



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday, October 27, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

Boardroom, Administration Office

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

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

1. COMMITTEE ITEMS

A. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Brandon Community Youth Wellness Committee Minutes – October 20, 2025

B. APPROVED RESEARCH REQUEST - KYLE BERG, MASTER'S STUDENT, BRANDON UNIVERSITY

A research request was received on September 8, 2025, from Kyle Berg, master's student, Brandon University. The project is titled: Leading for Us and Them: A Case Study of Manitoban School Leaders' Experience of Divisive Conflict. Ethics approval was provided by the Brandon University Research Ethics Committee.

This research study aims to explore how school division leaders experience and respond to divisive issues in their communities, and how their decisions help foster understanding and trust amid differing values and beliefs. The research questions and objectives are:

- 1) How have Manitoba school leaders experienced and interpreted the polarized conflicts that impacted their system or their work?
- 2) In responding to such conflicts, what considerations did school leaders make? Why?
- 3) How do school leaders reflect on their decisions now?

This research does not involve student participation. Staff participation is optional and would involve up to 12 participants (participants must be considered a school leader). Participation involves an online survey of approximately 25 minutes, and online

interviews of approximately 60 minutes with up to five selected school system leaders (potentially from five different school divisions). 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. Mr. Gustafson answered Trustee questions for clarification.

C. **APPROVED RESEARCH REQUEST - BERT JOHNSON, PHD STUDENT, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**

A research request was received on September 25, 2025, from Bert Johnson, PhD student, University of Calgary. The project is titled: Ensembles in the Digital Age: Integrating the Digital Audio Workstation into Middle School Music Programming. Ethics approval was provided by the Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board, University of Calgary.

This research study aims to explore the impacts of adding digital audio workstation recording software to middle school classroom music programming as a teaching tool and source for student compositions. The research questions and objectives are:

- What are the perceptions of teachers and students about incorporating digital audio workstation software into music programming?
- What are the challenges in introducing the digital audio workstation into the music classroom, and what potential learning opportunities does it present?
- Based on the feedback from surveys and interviews, what changes could be made to make the integration of digital audio workstation software in middle school music teaching more successful and meaningful?

This research does not involve student participation. Staff participation is optional and would involve a survey on the use of music technology. Survey responses will be 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. Gilleshammer reviewed the letter from Jeffery Kehler, Assistant Deputy Minister, System Performance and Accountability, regarding Smaller Class Sizes Reporting Requirements and answered Trustee questions.
- Mr. Zilkey spoke to the correspondence from Rhonda Shaw, Executive Director, Learning and Outcomes Branch, regarding Take Our Kids to Work Day.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Fallis