



# BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

## EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday, August 25, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

Boardroom, Administration Office

Trustees Present: L. Ross D. Ross  
K. Carr (by phone) C. Ekenna  
K. Fallis L. McConnell  
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

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### 1. **COMMITTEE ITEMS**

#### A. APPROVED RESEARCH REQUEST: REBECCA PRITCHARD, MASTER'S STUDENT, UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

A research request was received on June 16, 2025, from Rebecca Pritchard, master's student, University of Manitoba. The project is titled: Manitoba Upper Administrators' Experiences with 2SLGBTQIA+ Educational Policy. Ethics approval was received.

This research study aims to learn more about the decisions superintendents and assistant superintendents make regarding 2SLGBTQIA+ policy in their divisions. The researcher hopes to learn about what factors impact this decision-making, and in what ways.

This research project does not involve student participation. Staff participation is optional and limited to one Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent. Participation would involve one one-hour interview. 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.

#### B. EVACUATION STUDENTS

Mr. Gustafson indicated there is a possibility the Brandon School Division may have up to 220 evacuation students. The students would be placed at schools with capacity. He indicated that staffing would be hired through the teacher substitute

list, and the Division will bring a retired school bus back into service using a casual bus driver to assist with transportation. The Division will ensure the students have all the resources and essentials required. He added that all schools will be encouraged to be a welcoming environment. Mr. Labossiere and Mr. Gustafson answered Trustee questions for clarification.

## **2. OPERATIONS INFORMATION**

### **A. CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Mr. Gustafson spoke to the letter from the Deputy Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning, Brian O'Leary, regarding Religious Exercises and Religious Instruction in Public Schools.
- Ms. Gilleshammer reviewed the letter from the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning, Honourable Tracy Schmidt, regarding Jordan's Principle Funding and answered Trustee questions for clarification.
- Mr. Zilkey spoke to the letter from the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning, Honourable Tracy Schmidt, regarding Industrial Arts being renamed as Applied Technology.
- Mr. Gustafson spoke to the letter received from City of Brandon Mayor, Jeff Fawcett regarding if the Brandon School Division would like to join the City in becoming a part of the Strong Cities Network. The Strong Cities Network is committed to advocating for, implanting, and sharing local approaches to address all forms of hate, extremism, and polarization. At the request of the Committee, Mr. Gustafson will ask for more information and will follow up to the Committee once received.

Respectfully submitted,

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K. Carr