

Minutes

Provincial Executive Meeting

Monday, September 7, 2010

UNOFFICIAL until approved by the Provincial Executive.

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

Norwood Hotel
Taché Salon – Main Floor
9:00 A.M.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Hugh Coburn	President
	Robert Rivard	Vice-President
	Jacque Field	Vice-President
	Yolande Dupuis	Past President
	Floyd Martens	Director Region #1
	Cheryl Zelenitsky	Director Region #3
	Vaughn Wadelius	Director Region #4
	Dennis Ruggles	Director Region #5
	Rita Hildahl	Director Region #6
	Carolyn Duhamel	Executive Director
	Heather Demetriooff	Associate Director
	George Coupland	Director, Labour Relations
	Barb Unrau	Executive Assistant
<u>REGRETS:</u>	Hugh Greaves	Director Region #2
	Tom Parker	Director Region #5

1.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Ruggles/Field:

THAT the agenda be adopted as circulated.

Carried

1.2 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Rivard/Hildahl:

THAT the minutes of the Provincial Executive meeting held June 7, 2010, be approved as circulated.

Carried

4.0 FOR ACTION/DECISION

1. Audited Financial Statements (Timed Item – 9:00 a.m.)

The Executive Director introduced Shawna Lounsbury and Sandra Alleyne from KPMG to the meeting. Sandra reviewed the financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2010. She and Shawna offered to answer any questions related to report.

- Shawna noted that the change in the configuration of the Administration and Risk Management Departments will be reflected in the audit next year.
- She also noted that Safe Schools Manitoba and the Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba are monies in and out; the association only holds funds for these programs.
- Executive members requested that for clarification, the item listed as “cash” in Point #4. Investments, be re-titled “investment savings account.”

Shawna then reviewed the Audit findings report and offered to answer any questions.

- She reported that there will be changes in the Standards Act next year.
- There will be two streams and MSBA will fall under the not for profit section as it does now.
- She did not anticipate that this would create more work for the auditors or have any impact on the cost of the audit.

The staff excused themselves from the meeting at 9:32 a.m. Executive members met privately with the auditors.

Staff rejoined the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

The President thanked Sandra and Shawna for their presentation.

Rivard/Dupuis:

**THAT the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending
June 30, 2010 be approved.**

Carried

2. Member Survey Results

The Associate Director reviewed the results of the member survey

- With the exception of advocacy, members reported being very satisfied with the programs and services provided by the association.
- Preference for the location of convention was not definitive.
- support for fall regional meetings varied by region.

A discussion followed regarding ways of enhancing our advocacy efforts.

The Executive agreed to

- conduct an independent survey of individual trustees regarding preferred convention location(s);

- provide the membership with the results of both surveys at the March convention and conduct a ballot vote to decide this matter; and
- add to the January regional meeting agenda a discussion around the need for fall regional meetings.

Field/Zelenitsky:

THAT the results of the member satisfaction survey be distributed to all school boards and posted to the MSBA Website.

Carried

3. Manitoba Education Research Network (MERN), request for financial support.

- MERN is requesting a three-year commitment from MSBA to fund printing costs of its annual Journal at an approximate cost of \$2,000 per year
- The MERN Journal includes all presentations made at MERN in any given year and is circulated to all school divisions, faculties of education, and education partners.
- MSBA has partnered with MERN on various projects in the past and feel there would be value in supporting the production of this resource document

Field/Rivard:

THAT MSBA make a financial contribution to cover printing costs of the MERN Journal for three years at an annual cost of approximately \$2,000 per year.

Carried

4. Appointment of Pension Committee Trustee

Floyd Martens (member of the MSBA Pension Committee) excused himself from the meeting during discussion of this item.

Dupuis/Rivard:

THAT trustee Doug Karnes, Brandon School Division, be appointed to the MSBA Pension Plan Committee, and that Brian Mayes, formerly a trustee in the Brandon School Division remain on the committee as a non-voting member until the conclusion of the investment review process in December, 2010.

Carried

Floyd Martens rejoined the meeting.

5. Distribution of "Take 5" brochures.

- This brochure was distributed electronically to all boards.
- Boards were asked how many copies they might like for distribution in their communities.
- A one page version of the document was also created which could be easily duplicated by divisions.

- Staff provided information about “reach” and costs of distributing the brochure along with community newspapers.

Rivard/Wadelius:

THAT the Take 5 Brochure be circulated through the Community Newspaper network and funded out of the internally restricted budget line.

Carried

6. July 15, 2010, Brandon S.D., re PSFB Five-Year Capital Plan.

Current MSBA policy addressed issues of capital funding in both general and specific ways. MSBA advances these issues with Government officials on behalf of all member school boards.

The President will respond to the Chair of Brandon School Division in this regard.

5.0 FOR DISCUSSION

1. July 8, 2010, Brandon School Division research request, re potential impact of loss of ability to levy a local tax.

We anticipate that the issue of school board taxing authority will be a prominent focus in the 2011 provincial election. MSBA advocacy efforts and support resources to school boards will reflect this reality and be a topic for discussion at January 2011 regional meetings.

2. July 8, 2010, copy of Brandon School letter to the Premier, re request for exemption from property taxes on property used and/or being held for educational purposes

Existing association policies address the matter of school division exemption from property taxation. We will raise the issue in liaison meetings with Government and Opposition members this fall.

3. July 12, 2010, Pembina Trails School Division, re school site land acquisitions

- The letter expresses concern that changes were made regarding the developers obligation to dedicate additional land for school sites without notifying school boards.
- This is contradictory to discussions MSBA had with the PSFB and Intergovernmental Affairs around school board involvement in residential planning.
- Urban school boards should discuss this matter at the next Region 5 & 6 networking meeting and approach the City of Winnipeg as a group. MSBA will follow-up with the PSFB on this matter.

4. Manitoba Education – operation of 12-15 passenger vans

- On behalf of MSBA, Keith Thomas, Risk Manager met with the department representatives to discuss the use of 12-15 passenger vans to transport students.
- The Executive concurred with the Risk Manager's suggestions about the need for some standard reporting format with regard to the policy and his recommendation that the policy be enforced in the current school year. The Executive felt it sufficient that reports be retained in divisional offices rather than sent to Manitoba Education and requested
- clarification regarding the training requirements for drivers using other non-school bus vehicles to transport students on behalf of the school division.

5. Executive Director Appraisal Policy

Executive members Vaughn Wadelius, Rita Hildahl and Jacquie Field volunteered to participate in a working group to develop a new appraisal policy for the MSBA Executive Director position.

6. Manitoba Network Initiative

MSBA will survey Secretary-Treasurers to determine if the proposed high-speed, high-capacity Manitoba Network Initiative linking provincial government offices, schools, health care facilities and other public sector organizations in 154 communities across Manitoba, will or will not benefit their divisions.

7. MCLE research project, re the next generation of school leaders

In her role as a member of the Teacher Practicum Review Committee, Vice-President Jacquie Field reported on a meeting she attended with representatives from COSL, the universities, MCLE, the Department of Education, and MASS to talk about the next generation of school leaders. The group is looking to redesign programs to ensure that school leaders receive the tools they need to be successful in the 21st century. The group would like to get feedback from partner organizations around what knowledge, skills, and competencies they feel will be required from our leaders of the future.

MSBA will survey member boards and share the information with this working group.

8. Report on CTF Forum

Vice-President Robert Rivard represented MSBA at the Canadian Teachers Federation Forum on education funding in Edmonton and reported on the various workshops and presentations. He provided Executive members with a comprehensive written report and thanked the Executive for the opportunity to attend this event.

9. Changes to Federal census

- Several school boards in the province have spoken up on this matter and three of the eight provincial associations have sent letters to the Federal Government or made public statements opposing the announced changes to the long form census.

- The Executive believes this is an area where CSBA could be involved and suggested that MSBA share the Louis Riel S.D. correspondence in this regard with CSBA at the Board of Directors meeting on October 4.
 - concern that there is information on the long form that is extremely valuable to school boards
 - survey member boards to identify what information will be lost if the long form is voluntary and have these added to the short form
10. FRAME report, re Community Use of Schools (Point #6.)
- MSBA's representative on the FRAME Committee, Bruce Alexander alerted the Executive to Point #6 of the 2010 FRAME Committee Report regarding community use of schools.
 - He is concerned that current perceptions regarding the under use of school facilities may not be accurate and future policy directions based on these perceptions could be problematic. The MSBA will address this issue with Assistant Deputy Minister Jean Auclair who is responsible for this

8.0 EXECUTIVE/STAFF REPORTS & MATTERS ARISING

1. President

- The President reviewed his activities over the past two months.
- He commented on his attendance as an observer at the CSBA Board of Directors meeting at the Congress 2010.
- Vice-President Robert Rivard requested that the Manitoba CSBA Director attend the November meeting of the Executive to give an update on CSBA.

2. Vice-President(s)

- Written and verbal reports were provided.
- Vice-President Jacquie Field expressed appreciation of the excellent workshop offerings at CSBA and suggested that future Congress programs offer additional learning opportunities for trustees.

3. Past President

- The Past President provided a verbal report and expressed concern that there is no opportunity for member Association delegates to provide input at the annual CSBA AGM.

4. Directors

- Region #5 Director Dennis Ruggles commented on his attendance at CSBA. He would have liked to see more professional development opportunities and felt the program focused more on Newfoundland specific issues and topics than on those of other provinces.
- Region #4 Director Vaughn Wadelius requested an update on the Brandon University research project with northern school divisions and aboriginal communities.

- The Executive Director reported that MSBA has sent a letter of intent to support the project and we will await response from Brandon University as to whether they are successful in their grant application submission.

5. Executive Director

- The Executive Director commented on her written report and encouraged Executive members to review the MTS school board elections handbook on the MTS website.

6. Associate Director

- In addition to her written report, the Associate Director Heather Demetriooff noted that the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce on-line bulletin has a piece highlighting trustee elections.
- MSBA will be running ads on the radio encouraging people to get out and vote.
- Vice-President Jacquie Field noted that Pembina Trails developed its own website on trustee elections and linked it to MSBA's website.
- Everyone is welcome to attend the candidate information sessions in Winnipeg September 13th and Brandon September 14th

8.1 INFORMATION REPORTS

(a) Correspondence

Sent via e-mail July 16, 2010

1. July 5, 2010 Brandon S.D. letter of support re President's comments on teacher negotiations.

Sent via e-mail August 27, 2010

1. August 17, 2010, Manitoba Education, re reporting of absenteeism - H1N1.

(b) Committee Minutes

Sent via e-mail July 9, 2010

1. Minutes - Multicultural Education Policy Renewal Initiative – April 27, 2010.
2. Minutes – Minister's Advisory Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing – May 3, 2010.
3. Minutes – Social Planning Council (C2000) – February 12, March 12 and May 7, 2010.

Sent via e-mail August 27, 2010

4. Safe Schools Manitoba – October 13, 2009, December 8, 2009, and March 9, 2010.

(c) Publications

1. Manitoba Human Rights Commission, *MHR Connections*, Summer 2010
2. Report of the Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association 48th Annual General Meeting June 20-22, 2010
3. 2010 Magna Award Report
4. Saskatchewan School Boards Association Newsletter, *The School Trustee*, June, 2010
5. Association of Manitoba Municipalities, *Ballot Box Barriers Report*

6. *Measure Up*, Report of the February 3, 2010 Community Workshop on Poverty Measurement
7. Draft report, *Education for a Diverse, Just and Equitable Society*, June 18, 2010
8. University of Manitoba, Faculty of Education, *Community Update*, June, 2010
9. Manitoba Education, Aboriginal Teachers – *Questionnaire Report 2009*

10. Manitoba Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) Newsletter, June 2010, August 2010
11. Canadian Education Association, *2008-2009 CEA Annual Report*
12. Canadian Education Association's 2009 *Education Research Review*
13. Manitoba Child Care Association, *Child Care Bridges*, Summer, 2010

9.0 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2010 – at The Hilton Suites Winnipeg Airport

- Note: All Executive members will be registered to attend the MASS Early Childhood Education and Care Workshop being held the morning of October 4th.
- The Executive meeting will follow in the afternoon at the same location - the Hilton Suites Winnipeg Airport

Ruggles:

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

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