



"Accepting the Challenge"

Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee Minutes

Friday, November 26, 2010 – 12:00 noon
Room 27, Neelin High School

Present: M. Snelling (Chairperson), K. Sumner.

Regrets: P. Bowslaugh, G. Kruck (Alternate), Dr. D. Michaels.

Invited Guests: 17 Neelin High School International Baccalaureate (IB) Students.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee Meeting was called to order at 12:25 p.m. by Chairperson, Mr. Snelling.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee Agenda was approved.

3. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

NIL

4. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

A) Equity and Sustainability in Education (Meeting with Neelin IB Students).

Chairperson, Mr. Snelling, introduced himself and Trustee Sumner. He brought regrets from Trustees Bowslaugh, Kruck and Superintendent, Dr. Michaels. He thanked all in attendance for their participation and reviewed the role of the Brandon School Division Board of Trustees' Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee. He asked the students to identify themselves. Discussions were held regarding what students like about the IB program; how the Division can meet the needs of the students in the IB program in a more effective manner; what other activities students are involved in outside the IB program; and how the IB program has influenced their course in life. A summary of these discussions is attached to the Minutes as Appendix "A".

At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. Snelling expressed his appreciation to all present noting that student feedback was vital. The students thanked the Board for allowing them to have the IB program noting it was very much appreciated.

5. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

NIL

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Snelling, Chair

K. Sumner

P. Bowslaugh

G. Kruck (Alternate)

Meeting with IB Students

Neelin High School

Friday, November 26, 2010

Questions:

1) What do you like about the IB program?

- "It's challenging."
- "Small classes means more hands on."
- "Everyone is smart – no dumbing down."
- "I like the pace we go through the subjects."
- "The classroom atmosphere is more mature."
- "They prepare us for university."
- "I like the expectations – they make us push ourselves."
- "We get one on one time with teachers."
- "Teachers are more focused."
- "I'm not bored like in regular classes."
- "I learned more in 3 months than in regular classes last year."
- "There is a personnel connection with teachers."
- "More hands on things because of the class size."
- "I am inspired to reach my goals."
- "Learn lifeskills like time management."
- "Very structured."
- "We are taught to be more than students, we are taught to be good citizens."

2) How can the Division meet the needs of the students in the IB program of the Brandon School Division in a more effective manner?

- An IB physics class.
- Students felt IB had already improved greatly from last year. This year they have actual IB classes and it is not something taught during the lunch hour.
- They asked for teachers "who are passionate about the program and know what they are doing" The students clarified that IB teachers are already like this. They did not feel the same way about teachers in other non-IB classes. "IB teachers make you want to go to class and you enjoy it more".

3) Are you involved in anything else other than the IB program?

- All students present (17) were involved in 3 or more other activities either school related (choir, major production, sports, student council); community related (church, cadets, dance); or working part-time on weekend. Students also noted they still had a social life and they weren't always studying.

4) Has IB influenced the course you wish to choose in life?

- "I am looking at universities that I would not have looked at in the regular programs."
- "It is a great stepping stone to further study."
- "I have learned a work ethic."
- "It has given me something to work at outside of the program."
- "I will apply at universities outside of Canada."
- "IB has clarified my strengths."
- "Universities will look at accelerated and advanced courses first."
- "I didn't realize what I was really capable of until I got into IB".