

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, THE BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION, HELD IN THE J. L. MILNE BOARDROOM, ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 1031 - 6TH STREET, BRANDON, MANITOBA, AT 7:00 P.M., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2010

PRESENT:

Mr. G. Buri, Chairperson, Mr. D. Karnes, Vice-Chairperson, Mr. P. Bartlette, Ms. R. Coey, Mrs. B. Jolly, Mr. J. Murray, Dr. L. Ross, Mr. M. Snelling.

Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. G. Barnes and Recording Secretary, Ms. S. Bailey

Senior Administration: Dr. D. M. Michaels, Superintendent, Mr. G. Malazdrewicz, Associate Superintendent and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. K. Zabowski.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all visitors to the meeting. .

AGENDA

1.00 AGENDA/MINUTES:

1.01 Reference to Statement of Board Operations

1.02 Approval of Agenda

Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Barnes requested the addition of a late motion from the Facilities/Transportation Committee regarding scheduling a meeting with the Executive Director of the PSFB and Brandon's local MLAs.

Mr. Barnes also noted a correction to the Giving of Notice changing the typographical error of the number of the proposed By-law from 4/2001 to 4/2010.

Trustee Jolly noted she had one item under Reports and one item under Trustee Inquiries.

Superintendent, Dr. Michaels noted an enrollment update and a staffing update would be provided under Section 2.05 – Report of Senior Administration. She also had two items for In-Camera discussions.

Trustee Ross and Trustee Bartlette also noted they had items to be raised under Trustee Inquiries.

Trustee Snelling noted he had one item under Reports.

Mr. Snelling – Dr. Ross

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried.

1.03 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- a) The Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held August 30, 2010 were circulated.

Mr. Murray – Mrs. Jolly

That the Minutes be received and filed.

Carried.

- b) The Minutes of the Special Board meeting held September 7, 2010 were circulated.

Mr. Karnes – Mr. Snelling

That the Minutes be received and filed.

Carried.

2.00 GOVERNANCE MATTERS:**2.01 Presentations For Information****2009-2010 Student Achievement Results – A. Kuryliw**

Adrian Kuryliw, Division Co-Ordinator of Research, presented the 2009 – 2010 Student Achievement Results to the Board of Trustees. He noted this was the 8th year of formal data collecting by the Division. Mr. Kuryliw reviewed the Division's EDI results noting the downward trend showing Brandon School Division children are starting Kindergarten below both the Provincial and National average. He confirmed students entering the Brandon School Division do so with greater needs. Mr. Kuryliw confirmed the Grade 3 literacy rate for the school division has fallen over the last 2 years placing the Brandon School Division at the Provincial average. He noted the Board of Trustees had addressed this by putting a policy in place to increase the Grade 3 literacy rate to 80%. Mr. Kuryliw also reviewed the Grade 3 numeracy rate as well as the Grade 5 and 7 literacy and numeracy rates. The Province does not have a provincial mean for Grade 5 and 7, and therefore Mr. Kuryliw spoke about the trend in rates based on the Division's own data over a period of several years. He confirmed that the Grade 12 statistics can be compared to the Provincial average and the Division is consistently at the Provincial means in the area of literacy in Grade 12. Mr. Kuryliw stated students are coming into the Division weaker than they were 10 or 12 years ago and therefore the Division needs to work to make sure the Division maintains the Grade 12 standards and means. He also noted the Division's numeracy skills are stronger than the Division's literacy skills. Mr. Kuryliw concluded his presentation by reviewing the dramatic increase in the Division's graduation rates and noting the Division is above the Provincial average with respect to graduation rates.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Kuryliw for his presentation. The Trustees asked a number of questions for clarification including how the graduation rates were tallied given that not all students obtain their grade 12 diploma in the standard 4 year programming; the increase in literacy rate in Grade 3 for those students entering the school system in Kindergarten with low EDI scores; the use of the information by schools to prepare their school development plans. Trustees also asked the Superintendent why

Brandon students had such low EDI scores compared to the rest of the Province. Dr. Michaels noted a number of factors contributed to this result including the following; 1) smaller school divisions have been forced to cut back and reduce the services that a larger division such as Brandon can still provide; 2) the increase in the number of adolescents and teenagers with behavioural problems from Winnipeg, who have been sent to the Brandon area; 3) the migration out of the smaller more isolated areas of the Province; 4) the increase in the number of young children with chemically based deficiencies; 5) issues with respect to socio-economic backgrounds and child poverty. Superintendent, Dr. Michaels also spoke to the interventions the Board has put in place which have impacted students and demonstrated the turnaround from low EDI entrance scores to an increase in the Grade 3 literacy rate.

Further discussions were held regarding the role and benefit of Early Childhood Education, All Day Kindergarten, working more pro-actively with the community in the area of child-care and the Kinderlinks program, in raising the Division's EDI scores. Discussions were also held regarding the possibility of a pilot project in this area. The Board agreed to refer further discussions regarding a pilot project to the Education Committee.

2.02 Reports of Committees

a) Personnel Committee Meeting

The September 7, 2010 written report of the Personnel Committee meeting was circulated.

Dr. Ross – Mrs. Coey

That the Minutes be received and filed.

Carried.

b) Finance Committee Meeting

The September 7, 2010 written report of the Finance Committee meeting was circulated.

The Board agreed to discuss the proposed Connectivity Agreement under motions.

Mr. Buri – Mr. Snelling

That the Minutes be received and filed.

Carried.

c) Other

- Welcome Back Breakfast

Mr. Buri noted the Welcome Back Breakfast which had taken place on September 7, 2010 at the Victoria Inn had gone well. He confirmed all trustees had been in attendance for the event and felt the breakfast had been a very upbeat and positive experience. He felt it was a great way to start off the school year.

- School Visits

Trustee Jolly noted she had visited all schools that have had changes over the summer including Green Acres, Harrison, George Fitton, New Era, Earl Oxford and Riverheights. She had a number of inquiries as a result of these visits which she would raise under Trustee Inquiries.

- Task Force on Aboriginal Issues

Trustee Snelling noted he had been invited to attend the Task Force Meeting on Aboriginal Issues and suggested official trustee representation from the new Board of Trustees on the Task Force in the future. He confirmed he would forward the minutes of the meeting to all Trustees via email.

2.03 Delegations and Petitions

2.04 Communications for Action

NIL

2.05 BUSINESS ARISING

- From Previous Delegation

- From Board Agenda

- MSBA issues (last meeting of the month)

- From Report of Senior Administration

- a) School Reports - NIL
- b) Learning Support Services Presentation – NIL
- c) Items from Senior Administration Report:
 - Rescind Policy and Procedures 4044.1 – Referred Motions.
 - Policy and Procedures 1021 – Referred Motions.
 - Christian Heritage School – Referred Motions.
 - Trustee Per Diem – Referred Giving of Notice.

2.06 Motions

- 140/2010 Mr. Murray – Ms. Coey
That Policy and Procedures 4044.1 – “Divisional Learning Support Classrooms Appropriate Educational Programming” be rescinded.

Carried.

- 141/2010 Mr. Bartlette – Mr. Karnes
That Policy and Procedures 1021 – “Consultation” be approved.

Point of Privilege: Dr. Ross thanked the Policy Review Committee for their work on this policy. She felt it would serve future Boards well and help to avoid the pitfalls of the past.

Carried.

- 142/2010 Mr. Murray – Mrs. Coey
That the Shared Services Agreement between the Division and Christian Heritage School for the 2010/2011 school year for the provision of transportation services and for use of facilities and resources for Industrial Arts and Home Economics classes be approved; and that the Chairperson and Secretary-Treasurer be and are hereby authorized to affix their signatures and the seal of the Division to the Agreement and to all subsequent claims resulting therefrom in compliance with the Public Schools Act and Regulations thereunder.

Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Barnes, noted the agreement had been changed to include 11 bussed students rather than 9 students as originally stated in the Report of Senior Administration. He confirmed this did not affect the motion and was provided as information only.

Carried.

- 143/2010 Mr. Bartlette – Mr. Snelling
That the Connectivity Agreement between Westman Communications Group and the Brandon School Division for the Division wide connectivity project be approved; and that the Chairperson and Secretary-Treasurer be authorized to sign the agreement.

Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Barnes, reviewed the proposed Connectivity Agreement in detail with the Board. He elaborated on the definitions and terms of the agreement, the proposed costs, the various phases of completion, responsibilities of each party to the agreement, and the Division funding set aside for implementation of the Connectivity project. Mr. Barnes confirmed that the borrowing by-law the Board had originally signed for this project would not be needed as the funding was in place through the Capital Reserve Fund and the annual budget allocations. Trustees confirmed that there would not be any budget increase for this project; the monthly payment was for all schools (except the rural schools); the agreement had been reviewed by the Division’s lawyer and Senior Administration. Mr. Brent Ewasiuk, Director of Management and

Information Systems Technology spoke to the Operations Agreement and answered Trustee questions regarding the network services.

Point of Privilege: Superintendent, Dr. Michaels, wished to publicly acknowledge the work of Mr. Ewasiuk on this project as well as the work of the Secretary-Treasurer's Department regarding the funding for this project.

