

# Minutes

## Provincial Executive Meeting

Monday, June 6, 2011

*UNOFFICIAL until approved by the Provincial Executive.*

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

191 Provencher Boulevard, Winnipeg, Manitoba  
9:00 A.M.

<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b>	Robert Rivard	President
	Jacque Field	Vice-President
	Floyd Martens	Vice-President
	Hugh Coburn	Past President
	Ken Cameron	Director Region #1
	Cheryl Zelenitsky	Director Region #3
	Vaughn Wadelius	Director Region #4
	Cory Juan	Director Region #5
	Michel Boucher	Director Region #5
	Rita Hildahl	Director Region #6
	Carolyn Duhamel	Executive Director
	Heather Demetriooff	Associate Director
	Craig Wallis	Labour Relations Consultant
	Barb Unrau	Executive Assistant
<b><u>REGRETS:</u></b>	Norbert VanDeynze	Region 2 Director
	George Coupland	Director Labour Relations

### 1.1 **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

- Add: Under 6.0 Emergent Issues
- Bill 48 *Land Dedication and School Site Acquisition*, to be discussed under item 4.0 (3.)
- Under 4.0 For Action/Decisions
- Item #1. Brandon S.D. Research Request, re Collective Bargaining Issues - to be "in-camera."
  - Item #4. Joint Executive/Staff Compensation Committee
- Under 5.0 For Discussion
- Item #4 Article in May 26 e-bulletin, re Valedictorians

**Cameron/Field:**

**THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.**

**Carried**

## 1.2 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

**Hildahl/Juan:**

**THAT the minutes of the Provincial Executive meetings held March 16, 2011 and March 19, 2011, be approved as circulated.**

**Carried**

## 3.0 DELEGATIONS

1. The Honourable Nancy Allan, Minister of Education (11:00 a.m.). Andrew Clark, Gerald Farthing.

The President welcomed Education Minister Nancy Allan, Deputy Minister Gerald Farthing and Special Assistant Andrew Clark to the meeting and conducted introductions. He explained that the Executive will focus the discussion around convention resolutions in three categories: Students and Learning, Employee Relations, and Education Funding

Students and Learning

- (a) Early years funding supports

*Minister's comments:*

- we have had excellent and important dialogue with our partners on early childhood education over the past months
- our department conducted an on-line public survey on this subject and are in the process of compiling that data
- we agree that early years programs should not be mandated
- it will be important for school boards, educators and parents to work together to determine what programming is required and where best to make the investment in early childhood learning in their communities.

- (b) Mental health supports

*Minister's comments:*

- this continues to come up in discussion with all the partners and it is a serious concern
- a MASS representative has been serving for the past two years on an inter-sectoral committee of Education, Health, and Family Services - the Educating Students with Mental Health Concerns Working Group - to look at this issue
- they have been reviewing the *Educating Students with Mental Health Issues Working Group Report* to the Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth, July 24, 2008
- this committee is at a point where it is ready to discuss its findings
- I spoke with Health Minister Oswald to ask if she would consider giving this committee a new mandate to move this project forward
- this may be the mechanism we need to address this issue

## (c) Newcomer supports

Minister's comments:

- as demographics change there will always be pressure to provide support to meet the challenges of these students and their families
- our government announced an extra million dollars for EAL; there is a newcomer support grant for war affected families; and new schools are being built particularly in areas with high number of newcomers.

## (d) Aboriginal Education

**Update on Aboriginal Education within the Department**Minister's comments:

- we greatly appreciate the work stakeholders provide in the area of Aboriginal education and support, and know there is still a lot of work to be done in this area
- we talked with the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce concerning a mission to Ottawa to speak to INAC and included AMC in those discussions
- with the Federal election, this process was put on hold

Deputy Minister's comments:

- we are expanding our efforts to encourage students and parents to self-declare their Aboriginal status which would allow better tracking of student achievement levels
- Manitoba Education has also undertaken an internal statistical analysis of Grade 9 credit attainment for Aboriginal students

**Facilitating involvement of Aboriginals at the board table**Minister's comments:

- there is nothing preventing a school board from inviting someone of Aboriginal ancestry to sit on the board as a non-voting member
- Evergreen School Division has a student who sits at the board table

Deputy Minister's comments:

- tuition agreements are largely about payment
- we are working with AMC to develop an agreement that has a common vision and set of principles for the education component
- INAC has expressed an interest in seeing this draft document.

## (e) Employee relations

**Arbitration system**Minister's comments:

- I agree that the arbitration system isn't perfect but it is better than in some other provinces
- I'm not sure that we're prepared to make any changes to the process at this time

**Class size**

Minister's comments:

- we are not currently looking at any kind of policy to limit class size

Deputy Minister's comments:

- research in this area has always been mixed
- the most recent research shows that low-income students benefit most from smaller class size

(f) Other

The Minister update the Executive on some of the things government is working on:

- Bill 13: *The Preparing Students for Success Act*
- Bill 48: *The Planning and Land Dedication for School Sites Act*
- Bill 28: *The Public Schools Amendment Act (Reporting Bullying and Other Harm)*

The President thanked the Minister for bringing forward legislation related to land dedication and involvement of school boards in the residential planning process. We will provide Minister Lemieux with MSBA concerns related to this legislation and copy the Minister and Special Assistant.

The President then thanked the Minister and staff for attending the meeting and adjourned for lunch.

**4.0 FOR ACTION/DECISION**

1. Brandon S.D. Research Request, re Collective Bargaining Issues.

**Wadelius/Coburn:**

**THAT the Executive move in-camera at 9:05 a.m. to discuss the Brandon S.D. correspondence dated April 25, 2011 regarding collective bargaining issues.**

**Carried**

**Wadelius/Boucher:**

**THAT the Executive move out of camera at 9:35 a.m.**

**Carried**

**Cameron/Martens:**

**THAT a letter be sent to Brandon School Division declining its request for a review of collective bargaining issues and articulating the process to be followed where a service request falls outside or extends beyond regular operating parameters of the association.**

**Carried**

2. Committee appointments

**Zelenitsky/Juan:**

**THAT the following committee appointments be approved:**

- (a) General Insurance Management
  - **Derek Dabee, Seven Oaks S.D.**
- (b) Convention Planning Committee:
  - **Jean Oliver, Lord Selkirk S.D.**
  - **Murray McLenehan, Portage la Prairie S.D.**
  - **Fran Frederickson, Interlake S.D.**
  - **Theresa Bergson, Seine River S.D. (re-appoint)**
  - **Paulette Koroscil, Park West S.D. (re-appoint)**
- (c) Resolutions and Policy Committee
  - **Hugh Coburn, Past President**
  - **Cheryl Smukowich, St. James-Assiniboia S.D.**
- (d) Nominating Committee
  - **Hugh Coburn, Past President**
  - **Ruth Ann Furgala, Past President (re-appoint)**
  - **Yolande Dupuis, Past President (re-appoint)**
  - **Claudia Sarbit, Seven Oaks S.D. (re-appoint)**
- (e) Minister's Advisory Committee on Funding of Schools Program
  - **Robert Rivard, President**
- (f) Student Services/Inclusive Education Consultation Committee
  - **Loreen Jackson, Rolling River S.D.**

**Carried**

3. Bill 48: *The Planning and Land Dedication for School Sites Act*

- we will be reconstituting the Joint Working Group with the PSFB regarding school sites and the involvement of school boards in the residential planning process

- the proposed legislation responds to many of the concerns we have raised with the Minister and Intergovernmental Affairs
  - ensures that land in new developments will be made available for school construction
  - will help ensure that land needed for new school construction is affordable
  - will prevent the proliferation of misinformation and misunderstanding surrounding the school site acquisition process
- we would propose two minor amendments to the Bill – Use of money 68.1(2)
  - that the acceptable uses of money be expanded to include capital renovations of an existing school
  - that the lease of school buses, as well as the outright purchase be classified as an acceptable use of funds
- we will contact Rick Dedi, Executive Director of the PSFB to share our concerns related to
  - selling a parcel of land at assessed value to a school division or dedicating the land for school construction
  - developers advertising/signage related to school sites
- a letter will be sent to The Honourable Ron Lemieux, Minister of Local Government outlining our concerns regarding Bill 48 and copied to all school boards

4. Joint staff/Executive compensation committee.

**Wadelius/Field:**

**THAT Vice-President Floyd Martens replace Robert Rivard on the Joint Executive/Staff Compensation Committee.**

**Carried**

- the joint committee will meet in early fall

At this point the Executive reviewed the talking points for the meeting with the Minister at 11:00 a.m.

