



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

January 9, 2019

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TO BE HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2019
6:00 P.M. (In-Camera) 7:00 P.M. (Public)

J. L. MILNE BOARDROOM, ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

1031 - 6TH STREET, BRANDON, MANITOBA

D. Labossiere
Secretary-Treasurer

AGENDA

1.00 AGENDA/MINUTES:

1.01 Approval of Agenda

1.02 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- a) Board Meeting, December 10, 2018.
Adopt.

2.00 IN CAMERA DISCUSSION

2.01 Student Issues

- Reports
- Trustee Inquiries

2.02 Personnel Matters

- Reports
 - a) Confidential #1 – Personnel Report.
- Trustee Inquiries

2.03 Property Matters/Tenders

- Reports
- Trustee Inquiries

2.04 Board Operations

- Reports
- Trustee Inquiries

3.00 PRESENTATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

3.01 Presentations for Information

3.02 Communications for Information

3.03 Communications for Action

- a) Correspondence from Robyn Romeril, Recording Secretary, CUPE Local 737, December 27, 2018, sent to Denis Labossiere, Secretary-Treasurer, requesting a Leave of Absence for Jamie Rose, Maintenance/Transportation, from his position from January 15, 2019 until April 30, 2019, with the possibility of an extension for union purposes as per Article 18.04 (a) of the Collective Agreement. CUPE Local 737 will reimburse the Brandon School Division for loss of wages, benefits etc. (Appendix 'A')
Refer Motions.

4.00 REPORT OF SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

- From Report of Senior Administration

- a) Review Report of Senior Administration – January 14, 2019.

5.00 GOVERNANCE MATTERS

5.01 Reports of Committees

- a) Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting S. Montague
- b) Personnel and Policy Committee Meeting S. Bambridge

5.02 Delegations and Petitions (Max. 15 minutes)

5.03 Business Arising

- From Previous Delegation
- From Board Agenda
- MSBA Issues

- a) Ebulletin - December 10, 2018 (Appendix 'B')
- b) Memo – Recent Media Advocacy re: Local Voices, Local Choices Campaign (Appendix 'C')
- c) Memo – Follow-up on Various Items (Appendix 'D')

5.04 Public Inquiries (Max. 15 Mins)

5.05 Motions

- 01/2019 That the request of CUPE Local 737, that the President of the Association, Mr. Jamie Rose, be seconded from the Division on a full-time basis from January 15, 2019 to April 30, 2019, with the possibility of an extension for union purposes as per Article 18.04 (a) of the Collective Agreement be approved, subject to the Division being reimbursed by the Association for all salary and benefit costs for the period of the secondment.
- 02/2019 That a three (3) year land use agreement for community garden use of the property located at 5 Hummingbird Lane be approved effective April 1, 2019.
- 03/2019 That the request involving fifteen (15) male and twenty-five (25) female École secondaire Neelin High School Travel Club students in grades 11 to 12 to make a trip to Berlin, Germany; Prague, Czech Republic; Krakow, Poland; and Budapest, Hungary from March 26 to April 4, 2020 be approved and carried out in accordance with Board Policy #9.

5.06 Bylaws**By-Law 1/2019****1st Reading:**

That By-law 1/2019, being a borrowing by-law in the amount of \$146,200 upon the credit of the Division by the issue and sale of the security to meet partial costs for construction of:

School

Earl Oxford Middle School
Green Acres School
École Harrison

Project

One Modular Classroom Unit
Gymnasium Addition
Steam Heating System Replacement

be now read for the first time.

5.07 Giving of Notice**5.08 Trustee Inquiries****6.00 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a) Education and Community Relations Committee Meeting – 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 16, 2019, Boardroom.
- b) Personnel and Policy Committee Meeting (In-Camera) – 3:15 p.m., Thursday, January 17, 2019, Boardroom.
- c) Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting – 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 22, 2019, Boardroom.
- d) NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – 7:00 p.m. (Public), Monday, January 28, 2019, Boardroom.
- e) **Upcoming Budget Dates:**
 - Budget Presentations – 7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 21, 2019, Boardroom.

- Budget Deliberations – 9:00 a.m., Monday, February 25, 2019, Boardroom.
- Public Budget Consultation – 7:00 p.m., Monday, March 4, 2019, Boardroom.
- Final Budget Approval – 7:00 p.m., Monday, March 11, 2019, Boardroom.

7.00 ADJOURNMENT



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

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. (Public), DECEMBER 10, 2018.

PRESENT:

Dr. L. Ross, Chairperson (on phone 6:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.) Ms. S. Bambridge, Vice-Chairperson, Mr. P. Bartlette, Ms. K. Fallis, Ms. D. Kejick (entered at 6:55 p.m.), Ms. L. Letain, Mr. S. Montague, Mr. J. Murray, Mr. K. Sumner.

Mr. D. Labossiere, Secretary-Treasurer, Ms. B. Sangster, Recording Secretary, Ms. T. Curtis, Live Streaming Video Operator.

Senior Administration: Dr. M. Casavant, Superintendent/CEO, Mr. M. Gustafson, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. E. McFadzen, Acting Assistant Superintendent.

REGRETS:

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1.00 AGENDA/MINUTES:

1.01 Approval of Agenda

Senior Administration added four (4) items for In-Camera.

Trustee Bambridge added one (1) item for In-Camera.

Mr. Murray – Mr. Bartlette

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried.

1.02 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- a) The Minutes of the Board Meeting held November 26, 2018 were circulated.

Ms. Letain – Mr. Bartlette

That the Minutes be approved.

Carried.

Mr. Montague - Mr. Sumner

That the Board do now resolve into Committee of the Whole In-Camera. (6:02 p.m.)

Carried.

IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN CAMERA

2.00 IN CAMERA DISCUSSION:**2.01 Student Issues**

- Reports
- Trustee Inquiries

2.02 Personnel Matters

- Reports
 - a) Confidential #1 – Personnel Report was presented.
 - b) Dr. Marc Casavant, Superintendent/CEO, provided information on a Personnel Matter and answered Trustee questions.
 - c) The Superintendent/CEO provided information on a personnel matter and received Board direction.
- Trustee Inquiries

2.03 Property Matters/Tenders

- Reports
 - a) Mr. Denis Labossiere, Secretary-Treasurer, provided an update on a Property Matter and received Board direction.
- Trustee Inquiries

2.04 Board Operations

- Reports
 - a) The Superintendent/CEO provided an update on a Board Operations Matter and received direction from the Board.
 - b) Trustee Bambridge discussed a Board Operations Matter and received Trustee feedback.
- Trustee Inquiries

Ms. Letain – Mr. Murray

That the Committee of the Whole In-Camera do now resolve into Board. (6:56 p.m.)

Carried.

The Chairperson called the public portion of the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with a traditional heritage acknowledgement and welcomed everyone in attendance.

3.00 PRESENTATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**3.01 Presentations For Information****3.02 Communications For Information****3.03 Communications For Action****4.00 REPORT OF SENIOR ADMINISTRATION**

The Superintendent/CEO provided highlights on the following items from the December 10, 2018 Report of Senior Administration:

- Celebrations

- Collaborative Learning Team Grant
- Kindness Sticks at King George School
- CBC Manitoba Future 40 Finalist
- Vincent Massey High School Football Program
- Presentations
 - Westman Immigrant Services, Brandon School Division, and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada: Settlement Workers in Schools Program – L. MacDonald, J. Escalara, Dr. Casavant
 - Continuous Improvement at J. R. Reid School – S. Lehman, Ms. Cathie Hollier, J. Laluk, C. Biech, K. Hoeppner, J. Anderson

Mr. Murray – Mr. Bartlette

That the December 10, 2018 Report of Senior Administration be received and filed.

Carried.

5.00 GOVERNANCE MATTERS

5.01 Reports of Committees

5.02 Delegations and Petitions

5.03 Business Arising

- From Previous Delegation

- From Board Agenda

- MSBA Matters

- a) Questions re Local Voices Campaign
- b) Manitoba Ombudsman re: New Privacy Breach Resources for Public Bodies and Trustees
- c) Memo to Boards re: PIDA Designated Officers

5.04 Public Inquiries (max. 15 minutes)

5.05 Motions

75/2018 Mr. Montague – Mr. Murray

That the Trustees be paid the appropriate indemnity for attending the MSBA Fall Professional Development and General and Regional Meetings held in Winnipeg on November 29 and 30, 2018.

Carried.

76/2018 Mr. Bartlette – Ms. Fallis

That the Board finds the monitoring report on Education and Community Relations Committee Goal #1, Monitoring of Continuous Improvement Plan Report, to be acceptable with the recommendations below and does so by this motion based on the following understandings.

The provincially mandated continuous improvement framework is based upon data reported by Manitoba Education and Training and Brandon School Division report card data, to better understand the trends and patterns to inform the Continuous Improvement Plan.

The purpose of the continuous improvement framework is to close the gap and ensure high levels of achievement in numeracy and literacy for all students.

The Brandon School Division Board goal is *Monitoring of Continuous Improvement Plan Report* and the Board acknowledges the limitations outlined in this report but also wants to monitor the following measures as part of this goal:

1. Monitor and analyze the Divisional trends and patterns in provincial level and report card data;
2. Monitor and analyze the Divisional trends and patterns in the annually selected Brandon School Division foundational outcome data;
3. Monitor and analyze the Divisional High School Graduation Rates as calculated by the province; and
4. Monitor and analyze the Divisional chronic absenteeism data.

Carried.

77/2018 Mr. Murray – Ms. Fallis

That Trustee Ross be paid the appropriate indemnity for participating on the Assistant Superintendent Selection Committee.

Carried.

5.06 Bylaws

5.07 Giving of Notice

Ms. Fallis

I hereby give notice that at the next Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, I, or someone in my stead, will introduce By-law 1/2019, for the purpose of borrowing to meet partial costs for various construction projects in the Division.

5.08 Trustee Inquiries

- a) Trustee Montague asked what the amendment to the Whistleblower Act means to the Brandon School Division and if it does impact the Division, what steps Administration has taken for the Division on this matter.

The Superintendent/CEO thanked Trustee Montague for the question and responded that Senior Administration was in the process of developing a Whistleblower Administrative Procedure prior to this announcement. Dr. Casavant indicated he had discussed this matter with the Ombudsman at the recent MSBA General Meeting, and has asked for and is awaiting feedback from the Ombudsman on the Division's Whistleblower Administrative Procedure.

- b) Trustee Montague asked about drug and alcohol policy suspensions in elementary schools. He asked if the number of drug and alcohol policy suspensions in elementary schools are on the rise, and other than the suspension, are any additional steps taken with those students to help address the issues or the circumstances around those suspensions.

Dr. Casavant responded that he would have to analyze the data to understand if there has been an increase in suspensions. He noted that in the last couple of years, that is what has been seen in the community. When there is a suspension in a school, there is a re-entry meeting, which will involve specialists who will provide supports to the student and the family.

Reports are provided at the end of the year, and at the end of the first semester which would indicate if there has been an increase. Dr. Casavant stated that he will bring a report to the Board at the end of January.

6.00 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Support Personnel Labour Management – 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 11, 2018, Conference Room.
- b) Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting – 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 18, 2018, Boardroom.
- c) Personnel and Policy Committee Meeting – 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 18, 2018, Boardroom.
- d) Education and Community Relations Committee Meeting – 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 19, 2018, Boardroom.
- e) Workplace Safety and Health Committee Meeting – 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 8, 2019, Conference Room.
- f) NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – 7:00 p.m. (Public), Monday, January 14, 2019, Boardroom.
- g) Upcoming Budget Dates:
 - Budget Presentations – 7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 21, 2019, Boardroom.
 - Budget Deliberations – 9:00 a.m., Monday, February 25, 2019, Boardroom.
 - Public Budget Consultation – 7:00 p.m., Monday, March 4, 2019, Boardroom.
 - Final Budget Approval – 7:00 p.m., Monday, March 11, 2019, Boardroom.

7.00 ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sumner – Mr. Murray
That the Board do now adjourn. (7:41 p.m.)
Carried.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer



December 27, 2018

Denis Labossiere, Secretary-Treasurer
Brandon School Division
1031-6th Street
Brandon, Manitoba R7A 4K5

Dear Mr. Labossiere:

We request a leave of absence for Jamie Rose, Maintenance/Transportation from his position from January 15, 2019 until April 30, 2019 with the possibility of an extension for union purposes as per Article 1804 (a) of our Collective Agreement.

As usual CUPE Local 737 will reimburse the Brandon School division for loss of wages, benefits, etc.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robyn Romeril".

Robyn Romeril,
Recording Secretary, CUPE Local 737



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

Report of Senior Administration to the Board of Trustees

January 14, 2019

A. Administrative Information

I. CELEBRATIONS

1. **4TH ANNUAL STUFF THE BUS CAMPAIGN - VINCENT MASSEY HIGH SCHOOL**

During the month of December, students involved with Vincent Massey's Youth Revolution and Youth in Philanthropy groups spearheaded the fourth annual Stuff the Bus event. More than 2000 pounds of non-perishable food and personal hygiene items were collected and donated to Samaritan House in Brandon.

2. **FOOD DRIVE AND DONATION - ALEXANDER SCHOOL**

Alexander School held a food drive in collaboration with Farm Credit Canada, resulting in 211 meals for those in need. Students who participated sent thank you cards to the farmers involved, and this resulted in a donation of \$1000 from Farm Credit Canada for Samaritan House, care of Alexander School.

3. **GIVING TREE AND FOOD HAMPER DONATIONS – RIVERHEIGHTS SCHOOL**

During the month of December, Youth Revolution students at Riverheights School set up a Giving Tree to collect items needed by the Westman Women's Shelter. Additionally, food donations were collected for use in hampers that were delivered to Riverheights families in need of additional assistance over the holidays.

"Accepting the Challenge"

II. COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The following community connections were made by Dr. Casavant, Superintendent/CEO from December 5, 2018 to January 8, 2019.

- December 5, 2018 – telephone meeting with Mr. Roy Seidler, Roar Leadership Consultants
- December 5, 2018 – telephone meeting with Mr. Michael Lee, Reporter, The Brandon Sun
- December 5, 2018 – meeting with Mr. Cam Clark, General Manager, Q-Country/Star FM
- December 6, 2018 – telephone meeting with Mr. Jason Gobeil, Aboriginal Community Coordinator, Brandon Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Council
- December 10, 2018 – telephone meeting with Mr. Roy Seidler and Ms. Odette Labossiere, Roar Leadership Consultants
- December 11, 2018 – Continuous Improvement Plan – Divisional Leadership Team meeting
- December 12, 2018 – school visit and meeting with School Leader – J. R. Reid School
- December 12, 2018 – meeting with Dr. Linda Ross regarding student research project, École secondaire Neelin High School
- December 13, 2018 – Provincial Data Discussion session with Dr. Rob Santos, Assistant Deputy Minister, Manitoba Education and Training
- December 13, 2018 – Brandon Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Council holiday gathering
- December 14, 2018 – Employee recognition at École O'Kelly School
- December 14, 2018 – Southwest Superintendents Group meeting
- December 19, 2018 – meeting with School Leaders of Senior High Schools
- December 20, 2018 – school visit and meeting with staff and School Leaders – Vincent Massey High School
- December 21, 2018 - meeting with Ms. Lee Cummins
- January 8, 2019 – Continuous Improvement Plan – Divisional Leadership Team meeting

III. SUSPENSIONS

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>NO./STUDENTS</u>	<u>NO./DAYS</u>	<u>REASON</u>
Elementary Schools	4 total	1 – 3 day 1 – 3 day 1 – 4 day 1 – 4 day	Drug and Alcohol Policy Assaultive Behaviour Assaultive Behaviour Unacceptable Behaviour
High Schools	48 total	3 – 3 day 2 – 3 day 8 – 3 day 5 – 5 day 3 – 5 day 21 – 5 day 1 – 6 day 1 – 10 day 2 – 10 day 1 – 20 day 1 – 30 day	Drug and Alcohol Policy Assaultive Behaviour Unacceptable Behaviour Drug and Alcohol Policy Assaultive Behaviour Unacceptable Behaviour Unacceptable Behaviour Drug and Alcohol Policy Assaultive Behaviour Assaultive Behaviour Assaultive Behaviour

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

V. PRESENTATIONS

1. **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION LEARNING SPECIALIST**

For InformationA. Martin

Ms. Amie Martin, Indigenous Education Learning Specialist, will provide an update on her current work with Brandon School Division.

2. **CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AT MEADOWS SCHOOL**

For InformationD. Lim, K. Tillie

Mr. Dave Lim, Principal, and Ms. Krystal Tillie, Continuous Improvement Coach and Numeracy Coach, will present on Continuous Improvement initiatives currently in progress at Meadows School.

B. Business Arising for Board Action

I. INFORMATION FOR DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

1. PERSONNEL REPORT

For Information K. Buchanan

Included in the agenda package as Confidential #1 is the Personnel Report, a listing of resignations and employment approved by the Superintendent/CEO and Secretary-Treasurer since the last meeting.

2. ÉCOLE SECONDAIRE NEELIN HIGH SCHOOL OFF-SITE ACTIVITY

For Approval Dr. Casavant

École secondaire Neelin High School has submitted an off-site activity request (attached as Appendix A for Board of Trustees consideration) for fifteen (15) male and twenty-five (25) female École secondaire Neelin High School Travel Club students in grades 11 and 12 to make a trip to Berlin, Germany; Prague, Czech Republic; Krakow, Poland; and Budapest, Hungary from March 26 to April 4, 2020.

Mr. Ken Seekings, School Leader, École secondaire Neelin High School and Dr. Marc D. Casavant, Superintendent/CEO have given approval for this trip. Approval from the Board of Trustees is respectfully requested.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the request involving fifteen (15) male and twenty-five (25) female École secondaire Neelin High School Travel Club students in grades 11 to 12 to make a trip to Berlin, Germany; Prague, Czech Republic; Krakow, Poland; and Budapest, Hungary from March 26 to April 4, 2020 be approved and carried out in accordance with Board Policy #9.

II. SENIOR ADMINISTRATION RESPONSE TO TRUSTEE INQUIRIES

This report from members of the Brandon School Division Senior Administration is submitted respectfully for your consideration, action, and information.

Dr. Marc D. Casavant
Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

Finance and Facilities Committee Minutes

Tuesday, December 18, 2018 – 1:00 p.m.

Boardroom, Administration Office

Present: S. Montague, J. Murray (Alternate)
D. Labossiere, E. Jamora, C. Cramer
Regrets: K. Sumner (Chair), P. Bartlette

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by acting Committee Chair, Trustee Stephen Montague.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Denis Labossiere, Secretary-Treasurer, added one (1) In-Camera item to the agenda regarding Maryland Park School.

The agenda was approved as amended.

3. PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

The Minutes of the November 22, 2018 meeting were received as information.

The Committee also reviewed the following Stakeholder Meeting Minutes:

- Employee Groups – November 26, 2018
- Brandon Chamber of Commerce – November 27, 2018
- Parent Councils – December 6, 2018

4. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

A. Public Feedback on Budget

The Committee reviewed the six (6) public feedback comments that were submitted to the Brandon School Division website between November 7 to December 17, 2018.

5. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

A. 2018 Fall Accessibility Report

Ms. Caroline Cramer, Director of Facilities and Transportation spoke to this item and noted that the Fall Accessibility report was made following audits at each building, and reviewed the work currently in progress and completed to date regarding:

- a. Consistent Handicapped Signage in parking areas
- b. Consistent access to main entrances that includes appropriate ramps and power doors
- c. Consistent accessible handicapped washrooms for the public

Trustees asked questions for clarification.

B. Land Use Agreement – Hummingbird Gardens

Mr. Denis Labossiere, Secretary-Treasurer, spoke to this item noting that this three (3) year agreement with Healthy Brandon – Prairie Mountain Health for community garden use expires March 2019. Mr. Labossiere indicated that the 2018 property taxes were \$27,551.90, and of this amount, \$10,737.70 are Municipal taxes. The Committee discussed the Municipal, School Division, and Provincial Education Support levy amounts regarding the property taxes.

The Committee recommended that another three (3) year agreement be drafted for permission to use the land for community gardens and also for the Board to continue to engage in ongoing conversation with the City of Brandon with regard to a grant in lieu of for the municipal taxes on the property.

Recommendation:

That a three (3) year land use agreement for community garden use of the property located at 5 Hummingbird Lane be approved effective April 1, 2019.

C. Confirm Payments of Account (November)

The payments of account for the month of November were provided for information.

The report was accepted as circulated.

D. Review Monthly Reports (November)

Mr. Labossiere reviewed the Financial report for November. The reports were accepted as circulated.

E. Sub Committee Reports

- Workplace Safety & Health – Special Meeting – November 27, 2018

6. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

- The Director of Facilities and Transportation provided an update on the following projects:
 - Earl Oxford School – Modular Classroom
 - École Harrison – Steam Heating System Replacement
 - Baragar Training
- The Secretary-Treasurer provided additional updates on the following:
 - Reviewed a letter from the Minister of Education and Training regarding Surplus School Space
 - Brandon Schools Instrumental Music Association
- The Secretary-Treasurer provided the Committee with an In-Camera update on the Maryland Park School Tender.

7. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, January 22, 2019, 1:00 p.m., Boardroom.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Sumner (Chair)

P. Bartlette

S. Montague

J. Murray (Alternate)



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE – SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2018

MINUTES

*Present: Debra Draper, Safety and Health Officer
Jamie Rose, President, CUPE Local 737
Doug Armstrong, WPS&H Officer
Stephen Montague, Trustee
Peter Buehler, President, BTA
Caroline Cramer, Director, Facilities & Transportation
Danae Heaman, Educational Assistant
Craig Laluk, Principal, École Harrison
Melanie Smoke-Budach, Executive Secretary – Recording Secretary*

Special Meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m., a quick introduction was made by all parties present.

Date Served: November 14, 2018

On November 2, 2018 worker co-chairs of the S&H Committee met with Debra Draper, Safety and Health Officer. On November 5, 2018, Debra Draper met with Caroline Cramer and Doug Armstrong. These meetings were to discuss concerns brought forward regarding violent incidents, transportation of students and the functioning of the S&H central Committee.

C. Cramer read the Report Form to the Committee and it was agreed that each point would be discussed, in order.

- 1. Workers are being required to transport student in personal vehicles. An adequate working alone plan and safe work procedures for this task have not been implemented. There appears to be drafts of these documents but they have not been finalized.***

C. Cramer explained the evolution of the two safe work procedures (SWP): “BSD Employee Transportation of Student(s) in Personal Vehicles” and “BSD Employee Working Alone and/or in Isolation”. The SWP for the transportation of student(s) in personal vehicles was developed prior to the SWP for working alone. Currently, the SWP for working alone is in draft form. Copies of the SWP (BSD employee working alone and/or in isolation) were distributed for reference and review.

D. Draper emphasized and supported a collaborative effort when editing the document. The discussion should be around consultation and discussion within the Committee, not approval by separate members. The current process of working separately is very inefficient and time consuming. Lastly, management does not require approval when establishing a SWP for the Division.

“Accepting the Challenge”

She recommended to speak with individuals who were doing the job. J. Rose referenced the CUPE document "Use of private vehicle to transport students" and requested the points mentioned be incorporated into the SWP. Copies of the document were distributed. A discussion regarding the broad nature of the SWP procedure and the specifics of the CUPE document took place.

D. Draper suggested to have a Working Alone Program, with different hazards/situations attached. D. Armstrong was assigned to research what other division are doing regarding working alone and/or in isolation. C. Laluk suggested to review the Pembina Trails plan

Action:

Develop a general Working Alone Program for everyone: D. Armstrong, C. Laluk and an educational assistant (name to be forwarded). It was agreed the information will flow via email for updates, edits and feedback before the next WPSH meeting scheduled for January 8, 2019.

2. *Workers are not receiving adequate information about risks of violence in their workplaces.*

D. Draper commented that not a lot of information or adequate information was being shared with EA's. She referred to the legislation and read from the Violence Prevention Policy. C. Cramer advised the document "Behaviour Intervention", will undergo final revisions by Senior Administration on December 5, 2018. The document will then be reviewed by the Division Leadership Team on January 22, 2019. C. Cramer further explained it will then be rolled out to all locations in two pieces, as a Toolkit for Workers and as a Guide for Principals.

Caroline commented that there are strict legal requirements in relation to PHIA and FIPPA in regards to student information and the sharing of personal information. With this in mind our school administrator's, do share information contained in a student Behaviour Intervention plan (BIP) with affected BSD team members. The BIP contains detail related to student triggers (risk) and coping strategies (control). The Division will be rolling out the Behaviour Intervention program document, which provides school administration and support staff with a documented review process for sharing risk information.

D. Draper shared her concern and asked what was in place in the interim for workers. She also advised the Committee can recommend timelines. C. Laluk advised information is currently shared however, it varies from site to site. The process is similar to URIS program in that relevant employees in direct contact are informed.

Action:

C. Cramer to update the Committee on the "Behaviour Intervention" document.

3. *A violence assessment for each workplace has not been carried out in consultation with the S&H Committees and S&H representatives.*

D. Draper advised a violent assessment must precede a violent policy, is it possible to assess risks at each location? Are there checklists in place, are they reviewed daily, monthly or yearly? C. Cramer advised a violent assessment has been done by the Brandon Police Services at all locations and there are procedures in place to deal with situations in all locations. C. Laluk advised currently the Division has a Risk Response Manual that is reviewed yearly by Senior Administration and that school teams are trained in crisis-intervention. The Committee discussed the process whereby violent incidents are reported. Senior Administration reviews all violent incident reports and tracks for them for trends and schools are visited when necessary. The WPS&H Officer also reports to the Central Committee all reports in a monthly breakdown (numbers only).

Action:

C. Cramer to share a Risk Response Manual template with general criteria for the Committee by December 5, 2018.

4. Minor Incidents and near misses are not being investigated and corrective measures are not being put in place.

D. Draper commented that near misses were being investigated however the potential exists for minor incidents to become violent incidents, therefore they must be addressed. A corrective action must be put in place to address minor incidents as it is not possible for consultation with the Central Committee. C. Laluk asked if it would be acceptable for a quarterly review with each school?

Action:

D. Armstrong to review quarterly with each school their incidents reports, when regular school inspections are conducted.

5. The S&H Committee does not have written rules of procedure.

D. Draper advised a good terms of reference are missing from the WPS&H of the Brandon School Division.

C. Cramer advised she would send out a draft document for review by the Committee. P. Buehler noted that BTA and CUPE 737 have created a similar document laying out terms of reference for the Committee and asked that it be circulated to Committee members through Melanie Smoke-Budach.

Action:

All documents should be forwarded through the recording secretary for dispersion to the Committee for review, feedback and edits. A final term of references to be compiled.

6. Committee members are not fulfilling all duties as required by the WSH Act.

D. Armstrong advised a MSBA/MTS training took place on October 4, 2018. He further elaborated that all WPS&H representatives were invited to attend. D. Draper asked if all Committee members and Principals have received training? All Committee members concurred, they have received training. However, C. Laluk advised unless Principals are signing up on their own they are not receiving training. D. Armstrong confirmed that School Administrators at Vincent Massey, Crocus Plains RSS and Ecole secondaire Neelin have had incident training within the last year. D. Draper read the responsibilities of the Employer as quoted in the WPSH Act and recommended that a PD training session be scheduled for all School Administrators.

Action:

A recommendation to Senior Administration to plan a WPS&H PD session for all school administrators.

7. **Not all Committee members have been trained on their role and responsibilities.**
The Committee has more co-chairpersons than permitted by the WSH Act.
The process used to elect a S&H Rep at each school is unclear.

D. Draper advised it is imperative that all members of the Committee have the same goal, that workers should not be separate from management. The efforts of the Committee work should be as a team, working together for the safety of all workers. She further emphasized WPS&H Central Committee meetings is not the place to discuss labour management issues.

She questioned the alternating of co-chairs (BTA/CUPE) at each meeting. She commented this practise is unheard of and not supported. She recommended the Committee vote a co-chair for the year and then if necessary switch the following year. D. Draper stated as per the Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Act & Regulation 40(8), "A Committee shall have two co-chairpersons-one chosen by the employer members on the Committee, and the other chosen by the worker members on the Committee-who shall alternate in serving as chairpersons at meetings of the Committee and shall participate in all decisions of the Committee". She also offered that the Committee can propose continuing with three (3) co-chairs when applying for a renewed variance, and that the Committee can make the terms of reference for a variance whatever the Committee sees fit.

D. Draper then identified the same issue is present with the WPS&H representation at each location. The concern should be safety at each location, regardless of the status of each representative.

J. Rose pointed out that CUPE 737 shared bylaws on how the Central Committee is elected and how the school representatives are appointed (Brandon School Division and CUPE 737 Collective Agreement, Article 26 – Workplace Safety & Health Committee in the Agreement). P. Buehler indicated that though the BTA Constitution is silent on this matter it is the desire of the BTA to continue the current arrangement of three (3) co-chairs (one from management, one from CUPE 737 and one from the BTA).

In conclusion, D. Draper advised to establish a WPS&H Terms of Reference that works for all parties at all locations. The document can be a living document, evolving and changing over time as needed and agreed to.

Meeting adjourned: 2: 50 pm

In my opinion, the above is an accurate record of this meeting.

Signature_____

Employer Co-Chair C. Cramer

Signature_____

Worker Co-Chair J. Rose

/msb



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

Personnel and Policy Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, January 8, 2019 – 12:00 p.m.

Boardroom, Administration Office

Present: S. Bambridge, L. Ross
M. Casavant

Regrets: J. Murray, D. Labossiere

Guest: D. Swayze

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Personnel and Policy Committee Meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m. by acting Chair Trustee Bambridge.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as circulated.

3. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

4. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

A. PERSONNEL MATTER – IN-CAMERA

Mr. David Swayze, Solicitor, Meighen Haddad LLP, attended the meeting and made In-Camera presentations to the Committee. Discussions and questions ensued with the information provided.

5. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 17, 2019, 3:15 p.m., Boardroom (In-Camera)

The meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Murray (Chair)

S. Bambridge

L. Ross

L. Letain (Alternate)

FALL MEETING FOLLOW-UP

Are you looking for any of the presentations from our November 29 new trustee orientation and professional development day? We've posted them [all](#) under the [trustee education](#) tab of our website. Topics covered that day included trustee code of conduct, risk management issues, whistleblower legislation, and the implications of legal cannabis for school boards. We also want to hear your thoughts about the scheduling and format of future association meetings and events. Watch for a survey that will be coming your way soon!

PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE UPDATE



Congratulations to Interlake S.D. trustee [Alan Campbell](#), elected in the November 30 by-election to serve as association president until March 2019. The position of president was vacated when former president Ken Cameron did not seek re-election in the October 24 school trustee elections. In accordance with association by-laws, Alan's former position of vice-president from boards serving fewer than 6000 students will remain unfilled until our March convention. And congratulations also to past president Floyd Martens, who returns to the executive to fulfill that role until the close of convention 2019. Floyd did not seek re-election as a trustee in October, but was subsequently appointed to fill a post-election vacancy on the Mountain View S.D. board.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

This February, we will be offering a workshop specifically geared to assist school board chairs, both new and experienced, fulfill this important and sometimes challenging role. The session will be offered on two occasions: February 6, 2019, at the Victoria Inn in Brandon, and February 8, 2019, at the Norwood Hotel in Winnipeg. The day will include information about legal and procedural issues related to chairing a board meeting, and a look at managing some of the interpersonal challenges that can come with the role. It will also include opportunities for participants to learn from the experiences of their colleagues through informal discussion. Registration is limited, and will be restricted to current school board chairs and vice-chairs, or their designates. Watch for program and registration details in January.

CONVENTION 2019 UPDATE



The 2019 Convention Planning Committee is pleased to announce [Mike Lipkin](#) as our opening keynote speaker on Thursday, March 14. Mike is the author of nine best-selling books on personal leadership and effectiveness, including *Dancing with Disruption* and *The Checklist of Champions*.

He is also the founder and president of Environics/Lipkin, where he uses social values research to offer a powerful blend of ideas and principles that help clients achieve remarkable results.

Convention will wrap up on March 15 with our banquet and entertainment by "The Wonderist" [Chris Funk](#). Chris has taken his acclaimed comedy-magic show to the Las Vegas strip and across the globe. He has performed on Penn and Teller's "Fool Us", "America's Got Talent", and "Masters of Illusion," but on Friday evening, he is performing just for us!



In other convention news, we still have a few openings for Thursday workshops. Why not take this opportunity to share with your colleagues success stories from your own division that speak to our central convention theme, local voices, local choices. Simply complete and submit a [workshop proposal form](#), or email [Heather Demetrio](#) with your ideas.

For all the latest convention developments, or to find information about nominations, awards, the charity raffle and more, visit our [convention page](#), and watch for the program and registration package in January.



Leadership, Service and Advocacy:
Local Voices, Local Choices

Convention 2019, March 14 - 15, Delta Winnipeg, 350 St. Mary Avenue

SURVEY REMINDER

If you haven't already completed our 2018 [school board member survey](#), please do so as soon as possible. The information you provide helps us advocate for you, by demonstrating that school boards truly are comprised of local voices, making local choices.



LOCAL VOICES, LOCAL CHOICES 2.0

In response to some feedback, we've produced a [second version](#) of our local voices, local choices video. You can find both the new version and the [original](#) on our [YouTube channel](#)—just search @mbschoolboards. Decide which one you prefer, and then share the video with your colleagues, friends and neighbours . . . because schools belong to communities. #LocalVoicesLocalChoices

follow us [@MBSchoolBoards](https://twitter.com/MBSchoolBoards)



LEADERSHIP, ADVOCACY AND SERVICE FOR MANITOBA'S PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS

DATE: December 19, 2018

TO: All board chairs, for distribution to all trustees

FROM: MSBA Provincial Executive

RE: Recent media advocacy re: Local Voices, Local Choices Campaign

Dear member boards:

As 2018 draws to a close, we wanted to take a moment to provide you with an update concerning recent media coverage in support of MSBA's "Local Voices, Local Choices" campaign.

For those who were in attendance at the New Trustee Orientation and General Meeting at the end of November, you have been entrusted by MSBA with the task of engaging your local communities. To this end, we want to underscore what we shared with you at that time: that you are free to draw from and use any or all of the materials that MSBA had drafted as part of the "Local Voices, Local Choices" campaign.

MSBA staff remain available to support the work of boards in this responsibility, if any member would like to adapt the materials that we have produced by including your own divisional logos or identifiers, when communicating key messages to your local communities.

In terms of media engagement, we wanted to highlight three recent examples of some important work undertaken by select members. We know that this is by no means exhaustive, so if you have also had articles featured in your local media outlets, please do send those to us so that we can keep track of the most recent developments!

December 7: Pembina Valley Online interview with Patty Wiebe, MSBA Region 2 Director

<https://pembinavalleyonline.com/local/manitoba-trustees-look-to-inform-the-public-ahead-of-provincial-education-review#.XArTfmQMvOo.twitter>

December 12: Portage Online article featuring the Pine Creek School Board

<https://www.portageonline.com/local/school-divisions-appeal-for-local-choices-local-voices>

We would also like to thank Fort la Bosse School Board for drawing our attention to an editorial/opinion piece that was featured in the Manitoba Co-operator on November 19:

<https://www.manitobacooperator.ca/news-opinion/opinion/school-taxation-a-sign-of-unsustainability/>

It is very important that if any member comes across any such article, and would like MSBA to respond accordingly, to let us know as soon as possible so that we can ensure that we have sufficient time to prepare a response that remains timely.

On December 10, in response to the above Co-operator editorial, MSBA submitted our own response. While this response has not yet been published, we wish to share it with our members, so that you are aware of other recent media activities in conjunction with the Local Voices, Local Choices campaign.

In re: school taxation a sign of unsustainability (November 19) Burnett and Clifton state that "taxpayers and parents must pay attention to what school boards actually do". We could not agree more. School boards in Manitoba, and the property taxes they collect to support local education, is indeed a different funding model and a different level of responsibility than is true of every other province. But in contrast to Burnett and Clifton, we would suggest that therein lies the strength, not the weakness, of the Manitoba model.

Those who live in rural communities in Manitoba know how important it is to keep programming and services local. Over the years, rural and northern citizens have seen their public services diminish. Hospital beds have been closed, recruitment and retention of doctors and other healthcare staff remains a constant challenge. Bit by bit, core programming has been centralized and decisions made further away from those who depend on these vital services. But this is not so for education. And people who live in Manitoba's heartland know how important it is to ensure that community ownership of the local school remains untouched.

Sustaining the right to live in the communities of one's own choosing often comes with a cost. As policymakers in Ottawa and Winnipeg debate carbon costs and whether to tax or not tax the very breadbasket upon which we depend, the price of gas, groceries and recreational activities have skyrocketed, placing even more pressures on the pocketbook.

Amidst this same situation lies the public school: the engine that drives the skills and knowledge that will serve the needs and requirements of another generation. But gone are the days of the one room schoolhouse that once dotted the open prairies of Manitoba. Today's students have the ability to build their foundations on far more than "reading, writing and arithmetic".

These subjects remain just as important, but so too are the advanced vocational programs in the skilled trades, things like small engine repair and carpentry. Band concerts and theatre productions remain testament to the importance of music, art and drama programs. And state-of-the-art science labs ensure our kids are readied for agricultural production, plant and animal science or to become the doctors and healthcare workers of tomorrow, to name a few of the options that every Manitoba student has. Options designed to sustain the rural and northern way of life while bringing the world to their very doorstep.

Burnett and Clifton imply that such options can be made more sustainable by removing the local taxation authority of the small-town school board. Why not go the way of our neighbours to the east and the west and strip trustees of their ability to tax? But as those in Saskatchewan will tell you, the move by Regina to centralize school property tax did not come with savings for the homestead: the total amount of property tax collected before and after remained largely the same. And just ask the municipalities in Ontario what happened when Toronto capped their school property taxes twenty years ago. More room on the local tax bill for snow-clearing and water treatment? Hardly the case, as the Government of Ontario heaped responsibilities for healthcare and welfare on town councils, while subsequently redirecting billions in tax dollars from elsewhere to sustain that province's public schools.

Burnett and Clifton further argue that education costs ought to be contained at the cost of annual inflation. If local communities are willing to see schools closed, teacher positions cut, and programs taken away, then this proposal is a viable one. We do not however, believe this is what Manitobans want for their education system. The reality is that many school costs simply outpace the rate of inflation. Do Manitobans know that replacing school buses alone can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars? The truth is that comparing the costs of preparing a child's future against those of a price index designed by Ottawa to reflect general growth in living costs is hardly a tenable prospect. In fact it is very naive.

Burnett and Clifton then compare the costs associated with individual school divisions. Why are Frontier School Division's costs, as the largest geographic school division in Manitoba, almost double those of Garden Valley School Division in Winkler? Well, just ask the townspeople who are served by Frontier School Division, such as the good folks up in Churchill, why a quart of milk in that community costs \$20, and it is not difficult to understand that what Burnett

and Clifton are comparing in terms of the division with the lowest and highest operating costs, is hardly apples to apples. It is more akin to comparing soybeans to potatoes.

What solution do Burnett and Clifton propose following from their patchwork of far-flung comparisons and price indexes? Amalgamation. Creating larger school divisions by taking away local communities' right to own their public school. In this respect, they would do well to remember another study prepared by their colleagues at the Frontier Institute of Public Policy, written the last time school divisions were amalgamated in Manitoba: a decision that resulted in the elimination of twenty school boards nearly twenty years ago. In 2005, after all the dust had settled, the Frontier Institute found that amalgamation achieved virtually no savings. Instead of saving the millions targeted by government of the day, dollars were spent to save dimes. The final conclusion of that study was that rather than amalgamating school divisions, the government would have done better to focus time and effort on meaningful education reform.

So it was with this in mind that our association chose to gather a group of independent experts just last year to look at how local education funding could be meaningfully reformed for the advantage of all Manitobans. Coming from every walk of life, including agriculture, commerce, municipal and education backgrounds, the experts on that council studied many options and solutions for meaningful change. In the end, we found common agreement on one final recommendation: that this province and its people would benefit from the establishment of a formal and independent tax commission. A full study that would look at the big picture when it comes to all taxes in Manitoba, local, provincial and federal, and propose a clear path forward. In the end, we collectively agreed that when it comes to taxes, no Manitoban is served by trading a bushel for the harvest.

Burnett and Clifton however, offer no such solution. Theirs is a one size fits all recommendation that all school boards should have their taxing responsibilities taken away. They literally suggest that communities across Manitoba be forced to go hat in hand down to Broadway for funding each and every year. We would suggest however, that local voice and local choice still matter when it comes our schools and this is best left to each local community to decide. Through their vital democratic right to elect their own school board, communities in Manitoba get to decide what level of funding is sustainable when meeting the needs of their schools and students. This is because, at the end of the day, education belongs to communities.

On the heels of our provincial government's recent move to introduce a new law that would see referendums held on all future tax increases, it therefore seems counterintuitive for Burnett and Clifton to propose a removal of the best referendum that every citizen has when it comes to their local school tax. One that Manitobans have enjoyed since 1872, when local trustees were first chosen by their community to set school budgets and taxes in each of the four years for which they are elected. In the end it is therefore very true that "taxpayers and parents must pay attention to what school boards actually do", for this is your vital democratic right. With the upcoming provincial review of Kindergarten to Grade 12 education in Manitoba set for 2019, there is no better time to ensure that local voice and local choices are heard when it comes to education in your community. We invite all Manitobans to join us in setting the record straight when it comes time for this critical dialogue on Manitoba's communities and their future.

-- Manitoba School Boards Association

Lastly, below is the text of an op-ed featured in the Portage Daily Graphic on December 13, as submitted by the Portage la Prairie School Board. The op-ed was printed in its entirety:

Local Voice, Local Choice from Past to Present

The Portage la Prairie School Division was established formally on April 1, 1959 by an order of the Manitoba Minister of Education, acting on a recommendation of the MacFarlane Commission on Education and the School Divisions Boundaries Commission. The Portage la Prairie School Division then became responsible for all secondary education, grades 9 to 12 in the local area. The Cochrane School was one example of a small school located within the

Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie. It was named to honour Archdeacon Cockran (Cochran) who, in 1850, established the first settlement in the area. The school was a 24 foot by 36 foot one-room white frame building, serving a small rural area north of High Bluff. Enrolment in grades one to eight ranged from eight to twenty students. According to historical archives, many students rode ponies which were sheltered in an adjacent barn. At the time of the school's establishment, it was the local trustees who governed the school and all decision making.

Today, the Portage la Prairie School division still includes rural and urban schools - 18 in total, 7 in the City of Portage la Prairie, 1 in Oakville and 10 Hutterian schools. Pending the formal approval of the Minister of Education, the Long Plain School will soon join the division, raising the student enrollment to approximately 3700 students. At the time of the MacFarlane Commission in 1959, 44 rural schools served farm families throughout the area in tiny schools like Overhill, Poplar Bluff, Rob Roy and Belcourt, but as agriculture changed, so too did demographic patterns and populations shifted from rural to urban. What has not changed over time is the local school governance model for education that has ensured that elected trustees from local communities continue to have a say in how its schools are governed.

Local schools, with local leadership is a Canadian tradition that goes back to the earliest days of Portage la Prairie and district. Very shortly, the government is set to embark on an educational review that may eliminate local voice by amalgamating school divisions. The prospect of local control being lost to greater centralization should be very concerning. The trustees of the Portage la Prairie School Division are proud to serve the needs of the local community, as has been the tradition in the province for the past century, their position is simple - local voice means local choice.

In recent years, there are countless examples where schools within the Portage la Prairie School Division have benefited greatly from having local decision making powers, examples include significant investments made in staffing, facilities, equipment and programming that would not have been possible in a centralized model.

The one room school houses of the Portage la Prairie School Division's past have been replaced by modern buildings with the latest technology that allow students to connect to a 21st century world. The majority of those investments have been funded locally, with networks and devices purchased through local property taxes and allocated based on careful decisions made at the local level. The Trustees of the Portage la Prairie School division feel those decisions should be made in Portage la Prairie, not in Winnipeg or elsewhere. The community of Portage la Prairie has unique needs and challenges that should to be addressed at the community level – amalgamation and centralized decision making remove that ability. The Portage la Prairie School Division has been an historically responsible board, spending local school taxes conservatively, but with a consistent focus that has always placed students first.

As the province begins asking for public feedback on an educational review, please consider the following facts:

NO SAVINGS, BIGGER COSTS, DISTANT DECISIONS
PUBLIC EDUCATION BELONGS TO EVERY COMMUNITY

- LESS IS NOT MORE when it comes to providing programs, services and supports for the sake of our children.

- BIGGER IS NOT BETTER. Eliminating some school divisions means creating larger school divisions out of the rest, making it more difficult and even more costly to provide programs, services and supports.

- DECISIONS ARE FURTHER AWAY FROM LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

Fewer school boards mean decisions would become distant from the very communities that these decisions will impact.

- DOLLARS WOULD BE SPENT TO SAVE PENNIES.

In 2001-02, twenty school divisions were eliminated by Manitoba's former Government.

Their target: millions of dollars in savings... BUT in 2005, an independent study written by the Frontier Institute for Public Policy found that eliminating 20 school divisions resulted in virtually no savings. Bigger school divisions meant bigger costs. The time spent on the elimination process would have been better invested in meaningful education reform. In the end, the only real impact was to remove ownership of public schools from local neighbourhoods and small town communities.

The Trustees of the Portage la Prairie School Division

Hélène Hoggarth (Chairperson) Rod Brownlee (Vice Chair)

Murray McLenehan Tracey Asham

Yvette Cuthbert Shauna-Lei Leslie

Debbie Citulsky Luis Luna

Penny Verwey

ader.com
Ameri-
and it
Motor
Moun-
em, he
anner
is with

www.thegraphicleader.com

The Graphic Leader • THURSDAY

Op-Ed

Local voice, local choice from past to present

The Portage la Prairie School Division was established formally on April 1, 1959 by an order of the Manitoba Minister of Education, acting on a recommendation of the MacFarlane Commission on Education and the School Divisions Boundaries Commission. The Portage la Prairie School Division then became responsible for all secondary education, grades 9 to 12 in the local area. The Cochrane School was one example of a small school located within the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie. It was named to honour Archdeacon Cockran (Cochran) who, in 1850, established the first settlement in the area. The school was a 24 by 36 foot, one-room, white-frame building, serving a small rural area north of High Bluff. Enrolment in grades one to eight ranged from eight to 20 students. According to historical archives, many students rode ponies which were sheltered in an adjacent barn. At the time of the school's establishment, it was the local trustees who governed the school and all decision making.