Carried.

- 144/2010 Mr. Karnes – Mr. Snelling
That meetings be scheduled with the Public Schools Finance Board, Mr. Caldwell, MLA for Brandon East and Mr. Borotsik, MLA for Brandon West, to meet with the Board of Trustees to discuss the Division's Five Year Plan requests.

Trustee Karnes explained why the motion was being brought forward by the Facilities/Transportation Committee at this time.

Carried.

2.07 Bylaws

NIL

2.08 Giving of Notice

Mr. Murray

I hereby give notice that at the next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees I, or someone in my stead, will introduce a Giving of Notice to approve By-Law No. 4/2010 establishing the Trustee remuneration and per diem rate.

Trustee Murray suggested removing references to payment up to a maximum of 8 hours noting on such occasions as budget day etc., the Board can meet for over 8 hours. Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Barnes, noted this was just the Giving of Notice and suggested any proposed amendments be brought forward for discussion at a future meeting when the by-law will receive its three readings.

2.09 Inquiries

2.09a) Public Inquiries (last meeting of each month – max. 15 minutes)

NIL

2.09b) Trustee Inquiries

- 1) Trustee Jolly raised the following inquiries resulting from her school visits:
 - a. Earl Oxford School is receiving students from the EAL Reception Centre right after registration. Students appear to be sent to catchment area after registration and she thought the purpose of the EAL Reception Centre was to prepare students before they are placed in the regular classroom setting.

Associate Superintendent, Mr. Malazdrewicz, reviewed the ELA Reception Centre model which he noted had been previously presented to the Board. He spoke to the K-4 accelerated student placement and the language assessment for the Grade 5 – 8 students.

- b. The Music Room at Earl Oxford School is in need of a sound system, a computer, a new carpet and a piano. She noted the carpet has ragged edges and needs to have binding before there is an accident. She also noted the piano had been brought up from the basement, was broken and not loud enough for other uses such as a gym setting. She wondered if Friends of Education could look into this and possibly assist in the purchase of some of these items.

Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Barnes, noted that all classroom resources should have been at Earl Oxford previously. Therefore, if the teacher had a sound system, computer and piano previously, then it should have been moved to the new Earl Oxford classroom. Otherwise it becomes part of the instructional budget for future purchases. The flooring could be included in the next capital and maintenance budget.

- c. The Life Skills Grooming Room at Riverheights School does have a change area, however, it is in the same area as the wheelchair access washroom without any privacy to separate the changing area when the washrooms need to be accessed. She asked that Senior Administration please take another look at this situation.

Mr. Barnes, Secretary-Treasurer, noted all items would be reviewed when principals come forth with their needs. He confirmed that washrooms are provided based on the number of students in a school as well as the appropriate governmental guidelines. He confirmed that the matter would be reviewed for possible inclusion in the five year capital plan.

Point of Privilege: Trustee Bartlette wondered if these inquiries were dealing with management issues rather than governance issues. The Board agreed that the inquiries raised were along the lines of management issues, however did not feel it was inappropriate to raise the issues for Senior Administration to investigate further.

- 2) Trustee Ross referring to a recent Media Release from the Premier regarding report cards requested the following:

“What information has the Division received from the Minister of Education concerning the intention expressed by Premier Selinger to have a province wide standard report card?”

Dr. Ross felt the proposed implementation of Province wide standard report cards and Professional Development days further eroded school boards autonomy. She felt this proposal should be of concern to parents as well. Superintendent, Dr. Michaels, confirmed that they had received no information other than what had appeared in the Media Release. She noted the Division currently operates under the standards set by the Minister of Education. Discussions were held regarding the possibility of sending a letter expressing

concern to the Premier. It was agreed a letter would be forwarded to the Premier and copied to the Manitoba School Boards Association and would note that the Board did not appreciate receiving communication from the Government on the matter of education through the media; that the Board looks forward to participating in the consultation process regarding this matter; and that the Division has done extensive work with respect to assessing student achievement and the development of a new report card which they would be willing to share with the Government.

- 3) Trustee Bartlette referencing Minister of Education, Nancy Allan's comments regarding promotion and retention of students, in the local media asked the following:

"Does administration have a response to Minister Nancy Allan's comments in the Brandon Sun regarding promotion/retention of students and her desire to move the decision from principal alone to that of principal, teacher and parents?"

Superintendent, Dr. Michaels noted they had not received any information regarding this and there appeared to be nothing on the Ministry website regarding this matter. She looked forward to clarification from the Minister of Education during the course of the year.

