



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING/COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, THE BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION, HELD IN THE J. L. MILNE BOARDROOM, ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 1031 - 6TH STREET, BRANDON, MANITOBA, AT 6:00 P.M., MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: L. Ross, Chairperson J. Gobeil, Vice-Chairperson
C. Ekenna K. Fallis
B. Foley D. Kejick
L. Letain (by phone) J. Murray (by phone)

ALSO PRESENT: D. Labossiere, Secretary-Treasurer
M. Gustafson, Superintendent/CEO
S. Gilleshammer, Assistant Superintendent
J. Zilkey, Assistant Superintendent
B. Sangster, Recording Secretary
T. Curtis, Live Streaming Video Operator

REGRETS: S. Bambridge

The Chairperson called the In-Camera portion of the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

AGENDA

1.00 AGENDA/MINUTES:

1.01 Approval of Agenda

Senior Administration added five (5) items for In-Camera.

Mr. Foley – Ms. Kejick
That the agenda be approved as amended.
Carried.

1.02 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings

a) The Minutes of the Board Meeting held December 13, 2021 were circulated.

Mr. Gobeil – Mr. Foley
That the Minutes be approved as circulated.
Carried.

Ms. Kejick – Mr. Murray
That the Board do now resolve into Committee of the Whole In-Camera. (6:05 p.m.)
Carried.

2.00 IN CAMERA DISCUSSION (COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE):**2.01 Student Issues****- Reports**

- a) Mr. Mathew Gustafson, Superintendent/CEO, provided an update on a Student Matter and answered Trustee questions.

- Trustee Inquiries**2.02 Personnel Matters****- Reports**

- a) Staffing Activity Report was presented.

- Trustee Inquiries**2.03 Property Matters/Tenders****- Reports**

- a) The Superintendent/CEO provided information on a Property Matter. The Secretary-Treasurer provided additional information on this Matter.
- b) The Secretary-Treasurer provided information on a Property Matter.

- Trustee Inquiries**2.04 Board Operations****- Reports**

- a) The Secretary-Treasurer provided an update on a Board Operations Matter.
- b) The Secretary-Treasurer spoke on a Board Operations Matter. The Board requested that this item be deferred to the January 24, 2022 Board Meeting.

- Trustee Inquiries

Ms. Fallis – Mr. Foley

That the Committee of the Whole In-Camera do now resolve into Board. (7:24 p.m.)

Carried.

The Chairperson called the Public portion of the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. with a traditional heritage acknowledgement.

3.00 PRESENTATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**3.01 Presentations For Information****3.02 Communications For Information****3.03 Communications For Action**

- a) Correspondence was received from Ms. Kerri Lynn Gudz, parent, addressed to Mr. Denis Labossiere, Secretary-Treasurer, and the Board of Trustees, noting that Brandon School Division has proven itself as a leader - with a proven commitment to students' health and education through a professional commitment to clear, timely communication, demonstrated and active leadership, creative problem solving and planning, adapting, pivoting and rising to the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has created.

Ms. Gudz states that school is to be the one place that ALL children can come to feel part of a community, safe and valued. She cites the Brandon School Division's Vision statement: "*to be a centre of educational excellence, built on community partnerships, effective leadership and exemplary practices*", along with the Division's Mission statement: "*strives to enable each student to achieve maximum intellectual, emotional, social and physical growth*". Ms. Gudz is unclear how this can still be the case when not all School/Division staff are required/mandated as a condition of employment to be fully vaccinated as led and recommended by Public Health and proven by science as exemplary practice.

Ms. Gudz indicates that the City of Brandon, Maple Leaf Foods and Hockey Manitoba have recently mandated full vaccinations for all staff and volunteers. She is disappointed and frustrated that this falls to the School Division level for decision making and is disheartened that Educators and Divisional staff who have chosen to have such an opportunity to influence and play a role in children's lives – and ultimately our society – choose to not consider controlling what they can to protect not only the school community, but the community at large.

She adds that it is up to us as the adult decision-makers to keep ALL the children safe while they are at school, and the Board of Trustees, as elected officials and community leaders, to represent our community and its' constituents in our best interest.

Referred Business Arising.

4.00 REPORT OF SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

The Superintendent/CEO, provided highlights on the following items from the January 10, 2022 Report of Senior Administration:

A) Administrative Information

- Celebrations:
 - Food Drive- Youth In Philanthropy Group – Vincent Massey High School
 - Distribution of Rapid Antigen Test Kits
- Information Items:
 - Manitoba Education Correspondence
 - I love to Read Month – February 2022
 - Provincial Committee Participation
 - French Second Language Revitalization Program
 - Development of a New Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education Funding Model
 - Correspondence from the Minister of Education
 - Community Schools Program – George Fitton School and École New Era School
 - Administrative Procedure 4025 – *Distance Learning*
- Presentations:
 - Graduation Rate Report – M. Gustafson, J. Zilkey
 - Brandon School Division Update Regarding Recent Provincial Announcements Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic – M. Gustafson
 - Ventilation Update – M. Gustafson

B) Business Arising for Board Action

- Response to Trustee Ekenna's Trustee Inquiry – S. Gilleshammer

Mr. Gobeil – Mr. Ekenna

That the January 10, 2022 Report of Senior Administration be received and filed.

Carried.

5.00 GOVERNANCE MATTERS

5.01 Reports of Committees

- a) Education and Community Relations Committee Meeting
The written report of the Education and Community Relations Committee meeting held on December 13, 2021 was circulated.

Mr. Ekenna – Ms. Fallis

That the Report be received and filed.

Carried.

- b) Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting
The written report of the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting held on December 13, 2021 was circulated.

Ms. Fallis – Mr. Foley

That the Report be received and filed.

Carried.

5.02 Delegations and Petitions

5.03 Business Arising

- From Previous Delegation

- From Board Agenda

- a) Correspondence from Ms. Kerri Lynn Gudz, parent, regarding School/Division staff being required/mandated to be fully vaccinated as a condition of employment.

The Superintendent/CEO spoke to this item, noting that on August 24, 2021, Manitoba Public Health announced its intention to introduce public health orders that would compel all employers providing service to vulnerable populations, including children, to observe implementation of mandatory collection of proof of vaccination or mandatory testing of all employees, and school site visitors having direct contact with children. When that was announced, the Brandon School Division was under an obligation to meet that standard.

On September 2, 2021, Manitoba Education provided additional directives pertaining to the immunization and testing requirements that serve to operationalize the mandatory collection of proof of vaccination or mandatory testing of all employees and school site visitors. On September 24, 2021, public health orders provided additional directives to the requirements regarding the vaccination or testing of designated persons.

The Administrative Procedures that were developed were done through guidance by the Manitoba School Boards Association and Manitoba Education, again, for the proof of vaccination or testing. The regular

testing provides employees an option that addresses the religious or medical exemptions that an employer would be required to examine, while also providing an additional layer of safety through the testing.

Trustee Gobeil thanked Ms. Gudz for her concern, noting that establishing such a vaccine mandate is not in the hands of the Board. He added that the Division is providing every step possible in keeping safe spaces, in keeping safe hallways, in keeping safe classrooms, and providing an opportunity for testing to take place.

Trustee Fallis stated that the logistics of enforcing a vaccine mandate at Brandon School Division is impractical given how the Division currently is currently not able to monitor all who enter and exit the schools.

- MSBA Matters

a) e-bulletin – December 22, 2021

5.04 Public Inquiries (max. 15 minutes)

5.05 Motions

5.06 Bylaws

5.07 Giving of Notice

5.08 Trustee Inquiries

Trustee Ross indicated that she had received an email requesting information on the remote learning packages sent out by schools for this week. From the writer's understanding, for the most part, schools had issued work packages for students, and concern was expressed that that was the extent of it, and that there wasn't more remote programming.

The Superintendent/CEO responded, noting that given the short remote learning period, and the makeup of classes for the five (5) days, schools are utilizing a variety of delivery models for the remote learning. The aspects of the remote learning include print materials, synchronous and asynchronous experiences, and a classroom might utilize one or more of those. Those decisions are made at the classroom and school levels. It is dependent on a number of factors. Additionally, some of the classes are fully remote while some balance teaching some students in person, while having some students in remote learning at the same time. The Division is also distributing technology this week to families that may not have access to computers. During the remote-learning period of last spring, Brandon School Division distributed 2,000 computers to families.

Mr. Gustafson noted that he really appreciates the additional efforts from Division schools and classroom teachers, and staff, in moving into remote learning for five days, while also preparing for returning to Provincial Response Level Orange: Restricted, on January 17th.

Trustee Ross had received another email urging the Division to push back against remote learning. The commitment at this point from the Government is that students will be back in schools on Monday, January 17th.

Trustee Ekenna received an email regarding less crowding in schools. Trustee Ross responded that the Division is doing what it can while still trying to accommodate students in school. Mr. Gustafson added that given the capacity issues of Division schools, it will be difficult to maintain 6 feet of physical distancing

in many of the schools, and definitely in the high schools. There is the possibility of a longer term of remote learning, which is best done on an individual conversation with the School Principal and classroom teacher to explore what options might be the best fit. The expectation Provincially is to prioritize in-class learning and that students should return.

A second email Trustee Ekenna received stated that the writer believes remote learning, the mask mandate, and the vaccine mandate are detrimental to the mental and physical health and development of children. This promotes division amongst friends, peers, parents, teachers, for example: giving hockey tickets to those children, families that chose to vaccinate at school, in front of their peers. Remote learning itself is not feasible for many families that also don't qualify for their kids to attend school.

The Superintendent/CEO responded to this, noting that the Public Health orders and directives, the Division has to follow, and is part of the Division's protective measures in keeping everyone safe. The concerns regarding the hockey tickets should be directed to Public Health, as this was part of their in-school vaccinations.

6.00 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING/COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – 7:30 p.m. (public), Monday, January 24, 2022, Boardroom.
- b) Upcoming Budget Dates (Dependent on date of Funding Announcement)
 - Budget Presentation – 7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 17, 2022, Boardroom.
 - Budget Deliberations – 10:00 a.m. – Public Portion, (9:00 a.m. – In-Camera Portion), Tuesday, February 22, 2022, Boardroom.
 - Public Budget Consultation/Presentations – 7:00 p.m., Monday, February 28, 2022, Boardroom.
 - Final Budget Approval – 7:00 p.m., Monday, March 7, 2022, Boardroom.

Due to COVID-19:

- Brandon School Division Board Meetings are currently taking place in person and allowing public attendance, however, to accommodate space limitations and physical distancing, we ask that those wishing to attend pre-register with Bernadene Sangster, Executive Assistant, at sangster.bernadene@bsd.ca, or (204) 729-3114 by 4:00 p.m. the Friday before the Board meeting.
- Members of the public wishing to make a presentation, a delegation or a petition are asked to contact Ms. Sangster no later than 4:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before the Board meeting.
- Face mask use is mandatory.
- We invite everyone to watch live streaming of the Board meetings on our website: <https://www.bsd.ca/page/8192/board-meeting-dates-live-streaming>

Ms. Fallis – Mr. Foley

That the Board do now resolve into Committee of the Whole In-Camera. (9:08 p.m.)

Carried.

IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN CAMERA (9:09 p.m.)

Mr. Gobeil – Ms. Fallis

That the Committee of the Whole In-Camera do now resolve into Board. (10:01 p.m.)

Carried.

7.00 ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Foley – Ms. Kejick

That the Board do now adjourn (10:02 p.m.)

Carried.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer