



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday, November 24, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

Boardroom, Administration Office

Trustees Present: D. Ross C. Ekenna
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: L. Ross, K. Carr

1. COMMITTEE ITEMS

A. APPROVED RESEARCH REQUEST - BU STUDENT OLUWASEUN ODEWOLE

Mr. Gustafson spoke to the research request received on October 31, 2025, from Oluwaseun Odewole, graduate student, Brandon University. The project is titled: Relational Curriculum Making in the Grade 12 Mathematics Classroom: A Phenomenological Study of Leadership, Teacher Practice, and Collaboration.

The purpose of this study is to explore how Grade 12 mathematics teachers collaborate with principals, vice principals, department heads, continuous improvement coaches, curriculum consultants, and their students to design and deliver lessons that enhance meaningful and relevant student learning experiences in Manitoba high schools.

The research seeks to address the following questions:

1. How is relational curriculum making being experienced and practiced in grade 12 mathematics classrooms?
2. How do teachers and school leaders perceive their roles in relational curriculum making?
3. What supports and barriers influence relational curriculum making in grade 12 mathematics?
4. In what ways do school leaders foster, support, and sustain relational curriculum making to enhance teaching and learning?

This research does not involve student participation. Staff participation is optional and would involve approximately 6 – 10 participants. Participation involves participation in three semi-structured interviews. All participants will remain anonymous.

This request was reviewed by the BSD Research Advisory Committee and has been conditionally approved by the Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer. The project is approved on the condition that school principals make the decision as to whether the study objectives are appropriate for their current school context, and if the school has the ability to meet the time commitments. The opportunity for mathematics teachers to voluntarily participate only occurs if the principal has given approval.

B. TRANSFORMATION OF SCHOOLYARDS

During the Regular Board Meeting November 10, 2025, the Board responded to Mr. Justin Venema's delegation for the transformation of schoolyards within BSD, proposing the use of native plants and biodiversity in place of traditional monocultural lawns. The Board suggested to Mr. Venema to connect with the City of Brandon and further indicated they would defer his delegation to Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

The Committee discussed the presentation and referred Mr. Venema's presentation to the Division's Facilities Department for their information and for opportunities to incorporate into future school yard projects. Mr. Venema's request will also be added as an agenda item at the next Parent Council meeting for their information and additional support.

C. HPV VACCINATION INFORMATION SERVICE

Mr. Gustafson spoke to the letter received from Dr. Arnaud Gagneur, MD, PhD, Department of Pediatrics, Université de Sherbrooke regarding the request to collaborate and distribute information about the new information service. He indicated this new information service is supported by the Public Health Agency of Canada. The Committee is in favor of potential collaboration and distribution of the new information service, however at the request of the Committee, Senior Administration will reach out to local Prairie Mountain Health for further information and clarification.

2. **OPERATIONS INFORMATION**

A. CORRESPONDENCE:

- Ms. Gilleshammer spoke to the correspondence received from, Sadaf Ahmed, Government Affairs and Public Policy, regarding Anti-Islamophobia Workshops for Manitoba Educators. She indicated this information has been sent to BSD staff.
- Mr. Zilkey spoke to the correspondence received from, Janet Tomy, Assistant Deputy Minister, regarding a new media literacy resource. He indicated this information has been sent to BSD schools.

- Ms. Gilleshammer reviewed the correspondence received from, Janet Tomy, Assistant Deputy Minister, regarding Holocaust Education: A Guide for Educators. She added that this information will be sent to BSD schools.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Ekenna