Today, the Portage la Prairie School Division still includes rural and urban schools - 18 in total, seven in the city of Portage la Prairie, one in Oakville and 10 Hutterian schools. Pending the formal approval of the Minister of Education, the Long Plain School will soon join the division, raising

the student enrollment to approximately 3,700 students. At the time of the MacFarlane Commission in 1959, 44 rural schools served farm families throughout the area in tiny schools like Overhill, Poplar Bluff, Rob Roy and Belcourt, but as agriculture changed, so too did demographic patterns and populations shifted from rural to urban. What has not changed over time is the local school governance model for education that has ensured that elected trustees from local communities continue to have a say in how its schools are governed.

Local schools, with local leadership is a Canadian tradition that goes back to the earliest days of Portage la Prairie and district. Very shortly, the government is set to embark on an educational review that may eliminate local voice by amalgamating school divisions. The prospect of local control being lost to greater centralization should be very concerning. The trustees of the Portage la Prairie School Division are proud to serve the needs of the local community, as has been the tradition in the province for the past century, their position is simple - local voice means local choice.

In recent years, there are countless examples where schools within the Portage la Prairie School Division have benefited greatly from having local decision making powers, examples include significant invest-

ments made in staffing, facilities, equipment and programming that would not have been possible in a centralized model.

The one room school houses of the Portage la Prairie School Division's past have been replaced by modern buildings with the latest technology that allow students to connect to a 21st century world. The majority of those investments have been funded locally, with networks and devices purchased through local property taxes and allocated based on careful decisions made at the local level. The trustees of the Portage la Prairie School Division feel those decisions should be made in Portage la Prairie, not in Winnipeg or elsewhere. The community of Portage la Prairie has unique needs and challenges that should be addressed at the community level - amalgamation and centralized decision making remove that ability.

The Portage la Prairie School Division has been a historically responsible board, spending local school taxes conservatively, but with a consistent focus that has always placed students first.

As the province begins asking for public feedback on an educational review, please consider the following facts:

- Less is not more when it comes to providing programs, services and supports for the sake of our children.

- Bigger is not better. Eliminating some school divisions means creating larger school divisions out of the rest, making it more difficult and even more costly to provide programs, services and supports.

- Decisions are further away from local communities. Fewer school boards mean decisions would become distant from the very communities that these decisions will impact.

- Dollars would be spent to save pennies.

In 2001/02, twenty school divisions were eliminated by Manitoba's former government. Their target: millions of dollars in savings. But in 2005, an independent study written by the Frontier Institute for Public Policy found that eliminating 20 school divisions resulted in virtually no savings. Bigger school divisions meant bigger costs. The time spent on the elimination process would have been better invested in meaningful education reform. In the end, the only real impact was to remove ownership of public schools from local neighbourhoods and small town communities.

Trustees of the Portage la Prairie School Division

Heileen Hoggarth, chairperson
Rod Brownlee, vice chair
Murray McLennan
Tracey Asham
Yvette Cuthbert
Shauna-Lee Leslie
Dobbie Citulsky
Luis Luna
Penny Vorwey

Have something to say? Send letters to



January 3, 2019

TO: All Board Chairs, All Trustees

FROM: MSBA Executive Director Josh Watt

RE: Follow-up on various items

Many warm wishes to everyone for a happy 2019.

With the start of the New Year, there are several items for which MSBA would appreciate board and trustee feedback / response.

1. SURVEY ON SCHEDULE AND FORMAT OF FUTURE ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

The first is a new survey that we are sending to you regarding the timing and location of future MSBA Fall meetings and annual convention. This survey is open to all trustees for response.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MSBAMeetingsSurvey>

If you can please respond to this survey as soon as possible this will assist us in securing a date and time for our upcoming meetings. Please respond to this survey no later than January 25, 2019. We will be verifying how many responses are received to the survey at that time.

2. TRUSTEE PROFILE SURVEY

Delegates who attended the association's general meeting at the end of November will also recall two specific requests. The first pertains to our once-every-election-cycle trustee profile survey. To date, we have received approximately 200 responses out of a possible 300 trustees!

If those who have not yet responded can please take time to do so, it would be greatly appreciated. We are seeking universal response to this very important survey. All responses are confidential and will take approximately two minutes for each trustee to complete.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QXLHZTT>

Please respond to this survey no later than January 25, 2019. We will be verifying how many responses are received to the survey at that time.

3. LOCAL VOICES, LOCAL CHOICES CAMPAIGN SURVEY

Delegates who attended the association's general meeting at the end of November will also recall the other request that we made, for responses to four questions as follows:

- 1) What are you as a board doing to engage your communities?
- 2) How can MSBA support you as boards in your work of engaging local communities?
- 3) What might be some of the local programs, supports or services that your school division has established that serve the unique needs of your community, and that MSBA can profile as part of the *Local Voices, Local Choices* campaign?
- 4) Who are some of the local community members, groups or organizations from outside of your school community (ie: not students, parents, or staff) who would be in a position to speak to the positive work that your school division has achieved, and who MSBA could profile as part of the *Local Voices, Local Choices* campaign?

These four questions are being asked in order to assist MSBA with the further development of the *Local Voices, Local Choices* advocacy campaign. To date, we have received eleven responses to this survey. As always, we value your feedback and input. For boards who have not yet responded, we look forward to showcasing your local programming and supporters.

If you can please email your responses back to Andrea Kehler by January 31, 2019 that would be greatly appreciated. Please email Andrea at akehler@mbschoolboards.ca

1) VOLUNTEERS FOR MSBA COMMITTEES

As usual, MSBA now has several vacancies on select committees for trustees to serve on as volunteers.

We require:

- 1 volunteer for the Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba Board of Directors. The CNCM BoD meets quarterly in Winnipeg.
- 1 volunteer for the MSBA Convention Planning Committee. The Committee will meet for next year's convention starting in June, 2019 in Winnipeg. The committee meets several times each year in Winnipeg.
- 3 volunteers for the MSBA Resolutions Committee. Service on this committee involves participation in one annual meeting that takes place prior to each annual convention, in Winnipeg.

If you can please email your interest in serving on these committees back to Andrea Kehler by January 31, 2019 that would be greatly appreciated. Please email Andrea at: akehler@mbschoolboards.ca