



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

Education and Community Relations Committee Minutes

Monday, November 14, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.
Boardroom, Administration Office

Present: C. Cramer K. Fallis
B. Foley J. Gobeil
J. Murray D. Ross
L. Ross B. Sieklicki

Also Present: D. Labossiere M. Gustafson
S. Gilleshammer

Regrets: C. Ekenna
J. Zilkey

1. COMMITTEE ITEMS

A. **Approved Research Request: Kathleen Foerster, Science Education Ph.D. Candidate, University of Manitoba**

Mr. Mathew Gustafson, Superintendent/CEO, reviewed the research request from Kathleen Foerster entitled: *“Pedagogical Response of Manitoba Grade 9 and 10 Science Teachers during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Mixed Methods Case Study”*.

This research study is designed to investigate teacher pedagogical decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the research is focused on Grade 9 and Grade 10 teachers who have teaching experience in Grade 9 and/or Grade 10 science, both prior to and during the pandemic. Participation is voluntary and the research does not involve students.

This study may benefit Brandon School Division by providing information and strategies to advance scientific literacy concepts and skills during times when regular, in-class instruction is disrupted.

This request was reviewed by the BSD Research Advisory Committee and has been approved by the Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer.

B. **Approved Research Request: Gail Cormier, Ph.D., Faculty of Education, Université de Saint-Boniface**

The Superintendent/CEO reviewed the research request from Gail Cormier entitled: *Schoolscapes in rural French Immersion schools in Manitoba*”.

The main objective of this research study is to better understand Schoolscapes, visible written language on signs, in all rural French Immersion schools in Manitoba. The study seeks to promote the inclusion of and include the perspectives of teachers who work in French Immersion schools in rural contexts in research; make digital professional development training in French accessible to teachers who teach in rural French Immersion schools; and to test a new research methodology: the virtual tourist guide technique proposed by this study.

This study may benefit Brandon School Division by improving literacy through tutorials French Immersion teachers will receive on integrating technology. As well, it can help schools increase their French language footprint.

This research project does not involve student participation. The researcher seeks to interview one French Immersion teacher at each of the four French Immersion schools in Brandon School Division. This request was reviewed by the BSD Research Advisory Committee and has been approved by the Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer.

C. Research Request: Dr. Ellen Watson, Faculty of Education, Brandon University; and Christopher Sarkonak, Teacher, Brandon School Division

Mr. Mathew Gustafson, Superintendent/CEO, spoke to this item, advising that a research request was received on August 25, 2022 from Dr. Ellen Watson, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Education, Brandon University; and Christopher Sarkonak, Teacher, Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School. The Research Project is entitled *Student Perceptions of Ungrading in Physics and Mathematics Classes: An Action-Research Study*.

The Research seeks to empirically investigate Mr. Sarkonak's current practice of ungrading and how students perceive this practice as influencing their learning. This research is guided by the following questions:

- What are students' perceptions of learning in an ungraded high school math or physics course?
- How do students perceive ungrading as influencing their self-determination in a high school math or physics course?

The research would involve up to 150 students from Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School who are enrolled in Grades 9 and 10 mathematics classes and Grades 11 and 12 physics classes. Mr. Sarkonak would be the sole staff member participating in this research, and therefore is both teacher and researcher of these students. To avoid conflict of interest, Mr. Sarkonak will not be made aware of who participates in the research until after data collection is complete. Participation is voluntary and consent is required from students and parents/guardians. Ethics approval has been granted by the Brandon University Research Ethics Committee.

Mr. Gustafson and the Brandon School Division Research Advisory Committee recommend approval of this request. The Committee expressed support for this study that would benefit Brandon School Division as it is connected to the BSD Continuous Improvement Plan. The resulting data on the efficacy of ungrading as a teaching practice may benefit students and teachers.

Trustees asked questions for clarification. The Committee agreed to the recommendation as presented.

Recommendation:

That the Board approve the research request from Dr. Ellen Watson, Faculty of Education, Brandon University; and Christopher Sarkonak, Teacher, Brandon School Division, for the research project entitled "*Student Perceptions of Ungrading in Physics and Mathematics Classes*".