**5.0 FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Report of the Executive Planning Retreat -2011

- administration drafted the 2011-2014 Strategic Priorities and proposed actions for Executive review
- over the summer administration will develop specific actions in each category and include a list of professional development opportunities in the fall calendar for school boards
- we are proposing to hold two seminars annually
  - one the last Friday in November in Winnipeg, and
  - one the last Friday in April in Brandon
- it was recommended that the strategic priorities become a standard item on the Executive agenda, and include any proposed actions in the various areas
- the strategic priorities will be circulated to member boards through divisional mail in June

Updating of MSBA Website

- the Associate Director noted that her department would be updating the MSBA Website over the summer
- she suggested taking half an hour at the September Executive meeting to share with Executive members progress on the website update, as well as other electronic media

At this point the Executive welcomed the Minister and her staff to the meeting. The Executive resumed the order of the agenda at 1:00 p.m.

**Cameron/Juan:**

**THAT the 2011-2014 Strategic Priorities and action plan be approved as discussed.**

**Carried**

2. Draft Discussion Paper, re Managing Demographic Transitions in Manitoba Public Schools

MASS, MASBO and the Minister are aware that we are creating this document which raises concerns around school closures and gives an overview of processes followed in other jurisdictions across Canada. The Executive reviewed the draft document.

- include a section of critical questions at the end of the document that school boards could use when sharing this document with their communities
- include a sample policies from rural school divisions in the appendices

The Executive Director noted that the Executive will have to determine the most effective way of raising the profile of this document so that school boards might share it with their communities and to help them understand the complexity of managing demographic transitions in their communities.

The Executive Director will revise the document over the summer based on Executive input and bring forward a final document for approval in September. The document will then be shared with member boards in preparation for the fall election.

The Executive commended the Executive Director for her work on this document.

3. Matters arising from Executive and Staff reports.

None

4. Valedictorian article in May 26, e-bulletin.

Region 3 Director Cheryl Zelenitsky requested further information regarding the Valedictorian article in the May 26, 2011 e-bulletin.

- sponsored by Pathways to Education Canada in partnership with The Globe and Mail "Graduation Nation" project

- valedictorians are invited to submit their valedictorian speeches to The Globe and Mail which will publish a selection

Further details on the program will be forwarded to member boards through the divisional mail.

## **6.0 EMERGENT ISSUES**

1. Government Bill 48

Discussed earlier in the agenda.

## **7.0 EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT**

1. MSBA members are invited to participate in a PISA information session, September 30 (a.m. ONLY) – Holiday Inn Airport West; afternoon session for MSBA membership.

MASS invited MSBA to partner with them to bring in Doug Willms, Professor and Director of the Canadian Research Institute for Social Policy at the University of New Brunswick to talk about the PISA results. Dr. Willms was involved in the *What Did You Do In School Today* project.

In the afternoon, MSBA will offer a related workshop for its member school boards. Further details and registration information will be sent to boards in the next few weeks.

## **8.0 INFORMATION REPORTS**

- Defining process and expectations for reporting.

The President suggested that in the interest of better utilizing the time spent on activity reports at Executive meetings, Executive/staff members seeking direction regarding committee work, policy issues, requests from boards in their region, etc., should raise these concerns/questions under 5.0. Written activity reports will be received as information only.

The Executive supported the new process.

- (a) Executive/Staff Reports [*Reports should identify any matters arising for discussion under Item 5.0*]

1. President
  - attended MASBO convention in Brandon June 1-3
  - it was a good meeting with lots of information

## 2. Vice-President(s)

- (a) Floyd Martens, Mountain View S.D. (for boards with fewer than 6,000 students)
- in addition to his written report, the Vice-President commented briefly on his attendance at the Region 1 bargaining meeting held May 30
  - there have been a number of changes to the MSBA Pension Plan for Non-Teaching Employees lately, so the Committee has met about 6 times this year and is meeting once more this month
- (b) Jacquie Field, Pembina Trails S.D. (for boards with 6,000 students or more)
- no further comment on her written report

## 3. Past President

- in addition to his written report the Past President commented on his attendance at the Region 5 & 6 bargaining meeting held in May

## 4. Directors

Region #1 – Ken Cameron, Rolling River S.D.

