Education Committee Minutes

Thursday, March 8, 2012, 11:30 a.m.
Board Room, Administration Office

Present: P. Bartlette (Chairperson), P. Bowslaugh, D. Karnes, K. Sumner, (Alternate) Dr. D. Michaels.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Education Committee Meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m. by the Chairperson, Trustee Bartlette.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Bowslaugh requested a review of the Committee's Governance Goal regarding graduation rate be reviewed should time permit. The agenda was approved as amendment.

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Committee received the Minutes of January 12, 2012. Trustee Bowslaugh requested clarification as to whom from Neelin High School Off-Campus would be attending the MSBA Premier Innovation Showcase on Thursday, March 15, 2012. Discussions were held regarding the presentation by Ms. Dale Hughson from Career Connections. Trustee Bartlette asked Senior Administration to ensure all Trustees received a copy of Ms. Hughson's presentation documentation. Dr. Michaels, Superintendent, provided a verbal update on the review of the Division's assessment tools compared to the assessment tools used by Career Connections. Further discussions were held regarding the types of assessments available; the age at which students should/could be assessed; on-line assessments; and cost. Dr. Michaels confirmed that Division personnel who currently conduct these types of assessments at the three high schools could be invited to attend a future Committee meeting and speak to what is currently taking place in the Division.

4. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

A) Board Governance Goal Regarding Equity of Inclusion and Protection of Human Rights for Individual Differences

Superintendent, Dr. Michaels, reviewed the background work regarding this item. She noted there were a number of questions which the Committee needed to address before moving forward, including: Who the Committee wanted to meet with? What did the Committee want to know? How in-depth does the Committee want to go? What will the Committee do with the information once they have received same? Discussions were held regarding the teaching of tolerance, acceptance and understanding. The Committee directed Senior Administration to provide them with a map that would include various groups of students the Committee could meet with and the questions which could be asked. The Superintendent confirmed a preliminary report on this will be provided for the April Committee meeting.

B) Review of Committee Governance Goal Number 1

Discussions were held regarding whether or not to increase the graduation rate as noted in the Board's Governance Goal. It was noted the Board had previously discussed this item and agreed to leave the current graduation rate at 85%+ in order to determine if last year's grad rate is standard or a one-time occurrence.

5. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

A) 2012-2013 School Calendar

The proposed school calendar of professional development and administration days for 2012-2013 was distributed to the Committee for their review. The Committee agreed to accept the recommendation for approval by the Board of Trustees.

Recommendation:
That the School Calendar for the 2012-2013 school year be established with the Christmas break occurring from December 22, 2012 to January 6, 2013, inclusive, and the ten non-instructional days be five (5) professional development dates and five (5) administrative days.

B) 2012 Manitoba Heritage Tattoo – October 26 & 27, 2012

The proposal from Mr. David Wilson, Executive Director, Augustfest Brandon Incorporated, regarding the 2012 edition of the Manitoba Heritage Tattoo had been referred to the Education Committee for discussion by the Board of Trustees. The Committee reviewed the material provided and discussed the matter in detail. The Committee agreed they would be willing to distribute any material regarding this event, through the Division Courier, making the information available to any Grade 9 to 11 teacher who wished to take advantage of the opportunity. The Committee did not want to create the expectation that staff must participate, but they would be willing to help bring awareness of the opportunities the Tattoo presented. Senior Administration was directed to thank Mr. Wilson for his proposal and advise him the Committee's decision.

C) Manitoba Education - Strengthening Partnerships

The documentation received from the Minister of Education entitled *Strengthening Partnerships – Improving the Quality of Teacher Candidate Practicum Experiences in Manitoba* was reviewed and accepted as information.

D) Policy Review

The Committee reviewed Policy 1004 – "Distribution of Materials in the Schools" and agreed to reaffirm same.

The Committee reviewed Policy 7019 – "Student Evaluation". Superintendent, Dr. Michaels noted this policy had now been replaced by Policy and Procedures 4052 – "Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting of Student Learning and Achievement". It was agreed to rescind this policy. (Appendix A)

The Committee Policy 7021 – "Student Pictures". As the taking of student pictures in the schools was a school decision it was agreed to rescind this policy. (Appendix B).

Recommendation:
That Policy 1004 – "Distribution of Materials in the Schools" be reaffirmed.

That the following policies be rescinded:
- Policy 7019 – "Student Evaluation"
- Policy 7021 – "Student Pictures".

6. BRIEFINGS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION

The Manitoba School Boards Association memorandum regarding class size research was discussed. In addition to class size, it was noted that other factors impacted student education as well, including: composition and teaching practices.

7. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

NIL

8. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, February 9, 2012, 11:30 a.m. Board Room.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Bartlette, Chair	P. Bowslaugh
D. Karnes	K. Sumner (Alternate)