

Minutes

Provincial Executive Meeting

Monday, August 10, 2020

Leadership, advocacy and service for Manitoba's public school boards

Via Zoom Video Conference
10:00 a.m.

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| <u>PRESENT:</u> | Alan Campbell | President |
| | Sandy Nemeth | Vice-President |
| | Floyd Martens | Vice-President |
| | Sherilyn Bambridge | Director Region #1 |
| | Lena Kublick | Director Region #3 |
| | Vaughn Wadelius | Director Region #4 |
| | Sandra Lethbridge | Director Region #5 |
| | Julie Fisher | Director Region #5 |
| | Chris Broughton | Director Region #6 |
| | Josh Watt | Executive Director |
| | Heather Demetriooff | Director, Education and Communication Services |
| | George Coupland | Director of Labour Relations and Human Resource Services |
| | Robyn Winters | Chief Financial Officer |
| <u>REGRETS:</u> | Leah Klassen | Director Region #2 |
| | Andrea Kehler | Executive Assistant |

Alan Campbell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

1.1 **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Add 6.4, in-camera item

Bambridge/Wadelius

THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.

Carried

1.2 **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

Fisher/Kublick

THAT the minutes of the Provincial Executive meeting held June 1, 2020 be approved as circulated.

Carried

2.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Executive Planning Retreat

Executive Director Josh Watt provided an overview of the traditional role of the executive planning retreat as an opportunity to review existing and establish new strategic priorities for the organization. Several executive members spoke to their preference for an in person session in the fall, as can be accommodated within public health guidelines. The preferred month for this session was identified as October, and the association boardroom as having sufficient capacity to accommodate the event while maintaining physical distancing.

Senior officers and staff will finalize details as to the time and date of an October executive planning retreat, and share that information with the whole executive in the coming weeks.

3.0 DELEGATIONS

4.0 FOR ACTION/DECISION

1. Committee Update

Martens/Kublick

THAT the following committee appointments and re-appointments be approved.

Appointments:

- a) Resolutions and Policy Committee
 - *Vaughn Wadelius, Kelsey S.D.*
- b) Aboriginal and Indigenous Education Action Planning Committee
 - *Lisa Makwebak, Park West S.D.*

Re-appointments:

- a) Convention Planning Committee
 - *Vaughn Wadelius, Kelsey S.D. (June 2018)*

Carried

5.0 FOR DISCUSSION

1. Proposed Regional Meeting dates

The executive accepted the following schedule for Fall 2020 regional meeting dates.

- Region 5/6—Saturday, November 21, p.m.
- Region 1—Monday, November 23, a.m.
- Region 2—Tuesday, November 24, a.m.
- Region 3—Wednesday, November 25, a.m.
- Region 4—Thursday, November 26, a.m.

Meetings will be virtual, rather than in-person, and the precise start time is to be determined. Meetings will be approximately two hours in duration.

There was discussion as to whether these meetings would include a professional development component. Executive Director Josh Watt reminded everyone that there had been some discussion in February about possibly incorporating a session about trustee equity and representation (based on the State of Equity in Education Report) as part of these meetings. It was agreed that this topic might best be presented as part of the general meeting, with possible follow up and action planning at the regional meetings.

Directors will share the regional meeting dates with member boards, and request feedback on possible additional topics for discussion at the regional meetings.

2. Restoring Safe Schools - July 30 announcement and update on other provinces back to school announcements

The Manitoba plan on returning to school, as well as a document outlining what was happening in other provinces, was shared as information. President Alan Campbell indicated that to date, there have been three meetings of the response planning team on which the association is represented, and that a fourth was scheduled for later this week. These meetings have focussed on fine-tuning the provincial plan for return to school. School boards' perspective, as well as those of other partner organizations, are reflected in the document.

A general discussion on the return to school in the fall touched on the following topics.

- Public perceptions about whether it's safe for students and staff to return. We continue to follow the direction of public health in this regard. Public schools are open, and students are expected to attend unless there are specific health conditions. Students not returning to school in the fall (absent specific health concerns) will be required to register for home schooling.
- There was positive feedback on how the association has been representing school boards during the pandemic. The suggestion was made that a weekly summary of developments, including media spots, could be helpful in keeping boards informed without overwhelming them with information.
- With school board inaugural meetings taking place in September, a suggestion was made that a resource for incoming chairs, to bring them up to date on pandemic-related developments, would be useful. A further suggestion was for an orientation Zoom meeting for new chairs, with Q and A related to the pandemic.

3. Teleconference with Minister Goertzen

President Alan Campbell provided an overview of a recent telephone meeting with Education Minister Kelvin Goertzen. Topics discussed at that meeting included:

- pandemic planning;
- the impact of the Louis Riel S.D. arbitration, and related communications to boards from the Public Schools Finance Board; and

- timing of release of the Report of the Education Review Commission.

4. CAIF Update

Executive Director Josh Watt reported that 50% of the funds available to school boards for projects through the Climate Action Incentive Fund have already been transferred to MSBA for distribution. Once all agreements are in place, a final announcement will be made, either in person or virtually as circumstances allow. The federal government is pleased with how this project has rolled out with the association as a partner.

5. Respect in School expansion announcement

Information was provided on the province's renewal of funding for the Respect in School program. The association has restated its ongoing commitment to this program, which is in place in schools throughout the province.

6. MSBA pandemic related revenue and expenses

Chief Financial Officer Robyn Winter provide an overview of additional costs and possible savings related to office operations during the pandemic. At this time, there have been some additional hard expenses (such as legal fees and technical support), while most savings are only estimates.

Robyn responded to a question concerning additional costs related to playground security (an expansion of the Stop Vandalism patrols beyond the usual summer months). A more detailed analysis will be provided for the September meeting.

7. CSBA Update

President Alan Campbell provided an update on the planning of future CSBA Congress's. Congress 2021 will be held virtually, and will be hosted by the Quebec English School Boards Association. Manitoba will host the in-person event in 2022. The CSBA board of directors will be meeting later this month to discuss this matter further.

6.0 **INFORMATION REPORTS (Printed)**

1. Executive/Staff Activity Reports
 - Region 5/6 liaison to Winnipeg City Council: Brian Mayes
2. Correspondence (PRINTED)
3. Correspondence (EMAILED)
4. In-camera item

Fisher/Kublick

THAT the provincial executive go in-camera at 11:32 a.m.

Carried

Kublick/Wadelius

THAT the provincial executive move out of in-camera at 11:45 a.m.

Carried

7.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

September 14, 2020, via Zoom videoconference

Alan thanked everyone for their participation and Vaughn Wadelius moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:49 a.m.

/hd