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., MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2010

PRESENT:
Mr. G. Buri, Chairperson, Mr. D. Karnes, Vice-Chairperson, Ms. R. Coey, Mrs. B. Jolly, Mr. B. Mayes (entered at 8:05 p.m.), Mr. J. Murray, Mr. M. Snelling.

Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. G. F. Barnes, Recording Secretary, Mrs. S. Bailey.

Senior Administration: Dr. D. M. Michaels, Superintendent, Mr. G. Malazdrewicz, Associate Superintendent.

REGRETS:
Mr. P. Bartlette, Dr. L. Ross, Mr. K. Zabowski, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed visitors to the meeting. He noted the artwork on the Board Room walls had been supplied by the students of Betty Gibson School and Vincent Massey High School. Mr. Buri also noted that Trustees Bartlette and Ross sent their regrets as they were unable to attend the meeting.

AGENDA

1.00 AGENDA/MINUTES:

1.01 Reference to Statement of Board Operations

1.02 Approval of Agenda

a) The Secretary-Treasurer requested the addition of one In-Camera item regarding a Board Operations matter.

b) The Superintendent requested the addition of one In-Camera item regarding a Personnel matter.

Mr. Murray – Ms. Coey
That the agenda be approved as amended.
Carried.

1.03 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings

a) The Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held January 11, 2010 were circulated.

Mr. Snelling – Mrs. Jolly
That the Minutes be received and filed.
Carried.

b) The Minutes of the Special Board meeting held January 18, 2010 were circulated.

Mrs. Jolly – Mr. Murray
That the Minutes be received and filed.
Carried.

2.0 GOVERNANCE MATTERS:

2.01 Presentations For Information

a) Dr. Deborah C. Poff, PhD, President and Vice-Chancellor, Brandon University, and members of the Brandon University Strategic Planning Steering Committee (SPSC) provided a presentation to the Board regarding the University's "Build 2010 – Brandon University's Strategic Plan: Innovation, Leadership and Development: 2010-2015". She noted the School Division and the University have common interests and she would like to explore opportunities to work together regarding increased participation in post-secondary education and enhanced strategies for successful transition from high school to university. She welcomed the opportunities for the joint promotion of the importance of education within the City; information and resource sharing; and professional development. She noted the University Steering Committee was looking for input and feedback from the School Division. Discussions were held regarding the possibility of meeting with the Divisional Futures & Liaison Committee on an annual basis. Trustees thanked Dr. Poff for her presentation.

2.02 Reports of Committees

a) Facilities/Transportation Committee Meeting

The written report of the Facilities/Transportation Committee Meeting was reviewed as circulated.

Trustee Jolly asked for an update on any further information received regarding the PSFB projects which was responded to by Trustee Karnes.

Mr. Karnes – Mr. Snelling
That the Minutes be received and filed.
Carried.

b) Education Committee Meetings

The written report of the Education Committee Meeting was reviewed as circulated.

Trustee Coey requested the Education Committee Minutes be amended as follows:

In the fourth paragraph the word "/tests" be included after the words "required assignments" and the words "/tests nor the grades obtained on such assignments and tests" be included after the words "completing assignments".

Ms. Coey – Mrs. Jolly
That the Minutes be received and filed.
Carried.

c) Finance Committee Meeting

The written report of the Finance Committee Meeting was reviewed as circulated.

Ms. Coey – Mr. Karnes
That the minutes be received and filed.
Carried.

d) Other:

- Trustee Jolly reported on the MSBA Region #1 Meeting held on January 18, 2010 at the Elkhorn Resort. She noted the Brandon School Division proposed resolutions which had been approved to be carried forward to the Annual Convention and the resolutions which had been defeated. A discussion was held regarding whether or not to bring the defeated resolutions directly to the Annual Convention. It was agreed that a motion taking the proposed resolutions for Pre-Kindergarten Program; High Ability Learners Education; and Associate Membership for First Nation Education Authorities to the Manitoba School Board Association's annual convention be brought forth under motions.

- Trustee Buri reported on the Province's Pre-Budget Consultation Meeting held on January 25, 2010 at the Keystone Centre.

2.03 Delegations and Petitions

a) Mr. D. Hardy, President, Brandon Teachers' Association, addressed the Board of Trustees regarding the upcoming 2010/2011 Budget. He began his presentation by extending his condolences to Trustee Ross and thanked the Board for allowing him to have the opportunity to take parental leave. He was happy to work for an organization that allowed its employees to take advantage of this type of benefit.

He thanked the Board for bringing forth discussions regarding the possibility of removing school principals out of the school ratio noting it would be a welcome change. He noted the right to reserve most of his budget discussions until the next meeting when there was a full Board in attendance. He did refer to Page 38 of the

Preliminary Budget Package distributed to the Board on January 18, 2010 noting the home with a Market Value of $122,900 had experienced a net decrease in Education Property taxes of 30% over several years. However, a house valued at twice that amount would only experience a 10% net decrease while a house valued at three times that amount would only experience a 5% net decrease. He noted that as the cost of everything else in society continues to increase, ratepayers should not be expecting a decrease in taxation. As a teacher, the taxation rates set by the Division are not his concern unless they affect the ability of teachers to do the best job they can. He asked the Board, as they work through their budget to do the right thing for the students of the division noting the community will support and respect the Board for it. He felt the sustainability requests being proposed are efficient use of dollars and are the right thing to do.

Trustees thanked Mr. Hardy for his presentation. Discussions were held regarding commercial taxation and its effect on small business, increased property tax on rental properties and its effect on landlords, as well as the Board's continuing liaison with various community groups and organizations.

2.04 Communications for Action

a) David Yeo, Director of Education Administration Services, Manitoba Education, January 8, 2010 regarding 2010-2011 School Bus Purchase and providing information regarding the Central Tender Process arranged by the Department for those Divisions who wish to register.

Referred Business Arising.

2.05 BUSINESS ARISING

- From Previous Delegations

- From Board Agenda

a) The correspondence from David Yeo, Director of Education Administration Services, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth, Pupil Transportation Unit from Communications for Action 2.04a) regarding the 2010-2011 School Bus Purchase and providing information regarding the Central Tender Process arranged by the Department for those Divisions who wish to register was discussed. The Secretary-Treasurer provided the Board of Trustees with the history and background of the Central Tender Process and it was agreed that in accordance with a Motion passed in March 1998 the Division continue to participate in the central purchase of school buses for the 2010-2011 budget year.

- MSBA issues (last meeting of the month)

NIL

- From Report of Senior Administration

a) School Reports

Vincent Massey High School

Vincent Massey High School Principal, Mr. Mathew Gustafson, spoke to the Board about the school's Advanced Placement program noting it was a cooperative educational endeavor between high schools, colleges, and universities. He reviewed the courses currently being offered through the AP program and the additional courses the school will be offering during 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years. Mr. Gustafson referenced a number of student comments regarding their AP experience. He noted the various AP Scholar Awards that students can qualify for along with the criteria required. Graphs demonstrating the increase in the number of students taking AP courses, the number of AP exams written and AP scores received was also reviewed.

Mr. Gustafson concluded his report by discussing the revised Student Leadership and Student Council Organization Chart which had been created to enhance communication among the large number of student groups and the council. He noted the current Student Council and Student Leadership worked in concert to create inclusive opportunities for all students, ensuring a sense of belonging and community awareness, thereby creating a school culture of social responsibility.

Trustees thanked Mr. Gustafson for his presentation and especially his clarification regarding the Advanced Placement Program. Discussions were held regarding tracking the AP students into the future and the possibility of acknowledging AP students at a Board meeting. It was noted that Trustees were impressed with all 3 high schools student leadership in stepping forward to raise money for the victims of the recent earthquake in Haiti. The students of Vincent Massey were also congratulated on their performance of the major production – "Calvin and Hobbes", acknowledging this had been a student produced musical.

