

Minutes

Provincial Executive Meeting

Monday, October 5, 2009

October 5, 2009

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

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

PRESENT: Hugh Coburn President
Robert Rivard Vice-President
Jacquie Field Vice-President
Yolande Dupuis Past President
Floyd Martens Director Region #1
Hugh Greaves Director Region #2
Cheryl Zelenitsky Director Region #3
Marion Pearson Director Region #4
Tom Parker Director Region #5
Bruce Alexander Director Region #5
Cindy Gilroy-Price Director Region #6

Carolyn Duhamel Executive Director
Heather Demetriooff Associate Director
George Coupland Director, Labour Relations
Barb Unrau Executive Assistant

1.1 **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Add: 4.0 (3.) Executive appointments to the Joint Executive/Staff Compensation Committee
5.0 (5.) Report on meeting with PC Caucus
6.0 (4.) NDP Leadership Candidate responses to education questions
(5.) MSBA parking restrictions

Field/Dupuis:

THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.

Carried

1.2 **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

Dupuis/Rivard:

**THAT the minutes of the Provincial Executive meeting held
September 8, 2009, be approved as circulated/amended.**

Carried

4.0 FOR ACTION/DECISION

1. Operating policies
 - (a) eligible expenditures for CSBA position

Deferred to November meeting pending a written request from the Manitoba CSBA Director

- (b) hospitality at annual convention and AGM

At the annual convention the Association hosts a joint hospitality event with MASS and MASBO, the President's Reception for special guests, the Appreciation Reception for committee members, and wine for VIP tables at the banquet. Of the \$112,000 convention budget, alcohol accounts for approximately \$1,500.

A lengthy discussion took place around this issue.

Rivard/Alexander:

THAT the Executive request the Convention Planning Committee to investigate sponsorship of public events where alcohol is served in the context of the annual convention of the Association.

Carried

2. Committee appointments
 - (a) Mathematics Steering Committee

Dupuis/Alexander:

THAT Cheryl Zelenitsky (Evergreen S.D.) be appointed to replace Rhea Galeschuk as the Manitoba School Boards Association representative on the Mathematics Steering Committee.

Carried

3. Executive Appointment to Joint Compensation Committee

Pearson/Martens:

THAT Tom Parker, Jacquie Field and Robert Rivard be appointed to the joint Executive/Staff Compensation Committee.

Carried

5.0 **FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Report on meeting with Association of Manitoba Chiefs Grand Chief Ron Evans.

President Hugh Coburn, Vice-Presidents Jacquie Field and Robert Rivard and Executive Director Carolyn Duhamel attended the meeting with Grand Chief Ron Evans on September 22, 2009.

The Grand Chief acknowledged the value and importance of improving the educational experience of aboriginal youth. However, he suggested that the primary focus needs to be on improving economic and social conditions for aboriginal families. While education will ultimately play an important role in this area, he believes that government and partners must deal with poverty and operational issues on reserves first.

Other areas of discussion included

- the openness of AMC to work with education partners to address economic and social as well as educational issues
- AMC provided information about its efforts to see all First Nations on the same calendar for elections and length of terms
- a number of success stories were shared (Windsor Park Collegiate – worked with businesses on reserves to train students so they had community connections post-graduation)
- AMC used to have a close working relationship with the Manitoba School Boards Association through the 1980's - First Nations education authorities used some of our services; owing to financial constraints some bands have dismantled their education authorities in the past two decades
- Grand Chief Ron Evans offered to address delegates at the 2010 MSBA convention
 - the Executive Director will follow up with Shirley Fontaine in this regard
- there were discrepancies in the response from Chuck Strahl regarding what we think is being funded and what he says First Nations are actually getting
 - the Executive Director will discuss funding issues with Shirley Fontaine

The President and Executive Director attended the Grand Opening of the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba Learning Centre on September 23rd. The Manitoba School Boards Association will explore partnership opportunities with the Commission.

2. Aboriginal Education Committee - mandate and terms of reference.

The Executive Director reported that MASS and MTS have, or are in the process of establishing, Aboriginal Education Committees. Hopefully, our respective committees can get together from time-to-time to share information and resources.

She indicated that she will draft Terms of Reference for the MSB Aboriginal Education Committee for the November Executive meeting.

