BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

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 7:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016.

PRESENT:
Mr. M. Sefton, Chairperson, Dr. L. Ross, Vice-Chairperson, Ms. S. Bambridge, Mr. P. Bartlette, Mrs. P. Bowslaugh, Mr. G. Buri, Mr. G. Kruck, Mr. J. Murray, Mr. K. Sumner.

Mr. D. Labossiere, Secretary-Treasurer, B. Sangster, Recording Secretary, Ms. T. Curtis, Live Streaming Video Operator.

Dr. D. M. Michaels, Superintendent/CEO, Mr. M. Gustafson, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. G. Malazdrewicz ,Assistant Superintendent, Ms. E. Jamora, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Ms. B. Switzer, Director of Human Resources.

CALL:

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. noting the meeting had been called for the purpose of considering the following:

a) 2016-2017 Preliminary Budget Discussions.

The Chairperson referred to the Call and welcomed observers to the meeting.

The Chairperson also confirmed the purpose of the meeting was for information only and there would be no decisions or debate taking place at this time. Mr. Sefton then turned the meeting over to the Secretary-Treasurer.

Mr. Denis Labossiere, Secretary-Treasurer, noted the purpose of his presentation was to provide preliminary information regarding the 2016-2017 Operating Budget. Through his presentation, he hoped to assist the Board of Trustees in understanding the budget issues in advance of the February 16, 2016 Budget Meeting.

The following documents were circulated to Trustees:

1) Preliminary Budget Discussion 2016-2017;
2) Capital & Maintenance Budget 2016-2017.

The Secretary-Treasurer highlighted the factors impacting the budget considerations, including:
- 2015-2016 Budget impact on the 2016 Special Levy;
- Enrollment changes;

- Programs for increasing diversity of student learning needs;
- Provincial legislation;
- Infrastructure and support for program delivery;
- Collective Agreement costs;
- Uncertainty of funding;
- Facility sustainability; and
- Contingency funds and reserves.

Mr. Labossiere also provided detail regarding the budget development process referencing motion 122/2015 approved by the Board and the directions provided to Senior Administration. Mr. Labossiere reviewed how the Division compared to the Manitoba Provincial Average using the 2015-2016 Provincial FRAME Budget Report. He provided an analysis review of past budget increases and spoke to enrollment and the development of the staffing budget. Mr. Labossiere provided detailed information regarding the current status of the accumulated surplus; the capital reserve accounts; and a summary of the 2016-2017 Capital and Maintenance Budget.

He also reviewed a summary of the Preliminary 2016-2017 Operating Budget, the budget and sustainability requests and provided property tax scenarios on an average home assessed at $251,325.

Following the presentation, Trustees asked questions for clarification regarding the Preliminary Operating Budget pupil/teacher ratio compared to the Provincial average and if the pupil/teacher ratio included non-ratio positions. Mr. Labossiere responded that the Brandon School Division pupil/teacher ratio is 18.0 for Kindergarten to Grade 8, and 19.2 for Grades 9-12, he also indicated that the FRAME report comparison includes all teachers and non-ratio positions. Trustee Ross asked questions for clarification regarding schools that still have sand in their playgrounds.

The Secretary-Treasurer provided the Board with the next steps in the Budget Process. He confirmed the Public Budget Forum would take place on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at Meadows School Gymnasium, followed by the All-Day Budget Meeting on February 16, 2016. The Special Board Meeting scheduled for February 29, 2016 would allow for the public to make presentations to the Board regarding the proposed decisions made at their All-Day Budget meeting. The Board would approve their budget on March 7, 2016 after which the special levy would be forwarded to Municipalities by March 15, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Bambridge – Mr. Buri
That the meeting does now adjourn (7:45 p.m.)
Carried.

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Chairperson Secretary-Treasurer