Betty Gibson School

Mr. Phil Vickers, Principal, Betty Gibson School, spoke to the Board about the school's EDI results noting that although students enter the school below the divisional average, through the school's focus on literacy and numeracy, the data shows that more students are at or above grade level by the middle years. Mr. Vickers spoke about the school climate noting students continue to have a strong connection to their school. He stated the data collected showed that 99% of the students felt there was at least one adult in the school they can go to if they have a problem. Mr. Vickers concluded his report by providing an overview of the English as an Additional Language student situation in the school. He confirmed the school continues to see growth in the enrollment of EAL students. On January 4, 2010 the school added one fulltime E.A. position which supports classroom teachers with the integration of EAL students into the mainstream classrooms. He provided a detailed breakdown of the current EAL population on a classroom by classroom basis.

Trustees thanked Mr. Vickers for his presentation. Discussions were held regarding mobility, keeping children in the same school despite catchment area, affordable housing, consistency in programming and class size and composition. Mr. Vickers was asked about the use of translators for parents, where he gets the money to pay the translators and if he had enough funds to see him to the end of the year. Mr. Vickers noted the funds come from an EA budget line and depending on the number of students the school may yet receive, there should be sufficient funds to last until the end of the year.

b) Items from Senior Administration Report

NIL

2.06 Motions

12/2010 Mr. Murray – Mr. Karnes
That a letter be written to the Minister of Education, Nancy Allan, asking the Government to review the impact that a reallocation of funds collected through commercial assessment would have on school divisions having higher commercial assessments and to consult with Manitoba school divisions prior to implementing any changes.

Carried.

13/2010 Mr. Karnes – Mr. Murray
That Form 3013 be amended by changing "MEALS (TO MAXIMUM $40.00 PER DAY)" to now be "MEALS (TO MAXIMUM $50.00 PER DAY)" and "(Breakfast - $7.00/Lunch-$13.00/Supper - $20.00)" to now be "(Breakfast - $10.00/Lunch-$15.00/Supper - $25.00)".

Trustee Snelling inquired as to why the Board had decreased the mileage rate during the previous budget, and yet were now increasing the meal allowance. It was noted that the price of gas had gone down while the price of meals had gone up. Discussions were held as to what would happen should the price of gas increase in the near future.

Carried.

14/2010 Mrs. Jolly – Mr. Snelling
That the following resolutions be forwarded to the Manitoba School Board Association's annual convention as Board resolutions: Pre-kindergarten Program; High Ability Learners Education; Associate Membership – First Nations Education Authority.

Carried.

2.07 Bylaws

NIL

2.08 Giving of Notice

NIL

2.09 Inquiries

2.09a) Public Inquiries (last meeting of each month – max. 15 minutes)

NIL

2.09b) Trustee Inquiries

Trustee inquiries were as follows:

a) Trustee Mayes requested a follow up regarding music teacher allocated positions and inquired about doing something at Waverly Park School.

   Senior Administration reviewed the deployment of music teachers for the year and noted they will review the Waverly Park situation and report back to the Board at a future date.

b) Trustee Snelling asked the Board if they would be interested in a presentation by himself providing information on the "Housing Situation" in Brandon under Delegations and Presentations at a future Board meeting. He noted the presentation would include information about Manitoba Housing Units, Low Income Housing, Affordable Housing and Brandon Income Levels. The extent of homelessness and poverty in Brandon and how the "Community Advisory Board for Homelessness" is working collectively to provide services would also be included. Mr. Snelling would also provide a brief overview of the housing projects in the downtown core area.

   The Board agreed they would like to receive the above-mentioned presentation from Mr. Snelling at a future date.

c) Trustee Mayes, referencing recent discussions at the Finance Committee meeting, asked Senior Administration if "we can expedite the operational status of the 18 SmartBoards which are not yet working?"

   Senior Administration noted that the Director of MIST has undertaken to do this and an update on the status of the installation of the SmartBoards will be provided to the Board at the February 8, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Board.

Point of Privilege: Trustee Jolly thanked Senior Administration for the report regarding the Math Recovery Program and the Middle Years Initiative.

d) Trustee Coey stated:
   :Regarding Councilor Paterson's budget enhancement to develop the parcel of land on the North Hill referred to as the Black Property, as affordable housing and the importance several of our Board members have identified that such

housing be located close to schools; has the City contacted the Division with regards to availability of space in Kirkcaldy Heights School vs. other schools or potential school sites? What is the capacity of Kirkcaldy vs. the current enrollment?"

Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Barnes, noted there are currently 130 spots available at Kirkcaldy Heights School. The matter is being referred to Senior Administration for further discussions.

3.00 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

3.01 Report of Senior Administration

Superintendent, Dr. Michaels, noted, Mr. Rob Langston, Teacher, Neelin High School, and his work in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), both locally and provincially, was going to be featured in a book entitled *The World at Their Fingertips: International Perspectives on Teaching and Learning with GIS in Secondary Schools.* She also referenced the meeting of the Quality Teaching Sub-Committee – Grade 3 Student Achievement Goals in Reading Comprehension held January 6, 2010. As well, Dr. Michaels, noted the work currently being conducted by the Learning Disability Specialist/Psychologist.

Trustee Murray requested clarification of the suspensions at Vincent Massey School which had been noted in the report. Senior Administration responded.

Trustee Coey inquired as to whether any visual perception work was being conducted by the Learning Disability Specialist/Psychologist. Senior Administration confirmed that this work was being done.

Mrs. Jolly – Mr. Snelling
That the report be received and filed.
Carried.

3.02 Communications for Information

a) Amy Buehler, Chairperson, Brandon Teachers' Association Collective Bargaining Committee, January 10, 2010 noting that of all the Manitoba Associations and Divisions which only months ago were queued up for interest arbitration, only Brandon remains in the line and that all others have found their way to negotiated settlements and with that in mind the BTA Collective Bargaining Committee respectfully suggests that two parties should give bargaining another try.

Refer Personnel Committee.

b) "Notice to Clients" from Meighen, Haddad & Co., undated, advising that effective January 1, 2010, the law firm of Meighen, Haddad & Co. has registered as a Limited Liability Partnership pursuant to the *Partnership Act (Manitoba),* and will now carry on business under the name of Meighen Haddad LLP.

Receive and File.

c) Ms. H.S. Currie, undated, regarding newspaper articles on separate private schools for Aboriginals at public expense, existing separate private schools and public education issues.

Receive and File.

3.03 Announcements

a) Board Meeting with Drew Caldwell, MLA Brandon East, 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, January 26, 2010.

b) Policy Review Committee Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, January 26, 2010.

c) Education Committee Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Monday, February 1, 2010, Board Room.

d) Personnel Committee Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 2, 2010, Board Room.

e) Joint Meeting – City of Brandon/Brandon School Division, 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 2, 2010, McLaren Room.

f) Joint Chamber/Division Ad-Hoc Committee, 11:30 a.m., February 3, 2010, Conference Room.

g) Public Budget Forum, 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 3, 2010, Earl Oxford School.

h) Finance Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Monday, February 8, 2010, Board Room.

i) NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING – 7:00 p.m., Monday, February 8, 2010, Board Room.

4.00 IN CAMERA DISCUSSION:

Mr. Snelling – Ms. Coey
That the Board do now resolve into Committee of the Whole In Camera.

Carried.

4.01 Student Issues

- Reports

a) Confidential #2, a letter from a concerned parent was reviewed by the Board. The student matter was discussed and Senior Administration responded to Trustee inquiries.

- Trustee Inquiries

4.02 Personnel Matters

- Reports

a) Confidential #1 – Personnel Report was noted.
b) Dr. Michaels, Superintendent/CEO provided information to the Board on a teacher personnel matter.

- **Trustee Inquiries**

4.03 Property Matters/Tenders

- Reports

- Trustee Inquiries

4.04 Board Operations

- Reports

a) The Secretary-Treasurer, G. Barnes, verbally reported on a Board operations matter. Trustees noted items for discussion at the meeting to be held with Mr. Drew Caldwell, Brandon East MLA.

- Trustee Inquiries

Mr. Snelling – Mr. Karnes
That the Committee of the Whole In Camera do now resolve into Board.
Carried.

5.00 ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Murray – Mrs. Jolly
That the meeting do now adjourn (9:35 p.m.)
Carried.

Chairperson

Secretary-Treasurer