It was suggested that we consider purchasing the aboriginal education curriculum developed by the Alberta School Boards Association.

3. School Attendance in Manitoba - Executive Summary.

The Executive Director reported that the Government had done a study on attendance in Manitoba schools. It is expected that they will develop policy in this area but there has been no indication to this point of plans for stakeholder consultation in this regard.

It was suggested that the Manitoba School Boards Association be proactive and write to the Minister expressing its interest in having a dialogue about attendance issues in schools.

4. Education Funding and Teacher Bargaining Structures.

The President reported that there appears to be rising concern in our province around the collective bargaining structure. Specific concerns were raised at the Region #4 meeting as well as in a recent board visitation.

While the Manitoba School Boards Association has had many meetings with school boards individually, regionally and provincially and has provided detailed information and recommendations, it is ultimately a board's decision regarding its collective agreement settlements.

Region #2 Director Hugh Greaves reported that his region has had two meetings in this regard and shared their discussions. Their intention is to find more effective ways to work collaboratively in the area of salary and benefits negotiations with their respective employee groups.

A lengthy discussion followed around the process followed by MTS. It was suggested that trustees need to understand that the two processes are quite different and puts school boards at a significant disadvantage.

- the Provincial MTS signs off on all locals contracts
- locals can not agree to something if the provincial body does not support it

It was agreed that this item be placed on the next agenda for further discussion.

At this point, the Executive moved forward in the agenda to receive the delegation.

Vice-President, Robert Rivard assumed the Chair at 1:00 p.m.

5. Meeting with the PC Caucus October 1, 2009.

Vice-President Robert Rivard reported on the meeting with the PC Caucus. Issues shared included the name change of the association, aboriginal education, poverty reduction, newcomer supports, early learning and care, public schools infrastructure, education funding model, Bill 37 - school board elections, and Bill 4 - Tax Increment Financing

Caucus members did not share their policy positions on any of these issues. It was suggested that we arranged a future meeting with the PC Leader and Education Critic and request their party's positions is on various education issues.

6.0 EMERGENT ISSUES

1. H1N1 meeting with senior Government officials and with MTS staff representatives, re school division planning.

The Manitoba School Boards Association received calls in late September from both the Minister's office and from the Manitoba Teachers' Society requesting meetings with us on H1N1 planning in school divisions.

The two organizations and MECY are agreed that flexibility and reasonableness must prevail in addressing H1N1 issues to ensure continuity and stability in school programming for students. To this end, Judy Edmond from MTS and Heather Demetriooff from MSBA are developing a joint communication for consideration by the two Associations. Discussions between MTS and MSBA are ongoing in this regard and we are hopeful that we can reach consensus on final wording of the statement which will then be distributed to all teacher locals and public school boards in the province.

2. Report on status of Arts Education Steering Committee.

The Manitoba School Boards representative on the Arts Education Steering Committee, Jacquie Field, provided the Executive with an update on the activities of this committee. She reported that the committee is overseeing the development of curriculum in 4 areas – music, dance, drama, and art. This is a very complicated curriculum development process and development teams have stopped writing because of limited government resources.

These strands are extremely important for inner-city and aboriginal communities and the committee will endeavour to make progress in this regard.

She further reported that mandatory physical education has seriously compromised arts education courses in many areas of the province.

3. Bill 37, The Public Schools Amendment Act (Limited at Large Elections of Trustees) *For information only.*

A letter of appreciation was sent to the Minister regarding the passing of this amendment to the PSA. This had been a convention resolution for several years, and we are pleased that the Government has acted on this matter.

4. Response from Leadership Candidates

The Manitoba School Boards Association had requested response from the NDP Leadership Candidates to a number of education questions. A copy of the response from Greg Selinger was circulated. We will continue to pursue a response from Steve Ashton.

5. Parking issue

The Executive expressed concerns regarding the lack of parking in the vicinity of the Manitoba School Boards office in light of the construction project east of the building. Administration will investigate possible options with the City of Winnipeg and report back to the next meeting.

7.0 EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT

1. Anne Kresta, Community Living Manitoba, *re Inclusive Education in Manitoba - A Review of Progress Toward Appropriate Education for All*. **(Timed item: 11:15 a.m.)**

The President welcomed Anne Kresta to the meeting and conducted introductions. Ms Kresta shared her report on the status of inclusive education in the province and joined the Executive for lunch following the presentation.

