



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday, February 23, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

Boardroom, Administration Office

Trustees Present: L. Ross D. Ross
K. Carr K. Fallis
S. Mozdzen J. Murray
B. Sieklicki

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

Regrets: C. Ekenna
L. McConnell
M. Gustafson, Superintendent/CEO

1. COMMITTEE ITEMS

A. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

The February 3, 2026, minutes of the Brandon Community Youth Wellness Coalition Meeting were reviewed and accepted as circulated.

B. NORTHSTAR AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING AND MENTORING PROGRAM

Ms. Gilleshammer provided a presentation on the Wayfinders program, which is an after-school tutoring and mentoring program that has been operating in Seven Oaks School Division for over a decade. Wayfinders will serve as a template for Brandon School Division's program NorthStar. This new program initiative is funded by a Bright Futures grant through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Learning. Ms. Gilleshammer answered Trustee questions.

C. HEALTH CARE AIDE PROGRAM FOLLOW UP

During the February 9, 2026, Committee of the Whole Meeting, Trustees asked for further information surrounding the Health Care Aide Program. Mr. Zilkey provided the following information:

- Costs to students:
 - \$95 registration fee for Assiniboine College
 - Purchase of any required personal protective equipment (PPE) such as shoes, scrubs, etc. (similar to other Technical Vocational courses)
- Costs to Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School (offset by unit credit funding):
 - Textbooks (when new ones are required)

- First Aid/CPR course fee
 - Note: Crocus Plains covers costs for all BSD students, including those from Neelin and Vincent Massey
- Students in need of financial assistance:
 - School assists with cost of registration fee for those unable to pay
 - Student Services personnel help students find used PPE from various sources
 - Students and families are given almost one year's notice of the costs of participation in the Health Care Aide Program

2. OPERATIONS INFORMATION

A. CORRESPONDENCE:

- Mr. Labossiere spoke to the correspondence received from Heather Thomson, Acting Director, Education Administration Services, Governance and Policy Branch, System Performance and Accountability Division, regarding the slide deck: Implementation of Bill 16: Amendments to The Municipal Councils and School Boards Elections Act and The Public Schools Act enabling reserve residents to vote and run in school trustee elections and answered Trustee questions.
- Ms. Gilleshammer reviewed the correspondence received from Faisal Islam, Executive Director, Governance and Policy Branch regarding, service animals in Manitoba schools and answered Trustee questions.
- Mr. Zilkey spoke to the correspondence received from Allison Potter, Executive Director, Continuous Improvement Branch; and Kassy Assié, Executive Director, Bureau de l'éducation française regarding, Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP) Reading Field Test – March 30 to May 1, 2026. J. R. Reid School is one of five anglophone schools in Manitoba that have been selected for participation.
- Mr. Zilkey spoke to the correspondence received from Allison Potter, Executive Director, Continuous Improvement Branch; and Kassy Assié, Executive Director, Bureau de l'éducation française regarding, Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2027 – March 9 to April 17, 2026. Riverheights School has been randomly selected for participation.
- Mr. Labossiere reviewed the correspondence received from Honourable Tracy Schmidt, Minister, Education and Early Childhood Learning regarding, updated information on Swan Lake First Nation's school divisions under Bill 16.
- Mr. Labossiere reviewed the correspondence received from Jeffrey Kehler, Assistant Deputy Minister, System Performance and Accountability, Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning regarding, the implementation of Bill 16, enabling adult residents of a reserve to participate in electing provincial school trustees and/or be a candidate in a school board election.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Fallis