



# BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

## Education and Community Relations Committee Minutes

Tuesday, October 12, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.  
Boardroom, Administration Office

Present:           S. Bambridge           C. Ekenna  
                  K. Fallis                B. Foley  
                  J. Gobeil                D. Kejick (by phone)  
                  L. Letain                J. Murray  
                  L. Ross

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

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### 1. **COMMITTEE ITEMS**

#### **A. Manitoba Education – Poverty and Education Task Force**

Correspondence was received from Dana Rudy, Deputy Minister of Education, advising that Jackie Connell will take on the role of Intersectoral Lead with the Transformation Leadership Team.

The Task Force on Poverty and Education, in connection with the Poverty Reductions Strategy, will examine the linkages between poverty and education, and will support the implementation of strategies to improve social inclusion and outcomes for all students, particularly those who are living with low income.

#### **B. Responding to Pandemic-Related Concerns: De-escalation Strategies Workshop**

Ms. Susan Gilleshammer, Assistant Superintendent, spoke on this item, noting that it was recognized that Principals, Vice Principals, and their teams are facing some challenging interactions with members of their school communities. A team versed in Non-Violent Crisis Intervention and Trauma-Informed Practice was pulled together to create a de-escalation workshop with a pandemic spin: *Responding to Pandemic Related Concerns*.

The target audience for this training was Principals, Vice-Principals, Head Teachers, Resource Teachers, Counsellors, Administrative Assistants, Home School Liaisons, Building Student Success with Indigenous Parents staff, Indigenous Academic Achievement staff, and other staff members at the Principal's discretion.

#### **C. Professional Development Sessions for Support Staff – October 1, 2021**

Ms. Gilleshammer spoke to this item, advising that on the October 1, 2021 Division-wide Professional Development Day, there were school-based sessions as well as a variety of Divisional opportunities for support staff. Of note, there was a high demand for the De-escalation Strategies Workshop, such that the capacity for this session was increased and a larger venue was used.

#### **D. Research Request**

Mr. Mathew Gustafson, Superintendent/CEO, spoke to this item, advising that a research request was received on August 11, 2021 from Marc Valade, Stanley Knowles Visiting Professor in Public Policy, CARES Research centre, Faculty of Education, Brandon University. The Research Project is entitled *The Influence of Adaptation Brokers on the Integration and Resilience of Immigrant Families*.

The Primary focus of the research is as follows: in a context of pandemic, what is the influence of local institutions on the integration of recent immigrants in a non-metropolitan community, and the effect of this process on the immigrant family.

The Research is focused on recent immigrants (age 14 and above) and professionals and community members who support newcomer adaptation in their institutional environments. Participation is voluntary and consent is required from parents/guardians of students (younger than 18), and from any adults (students over the age of 18, parents, guardians and staff) who wish to participate.

The research would benefit Brandon School Division by increasing understanding of culture and values of vulnerable families; engagement in positive interactions with families of other cultures; and increased knowledge of and empathy for the barriers that vulnerable families face.

Mr. Gustafson and the Brandon School Division Research Advisory Committee recommend approval of this request, with the approval limited to Prairie Hope High School and staff from the Brandon School Division Welcome Centre, in order to minimize any additional workload for staff during the pandemic. All potential student participants from Prairie Hope High School are adult students.

The Committee agreed to the recommendation as presented.

#### **Recommendation:**

That the Board approve the research request from Marc Valade, Stanley Knowles Visiting Professor in Public Policy, CARES Research Centre, Faculty of Education, Brandon University, for the research project entitled "The Influence of Adaptation Brokers on the Integration and Resilience of Immigrant Families".

## **2. OPERATIONS INFORMATION**

Respectfully submitted,

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C. Ekenna