

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

August 2, 2016

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 2016 annual general meeting held March 18, 2016. Beyond the normal resolutions which speak to specific issues and topics, two comprehensive position statements were also adopted by the MSBA's membership this year. 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. The next meeting of the full provincial executive of our association will be September 7, 2016. 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 senior executive officers to discuss the resolutions.

Either approach would also provide an occasion to explore any other matters that you may wish to bring to our attention as we enter the new school year. Association staff will be in touch with your office to confirm your availability for this meeting and we sincerely hope your schedule will accommodate our invitation.

In closing, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for meeting with our full provincial executive on June 6. 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

**2016 RESOLUTIONS**  
**As passed at the annual convention of the**  
**Manitoba School Boards Association**

**HEALTHY SCHOOLS GRANT**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association advocate with the provincial government that the Healthy Schools Grant be increased to reflect the increasing and comprehensive school needs of our diverse populations in the health promoting areas of nutrition, active living, mental health, and safe and welcoming environments.

**FUNDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association lobby Manitoba Education and Training for targeted funding directly to school divisions to strengthen mental health supports in schools.

**FUNDING FOR ABORIGINAL/INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association work with the Canadian School Boards Association to advocate with provincial and federal authorities to ensure that necessary financial, curricular and other resources are available that will enable school divisions to offer a level of programming in Aboriginal/Indigenous languages that is commensurate with their status as founding languages in Canada.

**COLLECTED SCHOOL TAXES**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association's Policy on Principles of Education Finance be amended with the addition of the following statement: The City of Winnipeg and all Municipalities forward all taxes collected as school taxes to all school divisions.

**FUNDING FOR ACCESSIBILITY PLAN**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association lobby the Province of Manitoba to secure adequate funding for the implementation of Accessibility Plans, in compliance with *the Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA)*.

## MSBA POSITION STATEMENTS

### EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association adopt the following position statement in the area of *Education Programming*.

Public schools provide all children with the opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge that enable them to develop their personal interests, explore and master new areas of inquiry, and build stronger futures for themselves and their communities. In order to fulfill this mandate, public schools must:

- maintain an instructional focus on the core subjects which remain integral to student success, including numeracy and literacy.
- offer a dynamic curriculum that recognizes emerging knowledge and learning needs.
- make available high-quality technical, vocational and career programming, and to the extent possible, ensure such offerings align with post-secondary requirements in technical and vocational fields of study.
- include curricular components that will enable young people to better fulfill their current and future roles as contributing family and community members, and as citizens of democratic societies.
- enable such course and delivery modifications as are necessary to ensure that all students, regardless of ability or special needs, geographic location, cultural or linguistic background, or other relevant factor, can benefit from the full range of educational offerings.
- conduct regular, meaningful assessments of student progress towards stated learning goals, with the results of such assessments being used to direct improvements to teaching and learning for both individual students and the student body as a whole.
- align instructional time and human/financial resource allocation with curricular requirements and priorities.

### STUDENTS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association adopt the following position statement in the area of *Students*.

Public schools not only provide academic courses of study for students; they also share in the family and community responsibility for nurturing the whole child, and for helping each one grow into a healthy, happy and contributing member of society. To that end, public schools must:

- recognize the critical importance of the early years for children's healthy development and learning, and support inter-agency cooperation and collaboration to meet the needs of young children and their families.

- cooperate with organizations having child or youth-focused mandates, including those working with pre-school or young adult populations.
- mitigate the negative impacts of poverty on students, and ensure that equitable educational opportunities are available to all children and youth, regardless of socio-economic status.
- work with other levels of government to promote a “students-first” philosophy that consistently places the needs of children and youth ahead of financial or legal considerations associated with residency, guardianship, jurisdictional boundaries, or similar matters.
- understand the significant roles good physical and mental health, emotional intelligence and empathy play in overall student well-being and achievement, and support or develop programs and initiatives designed to have a positive impact in these areas.
- respect, reflect and celebrate the cultural diversity of Manitoba’s citizens and communities in philosophy and programming.