

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL 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 8:00 P.M., TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2010.

PRESENT:

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

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

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

CALL:

The Chairperson called the meeting to order 8:00 p.m. and referred to the Call.

The meeting had been called for the purpose of considering the following:

- a) Implementation of Physical Education for Grade 7 and 8 Green Acres and George Fitton School Students.
- b) Teacher Arbitration Award (In-Camera)

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the public for the input the Board had received to date with respect to the implementation of the Single Track French Immersion Program.

a) Implementation of Physical Education for Grade 7 and 8 Green Acres and George Fitton School Students.

The Chairperson provided a brief review of the discussions held at the Regular Board Meeting on April 12, 2010 with respect to the issue of implementation of physical education for Grade 7 and 8 Green Acres and George Fitton School students. He noted the direction given to Senior Administration to provide a report for the Board to review at tonight's meeting addressing the issues expressed by concerned parents and staff. He noted that the Board must make a decision at tonight's Special Board Meeting due to time constraints and the need to move forward.

Superintendent, Dr. Michaels and Associate Superintendent, Mr. Greg Malazdrewicz, presented their report entitled "Single Track French Immersion Implementation Considerations – English Program Physical Education at George Fitton and Green Acres Schools for Grades 7 & 8 Students, September 2010" attached as Appendix "A" to these Minutes, which contained three timetable models. They noted the timetable models took into consideration the historical/current operation of other larger Kindergarten to Grade 8 schools within the Brandon School Division.

Following the presentation of the report, Trustees asked a number of questions with respect to the three models presented as well as clarification of the following:

- the physical education class size for the grade 7 and 8 students involved;
- whether or not the physical education teachers involved had been consulted;

- how the 15 minute shortfall is made up across the Division;
- expansion of outdoor physical education;
- confirmation that Green Acres students currently attending Grade 7 and 8 at Harrison school, walk to Harrison and are not bussed;
- the projected enrollment for each school involved;
- the similarity between the Harrison School timetable and the Meadows School timetable;
- the viability of streamlining Earl Oxford classes for Green Acres students.

Trustees thanked Senior Administration for their work on this matter noting the thoughtful consideration that had been put into the report. A discussion was held regarding the recommendations which had been put forth.

Trustee Jolly noted she favoured Model/Option 2D as there was no busing involved, students from both Green Acres and George Fitton would have physical education at Harrison School and there would be no doubling up classes for the older grades. She also noted both schools taking physical education at Harrison allowed for the possibility of forming a team and practicing together for volleyball and basketball.

Trustee Bartlette also favoured Model/Option 2D and agreed with the comments made by Trustee Jolly. He was also glad to see the gym would be available over the noon hour.

Trustee Snelling supported Model/Option 2D but asked Senior Administration to look into the possibility of consulting with the Physical Education Co-Coordinator and the physical education teachers before September to discuss the possibility of improving this option and expanding outdoor physical education classes.

Trustee Karnes noted he favoured Model/Option 2D as it did not involve busing of students. He also agreed with Trustee Snelling regarding expanding outdoor physical education classes.

Trustee Mayes confirmed he supported Model/Option 2D. He noted there are Grade 7 and 8 students in the Division who hold classes in smaller gyms than George Fitton or Green Acres Schools and cited Alexander School as an example. Trustee Mayes also reviewed for the public why the Board of Trustees chose Harrison Middle School for implementation of the Single Track French Immersion Program and why the numbers did not make a phase-in option viable for implementation of the program. Mr. Mayes also reviewed some of the other suggestions that had been made over the course of reviewing this matter and why those reasons were rejected by the Board.

Trustee Murray agreed Model/Option 2D solved a lot of the problems presented by the public regarding physical education for the Grade 7 and 8 students of George Fitton and Green Acres Schools. He expressed concern that the option was 15 minutes short per cycle but noted schools can retrieve that lost time through 1 ½ field day per year. Mr. Murray reviewed all the work that had gone into this issue and the length of time the Board has taken to deal with the matter. He confirmed that decisions made tonight must move forward in order to implement the program in September 2010.

Trustee Coey also supported Model/Option 2D. She noted the Board has listened to the Community and heard that they had no problem with the Single Track French Immersion Program but were concerned about implementation of the Grade 7 and 8 Physical Education program which she felt Model/Option 2D addressed.

Trustee Ross agreed that Model/Option 2D addressed the concerns of most people. She noted upon reviewing the minutes over the last 2 years the Board has planned carefully for the implementation of the Single Track French Immersion Program. She confirmed there is always room for improvement and noted the Single Track French Immersion students will also be compromising as well with respect to physical education classes.

Trustee Buri confirmed he also supported Model/Option 2D. He thanked Senior Administration for presenting the timetabling models this evening noting they alleviated fears regarding space and addressed issues regarding bussing.

49/2010 Mrs. Jolly – Mr. Bartlette
That Model/Option 2D, as presented in the report of the Superintendent at the Special Board Meeting held on April 20, 2010, to provide George Fitton School and Green Acres School Grade 7 and 8 physical education classes at École Harrison in single classes and requiring no school bus transportation, be approved.

Carried.

The Chairperson directed the Secretary-Treasurer to expedite a meeting with the Public Schools Finance Board and the Minister of Education, to take place in Winnipeg as soon as possible, to address the issue of gym renovations for George Fitton and Green Acres Schools.

Mrs. Coey – Mr. Snelling

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

Carried.

IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN CAMERA

b) Teacher Arbitration Award (In-Camera)

Legal correspondence on a Teacher Arbitration Award was discussed and referred to motions.

Mr. Karnes – Mr. Snelling

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

Carried.

IN BOARD

50/2010 Dr. Ross – Ms. Coey
That the Arbitration Award dated 25th March 2010 by R.J.M. Adkins, Chairman, resulting from the arbitration proceeding between Brandon Teachers' Association and Brandon School Division regarding parental leave top up, be accepted.

Mr. Karnes – Mrs. Jolly
That the meeting do now adjourn (9:10 p.m.).

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer