



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

Education and Community Relations Committee Minutes

Monday, March 8, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.
Boardroom, Administration Office

Present: S. Bambridge C. Ekenna
K. Fallis B. Foley
J. Gobeil D. Kejick
L. Letain J. Murray
L. Ross

Also Present: D. Labossiere M. Gustafson
E. McFadzen

1. COMMITTEE ITEMS

A. Research Request – Alysha Farrell, Brandon University

Trustees reviewed the memorandum to the Education and Community Relations Committee from Mr. Mathew Gustafson, A/Superintendent / CEO. A research request was received on January 11, 2021 from Dr. Alysha Farrell, Associate Professor; Department Chair of Leadership & Educational Administration; and Member of the Department of Curriculum & Pedagogy, Faculty of Education, Brandon University. The research project is entitled "*Fostering Healthy Responses to Climate Change Anxiety Among Young People in Southwestern Manitoba through an Arts-based Community of Practice*".

The objective of this research is to learn more about the emotional impact of climate change among young people in Southwestern Manitoba; to learn more about the helpful and unhelpful ways that students are coping with eco-anxiety; to study the impacts of using eco-arts-based methods to promote resiliency processes among young people; to engage the participants and members of the wider community in conversation to imagine different ways we might live in greater harmony with the natural world through the students' artworks; and to engage educators in discussions about the emotional impacts of climate change.

The researcher would seek to involve two to three students who are participating in arts classes, from each of the four high schools in Brandon School Division.

The Brandon School Division Research Advisory Committee submitted a recommendation for approval, indicating that they believe this study has merit in learning more about the emotional impact of climate change on young people in our community, and ways in which the arts may assist.

Mr. Gustafson recommended approval of this request, given that participation is voluntary, the anonymity of students will be maintained, and the data received may be of benefit to Brandon School Division. The study aligns with the Brandon School Division principle of continuous improvement and focuses on improving the mental health and well-being of students, and on building resiliency.

The Committee agreed to the recommendation as presented.

Recommendation:

That the Board approve the research request from Dr. Alysha Farrell, Brandon University, for the research project entitled “*Fostering Healthy Responses to Climate Change Anxiety Among Young People in Southwestern Manitoba through an Arts-based Community of Practice*”.

B. Research Request – Michael Nantais, Brandon University

Mr. Gustafson spoke to this item, noting that a research request received on February 22, 2021 from Dr. Michael Nantais, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, Brandon University has been approved. The research project is entitled “*Digital Policies, Procedures, and Practices in Select Rural Manitoba School Divisions*”. The primary focus of this research project is what are the realities of digital policy, procedures, infrastructure and practices in school divisions in rural Manitoba, and what are some of the innovative digital practices utilized and their challenges before and during COVID-19.

This research project does not involve student participation.

C. COVID-19 Dashboard: K-12 Schools in Manitoba

As part of the Manitoba government's commitment to provide consistent and transparent information about COVID-19 cases associated with schools, the public COVID-19 Dashboard: K–12 Schools in Manitoba can now be found at manitoba.ca/covid19/schools/index.html.

This interactive, user-friendly tool both reports and maps confirmed school-related cases of COVID-19 in public and independent schools using Manitoba's Public Health Information Management System. It features recent and cumulative case counts, which will be updated twice weekly. The dashboard reinforces the commitment to protecting the safety and well-being of students and school staff.

Trustees asked questions for clarification.

D. Manitoba Education – Early Development Instrument

Correspondence was received from Christina Moody, Assistant Deputy Minister, and Heidi Wurmann, Assistant Deputy Minister, regarding the implementation of the Early Development Instrument (EDI). Specifically, EDI collection is paused for spring 2021 due to the impact of COVID-19 on the public school system.

Trustees asked questions for clarification.

E. Sub-Committee Reports

- Brandon Community Drug and Alcohol Education Coalition – February 25, 2021

2. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 12, 2021, 6:00 p.m., Boardroom.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Letain