



"Accepting the Challenge"

Education Committee Minutes

Thursday, April 12, 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 the addition of discussions regarding information she had received regarding students-at-risk in the Division. The agenda was approved as amendment.

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Minutes were received as information. Trustee Bartlette noted Senior Administration had asked several questions regarding the Board's Governance Goal on Equity of Inclusion and Protection of Human Rights for Individual Differences which he felt had not been fully answered by the Committee.

4. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

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

Superintendent, Dr. Michaels, circulated and discussed information regarding a proposed process for discussion with students about Human Rights/Responsibilities for Individual Differences re: "Equity of Inclusion and Protection of Human Rights for Individual Differences". It was recommended the Committee obtain both qualitative and quantitative data on this topic. During 2012-2013, it was recommended the Committee obtain student feedback by inviting students, in Grades 7 to 12, to meet with the Education Committee to discuss specific questions. The data provided from this meeting would provide the Committee with qualitative data. It was also recommended quantitative data be collected through the utilization of appropriate corresponding data found in the Student Voice Surveys. Once all data had been collected and synthesized, the Education Committee will be able to determine key themes or patterns that require attention through the revision of Board Policy 1001 "Foundations and Commitments". Detailed discussions were held regarding the number of students who would be invited to participate; the method of selection used to ensure a broad range of student demographics; the possibility of conducting staff consultation in 2013-2014; whether or not the Committee's work would be duplicated or enhanced by a conference in the fall proposed by another organization; and the importance of managing equity with the rights of all students. It was agreed the student consultation was required before the Committee could determine the course of action to be taken.

5. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS**A) Next steps for EAL solution**

Trustee Sumner requested the Committee discuss alternative solutions to handling the increases in the EAL population given the Government's announcement there are no more funds available in this area. Discussions were held regarding the possibility of partnering with other agencies. It was agreed it was important to network whenever the opportunity presented itself, particularly with other stakeholders such as the Westman Immigrant Services, the City of Brandon, the Brandon Regional Health Authority, and the Ministerial Association in Brandon. Further discussions were held as to whether or not the Education Committee should be doing this type of networking, or the Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee. It was agreed the Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee should work towards networking in this area, with the approval of the Board of Trustees; while the Education Committee's responsibility was to move forward with respect to programming and services for EAL students.

It was agreed Trustees would continue to be aware of opportunities which would allow them to express their concerns with respect to funding in this area. Senior Administration would bring forth revised information for the fall for the Trustees to use when networking. It was further agreed the matter would be referred to the Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee for discussions regarding meeting with specific groups in this area.

B) Students-at-Risk

In-Camera discussions were held regarding students-at-risk.

6. BRIEFINGS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION

Trustee Bowslaugh inquired about what the Division would be doing to follow-up on the data noted in the 2011-2012 Student Assessment Results presented to the Board of Trustees at their regular meeting held April 9, 2012. Superintendent, Dr. Michaels noted this is addressed daily in the Division through allocation of resources, professional development, and school development plans.

7. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

NIL

8. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Thursday, May 10, 2012, 11:30 a.m. Board Room.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Bartlette, Chair

P. Bowslaugh

D. Karnes

K. Sumner (Alternate)