- 4) Trustee Coey asked Senior Administration to provide the implementation plan for the Kinderlinks program.

3.00 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

3.01 Report of Senior Administration

Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Barnes, confirmed the Board would be discussing changes to By-law 4/2010 at the next meeting.

Associate Superintendent, Mr. Malazdrewicz, reviewed the schools' enrollment numbers as of September 10, 2010 noting the Division currently has 7,633 students which is approximately 300 students over last year's September 30th numbers. He confirmed that 920 students fall within the EAL category, of which 140 were processed in August. Mr. Malazdrewicz also reviewed the staffing report, noting that there are some hot spots which will be brought to the Board in the near future. Currently sub teachers have been placed to address large class sizes. Discussions were held regarding staff/student ratio; the kindergarten class size policy; Superintendent's discretionary staff allocation; and the relevance of Baragar with respect to providing information regarding growth of student population.

Superintendent, Dr. Michaels, invited the Director of Human Resources to the Board table to speak about the personnel report in the Report of Senior Administration. Ms. Switzer provided a teacher staffing update noting 60 new teachers had been hired for the school year. She also spoke about the efficiency of the Department's green initiative allowing teachers to meet their May 31st deadline should they wish to transfer

from another school division. It was noted that due to the implementation of the french immersion school at École Harrison, four schools had to be completely restaffed. The Board thanked Ms. Switzer and her department for their work in ensuring staffing was completed in a timely manner.

Superintendent, Dr. Michaels, also reported on the School Opening Meeting held at the Riverbank Discovery Centre on Monday, August 30, 2010.

Mrs. Jolly – Mr. Snelling

That the report be received and filed.

Carried.

3.02 Communications for Information

- a) Agnieszka Desjardins and Kyleigh Bromley, Vincent Massey High School, August 6, 2010, thanking the Board for providing financial assistance to enable three Vincent Massey Students to attend the Canadian Student Leadership Conference 2010. Without the Board's assistance this excellent opportunity would not have been possible.

Ordered Filed.

- b) Darryl Gervais, Acting Director, Instruction, Curriculum and Assessment Branch and Florence Girouard, Direction Educational Support Services Branch, Manitoba Education, September, 2010, enclosing information bulletins relating to the standards tests that will be administered during the 2010/2011 school year in English language arts and mathematics. The documents are also available on the Manitoba Education website at www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/assess/publications.html. These bulletins provide an overview of the testing procedures, dates, test specifications and descriptions of upcoming standards tests in both semesters.

Referred Education Committee.

3.03 Announcements

- a) Manitoba School Boards Association Information Session for Trustees – 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 14, 2010, Victoria Inn, Brandon.
- b) Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee Meeting – 12:00 noon, Thursday, September 16, 2010, Board Room.
- c) Finance Committee Meeting – 10:00 a.m., Monday, September 20, 2010, 10:00 a.m., Board Room.
- d) Grand Opening Celebration of École Harrison – 4:30 p.m., Thursday, September 23, 2010, École Harrison.
- e) Trustee Candidate Information Session - 12:00 noon, Friday, September 24, 2010, Board Room.
- f) NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – 7:00 p.m., Monday, September 27, 2010, Board Room.

Point of Privilege: Trustee Snelling noted Neelin Off-Campus would be making a presentation to the Rotary Club and he would provide details of time and place to any Trustee interested in attending.

Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Barnes, noted that arrangements were being made for a couple of Forum Evenings for Trustee Candidates by Westman Communications Group and the Brandon Teachers' Association and candidates would be contacted directly.

Mr. Snelling – Mrs. Jolly

That the Board do now resolve into Committee of the Whole In Camera.

Carried.

IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN CAMERA.

4.00 IN CAMERA DISCUSSION:

4.01 Student Issues

- Reports

- a) Mr. Malazdrewicz, Associate Superintendent, reported on a student/school matter.

- Trustee Inquiries

4.02 Personnel Matters

- Reports

- a) Confidential #1 – Personnel Report was noted.
- b) Dr. D. Michaels, Superintendent/CEO, informed the Board on a school administrator matter.

- Trustee Inquiries

4.03 Property Matters/Tenders

- Reports

- Trustee Inquiries

4.04 Board Operations

- Reports

- a) Confidential #2 on a Board Operations matter was reviewed and discussed.
The Board provided direction to Senior Administration.

- Trustee Inquiries

Mr. Snelling – Mrs. Jolly

That the Committee of the Whole In Camera do now resolve into Board.

Carried.

IN BOARD

5.00 ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Murray – Dr. Ross

That the meeting do now adjourn. (10:00 p.m.)

Carried.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer