

M A N I T O B A
School Boards
A S S O C I A T I O N

LEADERSHIP, ADVOCACY AND SERVICE FOR MANITOBA'S PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS

September 26, 2017

The Honourable Ian Wishart
Minister of Education and Training
Legislative Building
168-450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister Wishart,

On behalf of the Manitoba School Boards Association, I am pleased to share with you an attached copy of resolutions and position statements passed by the MSBA's membership at the 2017 annual general meeting held March 17, 2017. In addition to the standing resolutions, two comprehensive policy statements were also adopted by the MSBA's membership this year, on the topics of funding and human resources. These are also included for your information.

Established practice of the MSBA is to invite your written response to the enclosed resolutions. We have also traditionally met with the Minister and their staff to discuss the resolutions in-person. If you would prefer an in-person meeting, please be advised that the next meeting of the full provincial executive of our association will be November 6, 2017. If you are available to meet with us during this proposed date, we can be flexible in terms of your preferred time to join us.

Alternatively, if you prefer to meet with a smaller group, we can also arrange for a meeting sometime this Fall with our Association's executive officers to discuss the resolutions.

Either approach would also provide an occasion to explore any other matters that you may also wish to bring to our attention. Association staff will be in touch with your office to confirm your availability.

In closing, we would like to extend our appreciation to yourself, to Special Assistant Levin Njogu and to former Deputy Minister Bramwell Strain for meeting our provincial executive on June 6 and with our executive officers on November 17 of last year, as well as for attending the 2017 convention banquet (March 17) and the question and answer session that was scheduled with board chairs (March 18) in conjunction with our annual convention.

The MSBA and its membership value our positive working relationship with your department and we are committed to continued collaboration with government to serve the educational needs of students and communities across our province.

Sincerely,



Ken Cameron
President

KC/ak

cc Manitoba School Boards
MSBA Provincial Executive



The Effectiveness Equation:

Governing For Student Success

2017 Resolutions

**to the Honourable Ian Wishart,
Minister of Education and Training**

MANITOBA
**School
Boards**
ASSOCIATION

53rd Annual Convention
March 16 - 18, 2017
Delta Winnipeg,
350 St. Mary Ave.

www.mbschoolboards.ca

MSBA 2017 RESOLUTIONS

MENTAL HEALTH/RESILIENCY TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association advocate for mental health training, including but not limited to Mental Health First Aid, as part of all Bachelor of Education programming within Manitoba.

EIS STUDENT DATA COLLECTION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association lobby Manitoba Education and Training to enable two-way data sharing through significant revisions to the current EIS system (Education Information System) or the replacement thereof.

GUIDELINES ON CONCUSSIONS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association lobby Manitoba Education and Training to provide all school divisions in Manitoba with directives and guidelines, based on expert opinion so that all divisions in Manitoba can establish standardized policies and protocols to address the impact of concussions on their students.

MSBA POSITION STATEMENTS

FUNDING AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

BE IT RESOLVED that Manitoba School Boards Association adopt the following position statement in the area of Funding and Financial Matters:

Education is a public responsibility. In Manitoba, that responsibility is shared between the provincial government and school boards. The province has constitutional authority for k-12 education, but it has delegated responsibility for the school system's day-to-day operations to school boards. This model of shared responsibility benefits Manitoba by ensuring a high standard of education across the province, by providing greater equity of educational opportunity, and by providing local communities with distinctive programs and services that meet their own self-identified needs. Education funding—the overall level of support and the mechanisms through which that support is distributed—is a critical component of a strong public school system. School boards believe that the following are key elements of an effective education-funding model.

Operational funding

- The provincial government should provide the majority of funds (greater than or equal to 80%) required to operate public schools in accordance with all legislation, regulation, and government mandates or directives.
- Elected school boards must have the authority to raise the balance of required operational funds through the local education property tax levy.
- Limitations, restrictions or conditions on allocation of school division budgets should be minimal, and clearly communicated at the time of the annual provincial funding announcement.
- Provincial funding of education should come primarily in the form of block or per pupil grants rather than categorical grants, to provide school divisions with the maximum flexibility in allocating resources.
- The education funding formula should contain equalization measures and other components to ensure equity of opportunity for students regardless of circumstances or location, and fairness for taxpayers in low-assessment divisions.

Capital funding

- The provincial government should fully fund new capital construction and major renovations to a level that accurately reflects current construction costs.
- The capital support formula must take into account the inclusion of spaces or facilities necessitated as the result of new mandates or pedagogical developments.
- Capital funding should be allocated objectively based on need, and school boards should be informed regularly on the status of divisional funding requests.

Other financial matters

- Relevant provincial departments (i.e. health) should support financially the delivery of non- educational services to children in schools.
- The purchase of supplies and services required within the public school system should be exempt from consumption taxes levied by federal, provincial, or municipal levels of government.
- All school division property should be exempt from municipal property taxes or special services levies.

HUMAN RESOURCES

BE IT RESOLVED that Manitoba School Boards Association adopt the following position statement in the area of Human Resources:

As employers, school boards have a responsibility to advocate for, develop and implement human resource legislation, policies and practices that will support the recruitment, professional growth and retention of the personnel instrumental to the success of students. These responsibilities to employees must be met within the context of concurrent responsibilities to students, communities, and ratepayers. School boards believe that they can best balance these responsibilities when:

- collective bargaining occurs at the local level between individual school boards and their respective teacher associations and other unionized groups.
- the risk of disruptions to student learning as a result of labour disputes is minimized by the use of binding arbitration rather than strike/lockout as the final dispute resolution process in collective bargaining between school boards and teacher associations.
- arbitrators consider community economic conditions when awarding settlements.
- certification or other administrative barriers that negatively impact school boards' ability to hire qualified teachers, school clinicians, or other high-demand professionals from jurisdictions outside Manitoba are minimized.
- the provision of professional development in areas such as changing curricula, or training in the delivery of specialized health-care services required by individual students, is treated as a shared responsibility of the school board and the province.
- school boards regularly assess the performance of their superintendents in accordance with a defined set of agreed-to principles and criteria.