



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday, March 9, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.
Boardroom, Administration Office

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

Also Present: D. Labossiere, Secretary-Treasurer
M. Gustafson, Superintendent/CEO
S. Gilleshammer, Assistant Superintendent – Student Services
J. Zilkey, Assistant Superintendent – Curriculum and HR
J. McBeth, Executive Assistant

Regrets: D. Ross

1. COMMITTEE ITEMS

A. 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Mr. Zilkey reviewed the draft 2026-2027 School Year Calendar. He indicated that there are 191 days of school for the 2026-2027 school year.

B. RESEARCH FOR APPROVAL CANADIAN STUDENT ALCOHOL AND DRUGS SURVEY

Mr. Gustafson spoke to the Research request from Shannon Howell, Ph.D., Senior Research Consultant, CCI, Resources/CCI Research Inc. He indicated he recommends approval of this research request, with the condition that Prairie Hope School does not participate due to the special circumstances of the school. Mr. Gustafson answered Trustee questions.

The Committee agreed to bring forward the following recommendation to the Regular Board Meeting on March 23, 2026:

Recommendation:

That the research request from Shannon Howell, PhD, Senior Research Consultant, CCI Resources/CCI Research Inc., for the inclusion of five additional schools in the project: 2025-2026 Canadian Student Alcohol and Drugs Survey, be approved.

C. CONFIDENTIAL MATTER

Mr. Gustafson spoke to a confidential matter and received feedback from the Committee.

D. CONFIDENTIAL MATTER

Mr. Gustafson spoke to a confidential matter and answered Trustee questions for clarification.

E. BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION CARDS

Mr. Gustafson provided the Committee with a sample of the revised Brandon School Division cards.

F. SCHOOL TRIPS

Mr. Gustafson spoke to the upcoming high school trips to Europe and answered Trustee questions. He indicated that Senior Administration had determined that the increased level of risk combined with the unpredictable nature of the conflict results in Senior Administration no longer being able to support the Vincent Massey High School and École secondaire Neelin High School 2026 school trips to Europe.

The Committee agreed to bring the following late motions to the Regular Board Meeting, March 9, 2026:

Recommendations:

Whereas the Middle East Conflict poses increased risk to the safety of students from Vincent Massey High School traveling to Germany, Switzerland and Austria from March 26 to April 3, 2026, be it resolved that Motion 41/2024 be rescinded.

Whereas the Middle East Conflict poses increased risk to the safety of students from École Secondaire Neelin High School traveling to Greece from March 26 to April 3, 2026, be it resolved that Motion 42/2024 and Motion 61/2025 be rescinded.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Ekenna