Hugh Coburn excused himself from the meeting at 12:00 noon

8.0 EXECUTIVE/STAFF REPORTS & MATTERS ARISING

1. President

Written report included in the agenda package.

2. Vice-President(s)

In addition to his written report, Vice-President Robert Rivard reported on the meeting with the Liberal Caucus September 14, 2009. We raised the same issues as in our meeting with the PC Caucus. Dr. Gerrard expressed an interest in the cost of keeping small schools open and stated his concerns around keeping schools open in light of a possible H1N1 pandemic.

In addition to her written report, Vice-President Jacquie Field commented on her attendance at the Manitoba Schools Improvement Program "Peaceful Village Program." Participants brainstormed ways of assisting newcomer families living in the Hugh John Macdonald and Gordon Bell school communities. One of the primary concerns is the time it takes to teach language in the various subject areas.

The Executive Director indicated that the "Peaceful Village Program" is a very interesting multi-year project for MSIP and we will follow its development closely. She suggested this could be a convention workshop topic.

3. Past President

4. Directors

Region 5 In addition to his written report, Director, Bruce Alexander gave Executive an update on the FRAME Committee Report.

Mr. Alexander further commented on his presentation at the hearings on Bill 4. He presented on behalf of the Association at the hearings and indicated that there were only 5 other presenters. The opposition asked some good questions related to the Bill.

Director Tom Parker commented on his at the Board visitation with Seven Oaks School Division on September 21. Equalization was raised as a serious concern for this board.

- Region 4 Director Marion Pearson reported on the Region 4 meeting held in Cranberry Portage September 26. There was a good exchange of information on the discussion topics and trustees greatly appreciated the *Fundamentals of Collective Bargaining* conducted by Labour Relations Director George Coupland. She also commented on the good things happening at the Frontier Collegiate campus in Cranberry Portage.
- Region 6 Director Cindy Gilroy-Price reported that her region is determining the affect of the Revitalization Bill on their school division.
- Region 2 Director Hugh Greaves reported on the activities of his region earlier in the agenda. He suggested that an up-date on H1N1 should be added to the agenda of all regional meetings.

The Executive Director circulated draft agendas for the up-coming regional meetings. She noted that at the request of departmental personnel, she is trying to incorporate a presentation on ITC at these meetings.

5. Executive Director

- (a) October 1 & 2 Forum - What would it take?
- 32 school boards in attendance
 - trustee and administration teams took a hard look at their own expenditure patterns
 - the panel from 4 different schools talking about low cost, high impact activities in their divisions was very well received
 - believe this fits into our bigger picture of board leadership
- (b) CSBA meetings - September 27 & 28
- good, candid discussion around the future of CSBA
 - an official communication will be sent by the CSBA President to all school boards
- (c) Internal operations
- will have audited financial statements for the November Executive meeting

6. Associate Director

The Associate Director highlighted the following items in her written report

- Convention Planning Committee – call for proposals
- draft posters for 2010 school board elections
- School Boards Work Campaign
- Education Week

Dupuis/Zelenitsky:

THAT the information reports be received.

Carried

8.1 INFORMATION REPORTS

(a) Correspondence

Sent via e-mail September 18, 2009

1. September 16, 2009 copy of Minister Lemieux letter, re Bill 5: *Promoting Safer and Healthier Conditions in Motor Vehicles*.

Sent via e-mail September 25, 2009

1. September 17, 2009, Red River Valley S.D. letter of appreciation, re Access Copyright tariffs.
2. September 21, 2009 copy of Government News Release - *Province Proclaims Legislation to Strengthen Protection for Students with Life-threatening Allergies*.

(b) Committee Minutes

Sent via e-mail September 18, 2009

1. Inter-organizational Curriculum Advisory Committee (ICAC), June 2, 2009

Sent via e-mail September 25, 2009

1. Technical Vocational Education Advisory Committee (TVEAC), May 27, 2009

Sent via e-mail October 1, 2009

1. Inter-organizational Curriculum Advisory Committee (ICAC), September 29, 2009

(c) Publications

1. The Manitoba Child Care Association, Child Care Bridges, Fall 2009.

9.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2009

Greaves:

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

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