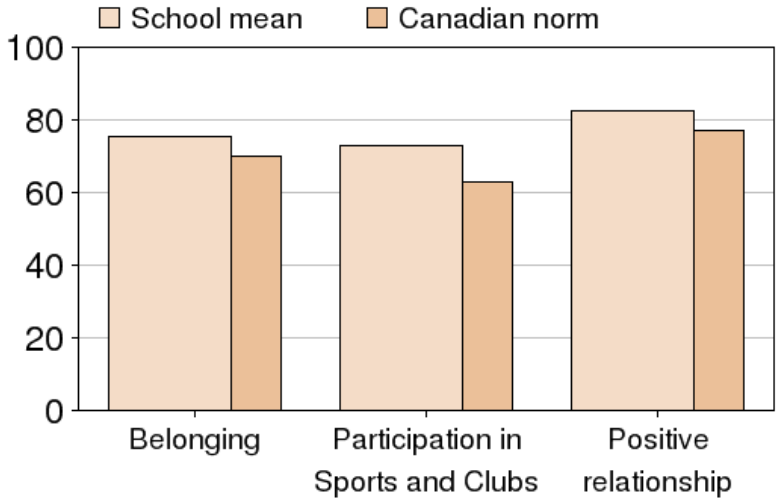
Vincent Massey High School has administered the Tell Them From Me Survey to students for two years. The survey is used in the school planning process. The *Tell Them From Me* Effective Schools Survey includes nine measures of student engagement, categorized as social, institutional and intellectual engagement. For each aspect of engagement (social, institutional, intellectual), students were asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with a number of

statements, such as "I get along well with others at school." Their scores were scaled on a 10-point scale, and students with scores above 6.0 (i.e., a mild to moderately favourable view) were considered engaged.

Social Engagement

Students who are *socially* engaged are actively involved in the life of the school; their friends are there and they are involved in sports or other extra-curricular activities. This involvement can give them a sense of belonging at school and increase academic motivation. Figure 1 shows the percentage of students in Vincent Massey High School that were socially engaged compared with national norms for students at the grade levels assessed in this school.

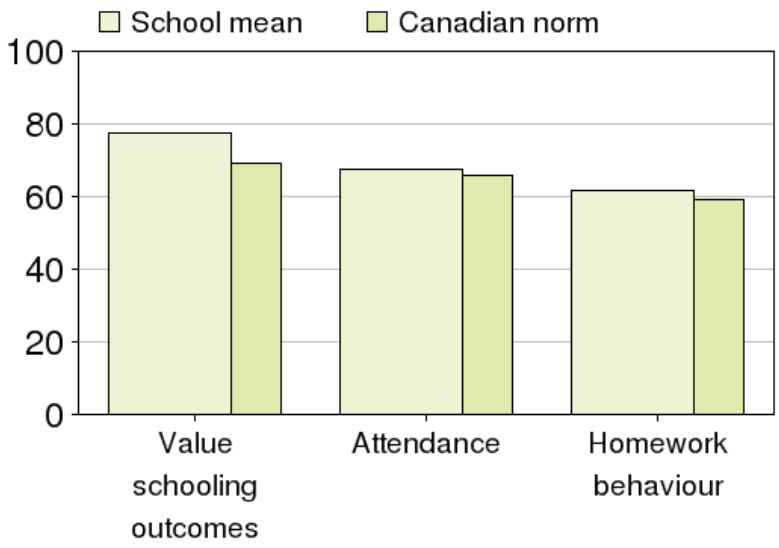
Figure 1: Percentage of students socially engaged at Vincent Massey High School



Institutional Engagement

Students who value schooling outcomes and meet the formal rules of schooling are considered *institutionally* engaged. These students feel that what they are learning at school is directly related to their long-term success, and this view is reflected in their school and class attendance and their effort in doing homework. Levels of institutional engagement in Vincent Massey High School are shown in Figure 2.

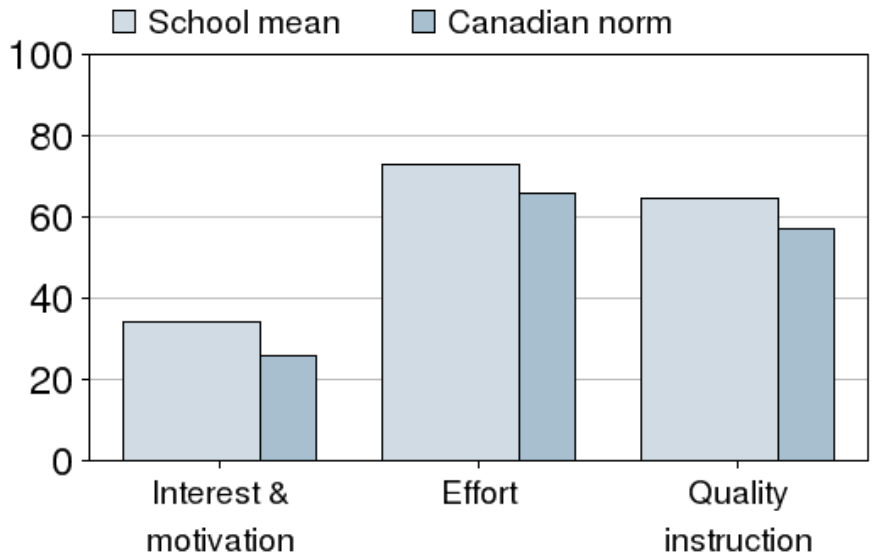
Figure 2: Percentage of students institutionally engaged at Vincent Massey High School