D. Needle and Syringe Awareness

The Superintendent/CEO spoke to this item, indicating that 41% of K-8 schools within City boundaries reported one or more incidents of a needle or syringe on or near school playgrounds since September. Not only is this a concern for students during the school day, but the Division is concerned about families accessing playgrounds outside of school hours.

Steps the Division is taking to address these occurrences include:

- Regular inspection of school property
- Education for students on what to do if they find a needle or syringe
- Awareness campaign for families

- Training for staff on what to do if they find a needle or syringe
- Safe work procedures for disposal of needles and syringes

Trustees asked questions for clarification regarding signage at schools/playgrounds on what to do if a needle is found, and whether needles are being found in the same areas each time. Discussion took place regarding safe consumption sites. Suggestion was made to add these topics to the agenda for the next Joint City of Brandon/Brandon School Division meeting.

E. New High School Apprenticeship Program Guides

The Superintendent/CEO provided an update on three new High School Apprenticeship Program (HSAP) documents received from Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning and Apprenticeship Manitoba.

HSAP is a pathway for students in Grades 10 to 12 to explore an apprenticeable trade while completing their academic graduation requirements.

Students work with the assistance of an HSAP educator to find an employer. Then, they complete an Apprenticeship Application and Agreement with the employer and Apprenticeship Manitoba, which will allow them to get paid for on-the-job training, earn up to eight high school credits (one credit per 110 hours on the job), and potentially transition to a post-secondary apprenticeship pathway in a registered trade career.

Student-apprentices work in one of Manitoba's designated (compulsory/voluntary) trades, which can lead to provincial or interprovincial certification.

High school graduates may transfer their HSAP on-the-job hours into a post-secondary apprenticeship and can continue to accumulate required on-the-job training (approximately 80%), as well as begin the in-school technical training (approximately 20%). Most apprenticeship trade programs take between two to four years.

Apprenticeship Manitoba records incentive credits for on-the-job hours based on the Report of Hours submitted by the employer. For every 220 hours of practical training obtained as an HSAP student-apprentice (maximum 880), eligible student-apprentices will receive a personal contribution fee for one level of training (to a maximum of four levels).

Post-graduation, student-apprentices can register for technical training, which can be taken at the following colleges:

- Assiniboine Community College (ACC)
- Red River College Polytechnic (RRC Polytech)
- University College of the North (UCN)

STEPS TO APPRENTICESHIP

- Research a designated trade.
 - Meet with school or divisional HSAP educator to ensure the criteria for an application are met.
 - Find a willing and insured employer.
 - Complete an Apprenticeship Application and Agreement with employer and Apprenticeship Manitoba (requires parent/guardian consent if under 18 years old).
 - Complete safety training as directed.
 - Create a work and academic schedule with employer and HSAP educator.
 - Maintain and complete required academic courses for high school graduation.
 - Actively participate in and successfully complete the required on-the-job training (complete HSAP alone or combine with a TVE program).
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- Submit monthly hours confirmed by employer.
 - Transfer to post-secondary apprenticeship after graduation or cancel Apprenticeship Application and Agreement.

Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School currently has three (3) students that are in the process of securing HSAP credits this year in Welding, Heavy Duty Mechanic and Hairstyling.

Additional information is available at Apprenticeship Pathways:
[High School Apprenticeship Program: HSAP Educator Guide](#)

Trustees asked questions for clarification.

2. **OPERATIONS INFORMATION**

The Superintendent/CEO provided information on the following:

- **Correspondence from Diljeet Brar, Member of the Legislative Assembly (Burrows), Critic for Sport, Culture & Heritage:**

- Addressed to The Superintendent/CEO, providing information on the Royal Assent of Bill 227 'The Turban Day Act' on June 1, 2022. Now each year April 13 is to be known throughout Manitoba as 'Turban Day'.

The Brandon School Division is encouraged to celebrate Turban Day each year on April 13th. It is kindly requested that Turban Day be added to the divisional calendar, so all schools can celebrate the first official Turban Day on April 13, 2023.

- **Correspondence from Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning:**

- Helen Robinson-Settee, Indigenous Inclusion Directorate
 - 2022 Survey on Indigenous Teachers Manitoba

Respectfully submitted,

C. Ekenna