

# Minutes

## Provincial Executive Meeting

### Tuesday, September 8, 2009

September 8, 2009

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

***UNOFFICIAL until approved by the Provincial Executive  
of the Manitoba School Boards Association.***

held in the Boardroom of the Manitoba School Boards Association  
191 Provencher Boulevard, Winnipeg, MB  
9:00 A.M.

**PRESENT:** Hugh Coburn            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

**REGRETS:** Robert Rivard        Vice-President

**GUEST:** Ruth Ann Furgala        Manitoba CSBA Director (1:00 p.m.)

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

**Dupuis/Alexander:**

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

**Carried**

## 1.2 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

**Zelenitsky/Parker:**

**THAT the minutes of the Provincial Executive meeting held June 1, 2009, be approved as circulated.**

**Carried**

## 3.0 DELEGATIONS

1. Departmental Overviews. Each Department Head introduced departmental members provided an overview of the services provided by that department.

George Coupland, Director of Labour Relations, Heather Demetriooff, Associate Director (Administration and Member Services Department), Keith Thomas, Risk Manager, Carolyn Duhamel, Executive Director (Administration and Member Services Department) and Mary Hall, Director of Safe Schools Manitoba gave an overview of the services provided in their respective departments and staff responsibilities within the department.

Staff were invited to the meeting and introductions conducted. Directors responded to questions related to the services they provide.

The President thanked directors and their staff members for their presentations and moved forward in the agenda to item 4.0.

2. Manitoba CSBA Director, Ruth Ann Furgala, re Future of CSBA. (1:00 P.M.)

The Executive Director reviewed the correspondence included in the agenda package related to this topic and noted that the goal of the discussion today was to emerge with a fairly clear sense of what the Manitoba School Boards Association thinks CSBA should look like based on the feedback received from the membership and from the Executive's own personal views.

The President welcomed Manitoba CSBA Director and Vice-President Ruth Ann Furgala to the meeting. Ruth Ann offered to answer any questions Executive might have related to the draft minutes of the Board of Directors meeting or the minutes of the AGM.

- she reported that the National Director resigned her position followed by the resignation of the Executive Assistant, so there is currently no CSBA staff
- the CSBA President is finding it difficult to operate without staff
- the next event is the strategic planning session 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of September
- the Board of Directors intends to go into the planning session with an wide-open mind about the future of CSBA; determining organizational purpose(s) will be critical

The Executive Director commented on the invitation from the National School Boards Association to become an Associate Member of that organization. She and Ruth Ann agreed that this piece should be included for discussion in the strategic planning session.

A lengthy discussion followed.

Focus of the organization:

- the #1 priority should be lobbying on federal issues - the Board of Directors should look at areas of federal jurisdiction and focus on those as a national organization
- believe there has to be a mechanism to take federal issues forward even if there are provinces that don't agree on the issues

Federal issues:

- aboriginal education has to be at the top of list
- child welfare issues and poverty should be a focus for CSBA

Trustee education:

- trustee education is well taken care of provincially - should not be a priority for CSBA (Congress should be a showcase for provincial associations and CSBA should be involved in planning the program)
- the Board Learning Centre was an excellent national project

Research:

- school boards are well served by the Canadian Education Association, NSBA and other large research organizations
- research is time and labour intensive - CSBA is not resourced to fulfill this function

Organizational structure:

- the lead model process isn't adequate - should be coordinated at the federal level and sent to all provinces
- the cost of having a national organization is also an issue (needs to be more than holding a conference once a year)
- visits to provinces by CSBA President needs to be meaningful to validate cost
- need to alternate the location of Congress as was done in the past to make participation more affordable

Possible next steps:

- there a lot of new trustees who have no CSBA history
- in the transition period CSBA needs to communicate better – circulating minutes, circulating plans ahead of time so everyone can see the direction
- believe that if there aren't some tangible results from CSBA in the next year or two there will be boards wanting to pull out of the organization

Overview of issues discussed:

- advocacy on limited number of federal issues
- mechanisms for inter-provincial sharing
- limited role in Trustee Education except for extension of Board Learning Centre and Congress
- CSBA needs to take stronger role in program of Congress – focus federally
- better balance of cost related to location of Congress
- should not be a research function at this time
- better communication of CSBA's purposes, plans, priorities and outcomes

The Executive Director will prepare a report of the discussion for the CSBA strategic planning session and circulate it to Executive members for feedback.

The President thanked the Manitoba CSBA Director for attending the meeting and wished her well in the CSBA planning session to be held later this month.

**4.0 FOR ACTION/DECISION**

1. Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth Diversity and Equity Survey, request for feedback.

The Executive Director reported that the Manitoba School Boards Association representative on the Minister's Multicultural Education Policy Renewal Committee Cory Juan from Seven Oaks S.D., has asked for Executive input regard the MECY Youth Diversity and Equity Survey.

Executive members shared their comments regarding the 1992 policy document *Multicultural Education: A Policy for the 1990's*.

Grammatical corrections were noted in several places within the document.

Question #1: *What in your opinion are the strongest aspects of the 1992 policy document?*

- forces boards to look hard at their divisional policies as they relate to harassment and to diversity and equity in leadership roles
- believe the document is still relevant

Question #2: *In you opinion, what was achieved since the policy was released in 1992 in terms of diversity and equity education in Manitoba?*

- has created awareness - people are taking it seriously, and teachers understand their responsibility related to reporting incidences
- believe there has been improvement in schools around aboriginal students and students from other parts of the world

Question #3: *In your opinion, what are the main challenges or issues that need to be addressed in terms of equity and diversity in Manitoba's educational system?*

- there remains significant imbalances in representation at all levels in the system - teachers, administration, school board members, high school and university graduates
- imbalances along ethnic, cultural and gender lines

Question #4: *In your opinion what should be the primary focus of attention in reducing inequity in Manitoba's school system today? List your top 5 priorities.*

- remove the stumbling blocks that prevent ethnic minorities from entering the teaching force
- remove barriers that don't have anything to do with education (poverty issues)
  - eg unrealistic school supply lists, student fees, etc.
- encourage school divisions to develop hiring policies which support the government's policy on multicultural education and to monitor the outcomes of such policies

Question #5: *What are the key ideas or principles that should inform a renewed Policy?*

- diversity in ability isn't included in this policy
- full participation in society is the key (inclusive education)
- how do we prepare our students to live in a multi-cultural society
- this policy should go beyond multi-cultural (Charter of Rights and Freedoms)

Question #6: *What do you expect would be the effects of a renewed policy on Manitoba's education system?*

Question #7: *What would you call this renewed policy?*

- Diversity in Education
- Educating for a Multi-cultural Society

2. August 13, 2009, MECY Program and Student Services Branch, request for 2 representatives to attend a consultation October 8, 2009 from 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., re *Towards Inclusion: Supporting Positive Behaviour in Manitoba Classrooms*.

The Executive Director noted that Robert Rivard (Vice-President) is currently our representative on the Inclusive Education Committee. He has indicated his interest in attending this consultation on behalf of the Manitoba School Boards Association. (Jacquie back-up)

## 3. Committee appointments.

**Gilroy-Price/Parker:****THAT the following committee appointments be approved.**

- Certificate Review Committee: *Walter Yanchycki* (Rolling River S.D.), *Rose Hille* (Border Land S.D.) alternate, and *Joe Trubyk* (staff) re-appointed for a second two-year term ending June 2011, and *Bob Fraser* (River East Transcona) re-appointed for a one-year term ending September, 2010
- Manitoba Schools Insurance Program (MSI): *Bert Skogan*, (Lord Selkirk S.D.)
- Manitoba School Boards/MTS Dental Plan Committee: *Sue Clayton* (Pembina Trails S.D)
- Inter-organizational Curriculum Advisory Committee (ICAC): *Vaughn Wadelius* (Kelsey S.D.) re-appointed for a second 2-year term ending September 2011, and *Denis Clément* (DSFM) re-appointed to the ICAC committee for an additional one year term ending December, 2010.
- Manitoba Education for Sustainable Development Working Group: *Yolande Dupuis*, (DSFM)
- FRAME: *Bruce Alexander* (St. James-Assiniboia S.D.) reappointed for a one-year term ending November 2010.
- Driver Education Revitalization Committee: *Yolande Dupuis* (DSFM) reappointed for a one-year term ending November 2010.
- Social Planning Council - Campaign 2000 Continues Steering Committee: *Evelyn Myskiw* (Seven Oaks S.D.) reappointed for a one-year term ending December, 2010
- Healthy Schools Manitoba: *Diane Hrychuk* (Mountain View S.D.) re-appointed for a second 2-year term ending September 2011.
- Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba: *Patricia Wiebe* (Border Land S.D.) re-appointed for a second 2-year term ending September, 2011.
- Safe Schools Manitoba: *Bruce Alexander* (St. James-Assiniboia S.D.) re-appointed for a second 2-year term ending September, 2011.
- Child Day Care Regulatory Review Committee: *Dianne Zuk* (Pembina Trails S.D.) be re-appointed for a second 2-year term ending September, 2011.
- Advisory Board for Hearing Impaired: *Lena Kublick*, (Lord Selkirk S.D.)

**Carried**

4. Manitoba Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards Banquet, Thursday, October 29, 2009, 5:30 p.m., Victoria Inn Winnipeg.

The Executive Director reported that in the past, the Association has purchased a table of 8 for the Manitoba Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards Banquet and any seats not used by Executive members were donated to aboriginal youth and their parents.

It was agreed that a table would be purchased for the 2009 Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards Banquet. President Hugh Coburn, Vice-Presidents Jacquie Field and Robert Rivard, Past President Yolande Dupuis and Region #5 Director Tom Parker confirmed their attendance at this event.

## **5.0 FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Minister's response to the Manitoba School Boards Association 2009 Convention Resolutions.

The Minister's responses have been forwarded to all boards. We have requested a meeting with the NDP caucus but may not be accommodated given the party is involved in a leadership race. Executive Officers are meeting with the Liberal Caucus next week and we will continue to pursue a meeting with the PC's.

The Executive Director will be meeting with Deputy Minister Gerald Farthing to discuss issues facing school boards in the coming year.

Any resolutions with a funding component will be taken forward to the Minister's Funding of School Programs committee for consideration.

2. Meeting with Liberal Caucus, Monday, September 14th, 10:00 A.M.

Vice-Presidents Jacquie Field and Robert Rivard, Past President Yolande Dupuis and Associate Director Heather Demetriooff will meet with Dr. Gerrard to discuss education issues.

President Hugh Coburn and Executive Director Carolyn Duhamel will be attending the education partners meeting the same morning.

The Liberal Party has put forward a Bill to legislate a poverty reduction strategy in this province. The Manitoba School Boards Association has not yet provided an official letter of support for this initiative. In light of the Association's support for the Make Poverty History Campaign, this matter will be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next Executive meeting.

3. Board Visitation, Seven Oaks S.D., Monday, September 21st 5:30 P.M.

President Hugh Coburn, Region #5 Directors Bruce Alexander and Tom Parker and Executive Director Carolyn Duhamel will attend the meeting with the Board of Seven Oaks School Division on September 21st.

4. Committee Survey Results 2009.

The Executive Director will prepare an analysis of responses for the January regional meetings.

5. Update on strategic priorities.

The Executive Director gave an update on the various strategic directions.

(a) child poverty

- the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) has provided a review of Manitoba's poverty reduction plan "All Aboard"
- while the provincial All Aboard plan has many elements which are supported by the Make Poverty History Coalition, it doesn't have targets and timelines to ensure progress toward stated goals
- Make Poverty History continues to meet and is looking for regular accountability sessions with government
- the Executive may wish to consider supporting the Liberal Bill on poverty reduction strategies

(b) aboriginal education

- as a result of the Manitoba School Board's letter to Chuck Strahl, Grand Chief Ron Evans of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs has requested a meeting with us
- Jamie Wilson of the Opasakway Cree Nation wants to sit down with us as well

(b) video-conferencing

- the Executive Director and Associate Director met with the technology staff at Frontier School Division to observe their video-conferencing capabilities
  - highly impressed with opportunities around video-conferencing and see the value but not sure the Manitoba School Boards Association would make good use of it
  - we don't have staff with technology expertise
  - would not be used frequently enough to make it cost effective
  - there are intra-divisional concerns - our system might not work with the systems in other divisions
- could consider using video-conferencing facilities at Frontier School Division or Pembina Trails School Division to do northern meetings
- we could improve our teleconferencing capabilities

It was agreed that the Executive would adopt the three-pronged approach recommended by administration:

*That the Association approach Winnipeg-based school divisions that currently have video-conferencing capabilities and explore with them the possibility of their making available their site, equipment and expertise on those occasions (such as Region 4 meetings) when a full video conference is deemed desirable.*

*That the Association acquire the necessary equipment (such as a polyphone with multiple microphones) to enable it to make more effective use of teleconferences as an alternative to in-person meetings.*

*That the Association explore the possibilities of on-line meeting alternatives such as Go to Meeting and Microsoft Live Meeting (which is available through our current teleconference provider) as a more interactive and effective way of bringing together smaller groups of people for meetings.*

(c) Mentorship program

- there aren't many programs offered for trustees
- the Executive Director reviewed her research on programs offered by the New Mexico School Boards Association and the Washington State School Director's Association
  - programs include significant training component for "mentors" and require a high level of in-house resource support
- WSSDA program has not been as successful as hoped; NMSBA program is just beginning so no assessment yet available
- we have a core program of trustee development, will be developing a trustee handbook and will look at ways of improving our new trustee orientation process
- this fall we will survey first term trustees to find out what they found helpful in their orientation and what they could have had sooner

It was agreed that we should continue one-on-one support to school boards and to individual trustees as our staff resources permit, but the notion of a mentorship program is beyond the Association's resources at this time. The Executive may want to consider this again down the road.

6. Agenda for fall regional meetings.

The Executive Director proposed discussion topics and questions for the fall regional meetings - student learning and achievement, and community connections. Trustees have expressed a desire for more interaction and discussion at regional meetings and these topics reflect the priorities of the organization.

The morning session will include a report from the President and discussion on the proposed topics. After lunch, the Director of Labour Relations will give a collective bargaining update followed by discussion of any regional issues.

Directors will contact Board Chairs in their region to inquire as to any regional issues they wish to raise at the fall meetings.

Executive members shared their views and ideas around the purpose and expected outcome of the group discussions.

## **6.0 EMERGENT ISSUES**

### 1. Operational update.

The Executive Director gave an overview of operational activities over the summer in the areas listed below.

- Staffing
- Office Renovations
- Construction of the new Caisse Populaire building to the east of the office
- Permanent replacement of Manager, Finance and Administration
- Contingency and succession planning
- Audit
- H1N1
- Legalities around name change

### 2. Update on H1N1 (Keith Thomas).

The Manitoba School Boards Association Risk Manager Keith Thomas and Past President Yolande Dupuis represented the association at meetings for H1N1 preparations. MECY is working closely with Manitoba Health and communications from Manitoba Health to school divisions reflect the consensus between the two departments on procedures and measures to address H1N1.

Keith Thomas joined the meeting to answer any questions the Executive had around H1N1.

- unlikely the Department of Health will ever legislate preventative measures; guidelines allow for some flexibility at the local level (i.e. installation of hand sanitizers)
- the Department will monitor trends and new developments and make decisions based on the severeness of the illness and danger of infection (10% absenteeism isn't necessarily an indication of severeness or danger of infection)
- Government does not want to create undue panic about H1N1
- all school divisions are required to have written plans to address H1N1 issues

## 7.0 EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT

1. Identification of discussion topics for the coming year.

The Executive identified topics they wished to discuss in the coming year.