Intellectual Engagement

Some students meet the institutional demands of school, but they are not truly engaged in their learning. Intellectual engagement entails a serious emotional and cognitive investment in learning, using higher-order thinking skills, to increase understanding, solve complex problems, and construct new knowledge. It is closely tied to the quality of instruction offered at school, as there is an interaction between a teacher's approach to instruction and student motivation. Figure 3 displays the results for Vincent Massey High School on the three measures of intellectual engagement.

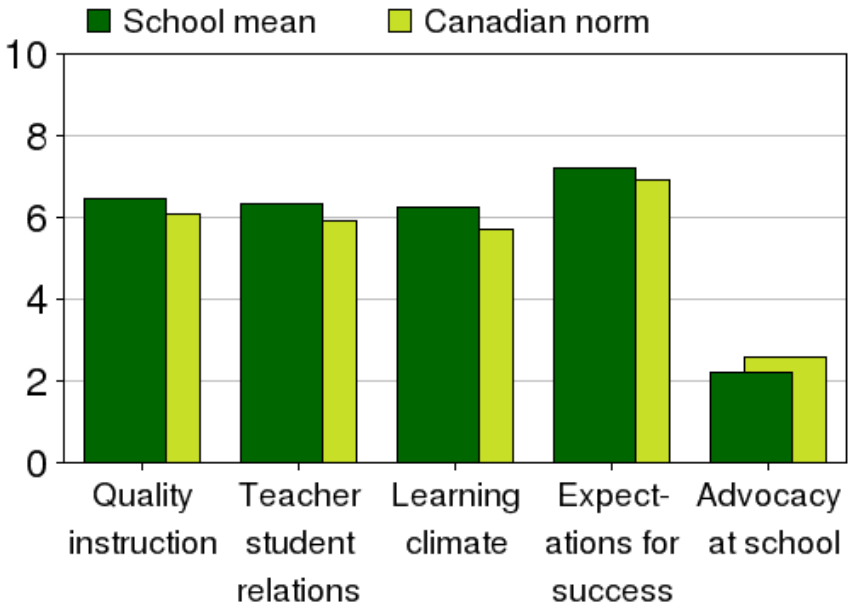
Figure 3: Percentage of students intellectually engaged at Vincent Massey High School



Drivers of Student Engagement

Findings from the *Tell Them From Me Project: Measuring Student Engagement* found that there were considerable differences among schools in their levels of engagement and only some of this variation is attributable to students' family backgrounds. Five school-level factors were consistently related to student engagement: quality instruction (averaged across students and three key subjects), teacher-student relations, classroom learning climate, teacher expectations for success, and student advocacy. Figure 4 shows the average scores on a ten-point scale for each factor for Vincent Massey High School compared with national norms for students at the grade levels assessed in this school.

Figure 4: School-levels factors associated with student engagement at Vincent Massey High School



3. CORRESPONDENCE

For Information ..... D. Michaels

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM DANIELLE PARENT, EDUCATION OFFICER, MANITOBA EDUCATION

The following correspondence has been received from Danielle Parent, Education Officer, Manitoba Education:

> *On behalf of the Assistant Deputy Minister, I am pleased to inform you that the Brandon School Division will receive a grant in the amount of five thousand dollars ($5,000.00) provided under the French Second Language Revitalization Program for 2011-2012. This support is provided for the purpose of funding the following project:*
>
> *Embracing French Language and Culture (Kirkcaldy Heights) $5,000.00*

The grant will be paid out in two separate instalments, as follows:

March 2012	*$4,000.00*
October 2012	*1,000.00*
	$5,000.00

We hope that this grant will make it possible for the project to attain its objectives.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM NANCY ALLEN, MINISTER OF EDUCATION

The following correspondence was sent to Ms. Carolyn Gwyer, École Secondaire Neelin High School and Mrs. Julie Phillips, École Harrison School from Nancy Allen, Minister of Education:

Thank you for your application for a Manitoba Music Month Grant. I am pleased to inform you that $500.00 has been awarded to your school. A cheque for this amount is enclosed.

The response to the Music Month grant initiative has been very positive and is indicative of the creativity and commitment of Manitoba's music educators. Manitoba Education has been able to fund a wide variety of projects in all regions of the province.

I would like to express my appreciation for all your efforts and initiatives to support and celebrate Music Education in Manitoba. Your students, communities, and the professional musicians with whom you collaborate on this project on this project benefit greatly from your hard work and dedication.