



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday, April 27, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.
Boardroom, Administration Office

Trustees Present: L. Ross D. Ross
K. Carr L. McConnell
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: C. Ekenna, K. Fallis, S. Mozdzen

1. COMMITTEE ITEMS

A. DELEGATION - ANTI-ISLAMOPHOBIA ACTION PLAN

At the Regular Board Meeting March 23, 2026, Ketan Patel, Citizen of Brandon, provided a presentation on Anti-Islamophobia Action Plan introduced by the Manitoba government and how initiatives connected to this plan may be implemented within public schools. At the Regular Board meeting, April 13, 2026, the Board agreed to refer this delegation to Committee for further discussion. The Board discussed the matter and Senior Administration answered Trustee questions for clarification. The Board requested that Senior Administration forward the delegation concerns to the Province.

B. DELEGATION - SMILEY WORMS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

At the Regular Board Meeting March 23, 2026, Kat Hunkin and Tana Janzen, Brandon School Division employees, provided a presentation surrounding Smiley Worms and environmental education. At the Regular Board meeting, April 13, 2026, the Board agreed to refer this delegation to Committee for further discussion. The Board discussed the matter and Senior Administration answered Trustee questions for clarification. The Board agreed not to proceed with this program due to budget constraints and other Divisional priorities.

C. DELEGATION – NATURE-BASED LEARNING APPROACH

At the Regular Board Meeting November 10, 2025, Ms. Shelley Kokorudz, Associate Professor at Brandon University, spoke to the Board about the possibility of piloting a nature-based learning approach within the Division. At the Regular Board meeting, November 24, 2025, the Board indicated they were interested in learning more

information surrounding the idea and decided to refer this pilot to Committee for further discussions after the budget and staffing for 2026-2027 has been completed. The Board discussed the matter and agreed that due to other Divisional priorities, the Board will not proceed with piloting a nature-based learning approach program.

2. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

A. CORRESPONDENCE:

- Mr. Zilkey spoke to the correspondence received from Honourable Tracy Schmidt, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning regarding, Student Visits to World War Battlefields Program. He indicated that since Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School were fortunate to participate last year, the Division will not be pursuing it this year.
- Ms. Gilleshammer reviewed the correspondence received from Lori Neustaedter, Executive Director, Policy, Programs and Legislation, Department of Families, regarding feedback re: Community Living disABILITY Services policy change. She indicated that the policy change would streamline the process and remove duplicate work. She added that this policy change is a welcomed process which is what the Division has submitted for feedback.
- Mr. Zilkey spoke to the correspondence received from Mona Pandey, Deputy Minister, Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning, and Loretta Ross, Treaty Commissioner, Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba, regarding the Treaty Education Survey.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Murray