- aboriginal education
- poverty
- inclusion/human rights.
- Safe and Active Routes to School (10 minute presentation on what this organization does)
- What did you do in school today? (would love to hear from the schools involved)
- Invite Jamie Wilson/Shirley Fontaine to share their perspectives on Aboriginal education and funding
- harmonization of the PST and GST (increased funding for province – what will its impact be on school board budgets)
- invite Lloyd Axworthy and Kevin Chief to talk about mentorship/access programs at universities
- international students

Region #3 Director Cheryl Zelenitsky excused herself from the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

## 8.0 EXECUTIVE/STAFF REPORTS & MATTERS ARISING

1. President  
The President commented on his attendance at CSBA Congress 2009 and the MASS Summer Institute.
2. Vice-President(s)
  - Vice-President Jacquie Field commented on her attendance at CSBA Congress 2009. She encouraged interested Executive members to read the book *Energy Leadership* - excellent!
3. Past President
  - The Past President reported that she had attended the H1N1 meeting with the Manitoba School Boards Association Risk Manager.
5. Directors
  - Region #1: Director Floyd Martens reported that he has been speaking with board chairs in his region in preparation for the regional meeting on October 19th
  - Region #2: Director Hugh Greaves reported that his region met on September 3rd to explore issues around negotiations. There was good information shared and the region will meet on this matter again at a later date.
  - Region #4: Director Marion Pearson commented on her attendance at CSBA Congress 2009. Frontier School Divisions is trying to book one of the CSBA speakers to address their administration and teaching staffs.

6. Executive Director

In addition to her written report the Executive Director commented on

- MTS Forum on education finance
- The Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba (CNCM) termination of its affiliation with Breakfast for Learning
- Executive input to 2010 convention and AGM planning
- follow-up plan for using Lighthouse Project research to maintain a trustee development focus on leadership for student learning

7. Associate Director

As printed.

**Dupuis/Greaves:**

**THAT the Executive/Staff reports be received as information.**

**Carried**

**8.1 INFORMATION REPORTS**

(a) Correspondence

Sent via e-mail June 12, 2009

1. News Release - Manitoba Introduces Residential Schools Curriculum.

Sent via e-mail July 10, 2009

1. June 22, 2009, Garden Valley S.D., re Negotiation concerns.
2. June 24, 2009, MECY, re Creation of a new Certificate for School Counsellors.
3. June 29, 2009, Pembina Trails S.D., re Teacher Collective Bargaining.
4. July 02, 2009, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, re Educational outcomes of Aboriginal learners and government funding.

Sent via e-mail July 24, 2009

1. July 7, 2009, Winnipeg S.D., re Copy of letter of congratulations to the Honourable Chuck Strahl regarding the CMEC's development of the Learn Canada 2020 Aboriginal Action Plan and declaring Aboriginal Education as a priority.

(b) Committee Minutes

Sent via e-mail June 12, 2009

1. Physical Education/Health Education Steering Committee - May 28, 2009.  
**Note: the committee has now been disbanded.**
2. Student Services Inclusive Education Committee - May 25, 2009.
3. MECY Inter-organizational Curriculum Advisory Committee Meeting Report from March 3, 2009.

Sent via e-mail June 26, 2009

1. Arts Education Steering committee - June 9, 2009.

(c) Publications

1. Manitoba Human Rights Commission *MHR Connections* - May and June 2009.
2. Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development - *Manitoba ASCD* - June 2009
3. June 8, 2009 Society of Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada (SEVEC), re New joint publication entitled *Manitoba Youth - Leading Community Engagement*.
4. Ontario Public School Boards Association *Education Today*, Summer, 2009.
5. Canadian Education Association 2007-2008 Annual Report - *Getting it Right for Adolescent Learners - An Emerging Agenda for Youth*.
6. Canadian Parents for French, *CPF News*, June 2009.
7. Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association, *Report of 47th Annual General Meeting* June 14-16, 2009.
8. Manitoba Child Care Association, *Child Care Bridges*, Summer, 2009.

**9.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2009.

**9.1 DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ITEMS/REPORTS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, September 23, 2009.

**Greaves:**

**THAT the meeting be adjourned.**

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

/bu