



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday, August 24, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

Boardroom, Administration Office

Trustees Present: D. Ross K. Carr
C. Ekenna K. Fallis
L. McConnell S. Mozdzen
J. Murray B. Sieklicki

Also Present: D. Labossiere, Secretary-Treasurer
J. Zilkey, Superintendent/CEO
M. Sawa, Assistant Superintendent – Curriculum and HR
J. McBeth, Executive Assistant

Regrets: L. Ross
S. Gilleshammer, Assistant Superintendent – Student Services

1. COMMITTEE ITEMS

A. APPROVED RESEARCH REQUEST – T. SCOTT DEMPSTER, MASTER OF EDUCATION STUDENT, BRANDON UNIVERSITY

Mr. Zilkey spoke to the research request received on June 22, 2026, from T. Scott Dempster, Master of Education student, Brandon University. The project is titled: Exploring Mathematical Knowledge and Teaching Beliefs in Novice Teachers. Ethics approval was received.

This research study seeks to explore how novice teachers develop their mathematical knowledge for teaching and their confidence as mathematics teachers during their first year in the profession.

This research project does not involve student participation. Staff participation is optional and would involve approximately six to eight K-8 teachers. The study involves three semi-structured interviews and artifacts collected by teachers in relation to mathematics professional development opportunities offered to them during their first year of teaching. All participants will remain anonymous.

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

2. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

A. CORRESPONDENCE:

- Ms. Sawa spoke to the correspondence received from Honourable Tracy Schmidt, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning regarding, the French Second

Language Revitalization Program 2026-2027. She indicated the Brandon School Division will receive a financial contribution of \$138,230. Senior Administration answered Trustee questions for clarification.

- Ms. Sawa reviewed the correspondence received from Jackie Connell, Assistant Deputy Minister, Indigenous Excellence in Education, regarding the updated Indigenous Identity Declaration Form.
- Ms. Sawa spoke to the correspondence received from Janet Tomy, Assistant Deputy Minister, Student Achievement and Inclusion Division. Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning has developed a resource to support the implementation of early reading screening for Kindergarten to Grade 4, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year.
- Mr. Zilkey reviewed the correspondence received from Janet Tomy, Assistant Deputy Minister, Student Achievement and Inclusion Division, regarding the ongoing webinar and information series on AI Leadership. He indicated this is part four of the six-part series.
- Ms. Sawa spoke to the correspondence received from Mona Pandey, Deputy Minister, Education and Early Childhood Learning. All school divisions will now be required to develop, implement, and maintain a divisional plan to prevent and address student absenteeism. As part of this requirement, school divisions must establish a divisional attendance, presence, and engagement committee. She added that BSD already has an engagement committee.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Ekenna