- commented briefly on the Regional bargaining meeting

Region #3 – Cheryl Zelenitsky, Evergreen S.D.

- reported that she would be attending the Rural Education Development Committee meeting in Portage la Prairie on Thursday, June 9
- she also noted that Region #3 had a bargaining meeting on May 6

Region #5 – Cory Juan, Seven Oaks S.D.

- in addition to her written report, the Director reported that the Multiculturalism Report to Government is 99% complete; she will provide the Executive with a copy of the final report for the next meeting
- she commented on her attendance at the United Way's PEG initiative meeting (an initiative to create a community indicators system for the City of Winnipeg)
- there are already 6 cities in Canada participating in this project
- looking for representatives from parents and Aborigines
- this group is committed to have 3-4 meetings a year until the project is complete
- Cory volunteered to continue to represent MSBA at these meetings.

Region #5 – Michel Boucher, DSFM

- he and Cory Juan attended the *Hot Sauce Summer in the City* fundraiser on June 2<sup>nd</sup> sponsored by the Community School Investigators program initiated by Strini Reddy
- he commented briefly on a conference on Diversity that he attended on behalf of the DSFM – lot of good work is being done in this area

## Region #4 – Vaughn Wadelius

- the Director reported that in response to concerns raised by physical education teachers, a discussion took place at the ICAC (Inter-organizational Curriculum Advisory Committee) meeting regarding the need to develop policies around the dangers of body piercing; a policy on public presentation to school boards is being developed
- he shared concerns related to distribution of school board correspondence to only accredited media people
- Kesley S.D. has lost a school psychologist and a speech pathologist and has been unable to fill the positions

## Region #6 – Rita Hildahl, Winnipeg S.D.

- the Director commented on her attendance at an Aboriginal Education Research Forum the end of April
  - they want to set up Urban Aboriginal Education Steering Committee
- she also attended the release of the OECD/PISA dissemination study – potential to promote successful integration of youth into the workforce
  - PISA did research to determine if 15 year olds had the skills and knowledge to fully participate as a productive citizen.

## 5. Executive Director

- the Executive Director noted that she had a copy of the Intradepartmental Inter-generational Network document for anyone wanting to see it

## 6. Associate Director

- the Associate Director noted that on recommendation from the MSBA Aboriginal Education Working Group we will update the Aboriginal Education survey from 5 years ago to determine what programs and services school boards were currently offering Aboriginal children in their divisions
- she asked if Directors would follow-up with Board Chairs in their region to ensure they receive the study and that it be brought to the attention of their boards

The Associate and Executive Directors responded to questions:

- whether only trustees and administrators of Aboriginal ancestry were invited to attend the SSBA *National Aboriginal Trustees Gathering*, June 19-21 in Saskatoon
- if the Convention Planning Committee would consider Best Practices for Newcomers as a designated workshop stream at the 2012 convention

## 7. Report on Multicultural Education Policy Renewal Project

## 8. Financial Reports as of April 30, 2011

## (b) Correspondence (PRINTED)

1. March 2, 2011 copy of Minister Ashton's response to MASS, re Traffic concerns in school zones.

2. March 14, 2011 copy of MASS letter to Minister Oswald, re Mental health services for school-aged students.
  3. March 30, 2011 copy of MASS letter to Minister Allan, re Manitoba Network Initiative.
- (c) Correspondence (Sent via e-mail)
1. May 17, 2011 Winnipeg Realtors, re New school site acquisition.
- (d) Committee Minutes (Sent via e-mail)
1. MHSAA Strategic Planning Session, Wednesday, April 20, 2011 Agenda and Questionnaire
  2. Inter-organizational Curriculum Advisory Committee (ICAC), March 2, 2011.
  3. MAB for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students, October 2010 and May 2011.
  4. English as an Additional Language (EAL), May 17, 2011.
- (d) Publications (FOR PERUSAL)
1. Education Manitoba, May, 2011.
  2. Manitoba Human Rights Commission, *MHR Connections*, March & April 2011
  3. Canadian Association for the Practical Study of Law in Education (Capsle), *Comments*, March 2011.
  4. The Manitoba Child Care Association, *Child Care Bridges*, Spring, 2011
  5. *The Manitoba Teacher*, March, 2011

## 9.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2011, 9:00 A.M. MSBA Office.

**Field/Coburn:**

**THAT the meeting be adjourned.**

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

/bu