



Maskwacis Education Schools Commission

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING NOTES

DATE:	January 14, 2025	
START TIME:	1:10 pm	
END TIME:	5:20 pm	
LOCATION:	MESC Governance & Training Centre	
CHAIR:	Dr. Shauna Bruno (arrived 2:15 pm)	
ATTENDANCE:	Allison Adams-Bull Ilene Nepoose (<i>left 5:00pm</i>) Carmella Cutknife Azure Johnson (<i>left 3:30 pm</i>) Bruce Littlechild John Nepoose	Debra Strongman (<i>left 2:45 pm</i>) Elliott Young Cllr. Jason Makinaw (<i>arrived 1:37 pm</i>) Cllr. Izaiah Swampy (<i>Google Meet</i>) Cllr. Clainia Pots (<i>arrived 2:00 pm</i>) Cllr. Jeffery Raine (<i>left 4:30 pm</i>)
REGRETS:	Dr. Shauna Bruno (arriving late), Carmella Cutknife (arriving late), Azure Johnson (leaving early), Cllr. Clainina Potts (arriving late)	
RECORDER:	Jenn Nepoose	

1. ADOPT AGENDA

TIME	5 min
ALLOCATION:	
PRESENTER:	Elliott Young
DOCUMENTS:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	- Elliott Young will be chairing the meeting until Dr. Shauna Bruno arrives.
DECISION:	- Table E-3 monitoring report to the February Board meeting. - Moved by Azure Johnson, seconded by Bruce Littlechild, all in favour. Motion carried.

2. ADOPT MEETING NOTES

A. November 12, 2024 Meeting Notes

TIME:	15 min
PRESENTER:	Elliott Young
DOCUMENTS:	"2. a. November 12, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes"
DISCUSSION:	- No business arising from minutes.
DECISION:	- Moved by Azure Johnson, seconded by Debra Strongman-Omeasoo, all in favour. Motion carried.

B. December 10, 2024 Meeting Notes

TIME:	10 min
PRESENTER:	Elliott Young
DOCUMENTS:	"2. b. December 10, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes"
DISCUSSION:	- No business arising from minutes.
DECISION:	- Moved by Allison Adams-Bull, seconded by Azure Johnson, all in favour. Motion carried.

3. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

TIME	5 min
ALLOCATION:	
PRESENTER:	Elliott Young
DOCUMENTS:	"3. Superintendent Update"
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Moved curriculum to Learning Services because the workload was too much on the Superintendent.- Received notification from PowerSchool of the breach. Additional security measures were put in place by MESC and are looking into whose information was breached.

4. OWNERSHIP LINKAGE

A. Update from the Circle of Elders

TIME:	15 min
PRESENTER:	John Nepoose
DOCUMENTS:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Revisited the Cree Life and Identity policy. Proposed amendments are on the agenda.- Discussed the Elders forum and preliminary planning. Intent to gather all Maskwacis Elders to discuss issues facing Maskwacis and events outside of the Nation.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Louis Bull is looking into how the Nation can support.- Samson had expressed their support.- Suggestion to have the Band Administrators involved in the planning and to seek financial support.- Contact Jenn if a committee at the Nation level is formed, opportunity to collaborate on the event.

B. Update from the Circle of Parents

TIME:	10 min
PRESENTER:	Azure Johnson
DOCUMENTS:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Schools are looking into alternate ways to engage with parents. Not all schools have parents attend meetings. Challenges for parents to attend meetings in the evening.- Will be reviewing the role of the Circle of Parents.- Need clarification on how parent advisory committees are promoted and a plan for consistent communication.- Need commitment from the parent advisory committee chairs.- Consider trauma from residential school that may discourage parents from participating in the schools.- Other factors within the Nation are barriers to parental engagement.- Engagement ideas can be emailed to Azure to be brought forward at a Circle of Parents meeting.

5. ITEMS FOR DECISION

C. Superintendent Evaluation

TIME:	10 min
PRESENTER:	Elliott Young

DOCUMENTS:	N/A
DECISION:	- February 5, 2025. 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm at MGTC. Virtual attendance will be available.

Dr. Shauna Bruno took over the Chair role.

6. MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE		
A. GP-9: Code of Conduct - Content Review		
TIME:	10 min	
PRESENTER:	Dr. Shauna Bruno	
DOCUMENTS:	"4. a. Monitoring Board Performance (GP9, GP16, BMD2).pdf"	
DECISION:	- No changes, policy is still relevant.	
B. GP-16: Handling of Apparent Policy Violations - Direct inspection		
TIME:	10 min	
PRESENTER:	Dr. Shauna Bruno, Jenn Nepoose	
DOCUMENTS:	"4. a. Monitoring Board Performance (GP9, GP16, BMD2).pdf"	
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bruce abstains from direct inspection due to unfamiliarity of the Boards actions as he is new to the Board. - Concerns or complaints are brought to the Superintendent's attention and a response has always been provided. - Superintendent's process for follow up is being enhanced. - Admin procedures are followed or reviewed. 	
DECISION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a tracking system to determine if a formal process is necessary and identity trends in concerns and complaints. - Copy the Board Chair and Vice Chair in concerns and complaints being forwarded to the Superintendent. 	
ACTION ITEMS		
ASSIGNED TO:	ACTION ITEM:	DEADLINE:
Tracy Swampy-Sylvester	- Create a tracking system.	TBD
C. BMD-2: Accountability of the Superintendent - Direct inspection		
TIME:	10 min	
PRESENTER:	Dr. Shauna Bruno, Jenn Nepoose	
DOCUMENTS:	"4. a. Monitoring Board Performance (GP9, GP16, BMD2).pdf"	
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compliance through continued review of Board policies to ensure compliance and Superintendent Evaluation process. - The Superintendent is the only employee the Board evaluates. - Superintendent will have a clarity conversation with the executive team on the appropriateness of working relationships with Board members and how to address directions from the Board. 	
D. EL: General Executive Constraint - Monitoring report		
TIME:	10 min	
PRESENTER:	Tracy Swampy-Sylvester	
DOCUMENTS:	"4. e. Monitoring Report EL-01.14.2025.pdf"	
DISCUSSION:	- Consider a PD session with the Board to understand Cree values used in Board policies.	
DECISION:	- Board has accepted the monitoring report.	
E. Board self-evaluation		

TIME:	10 min
PRESENTER:	Jenn Nepoose
DOCUMENTS:	“Board Self-Evaluation: January 2025” “

DECISION: - Board will complete the self evaluation form before the February Board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

ASSIGNED TO:	ACTION ITEM:	DEADLINE:
Board Governors	- Complete Board Self Evaluation	Feb. 10, 2025

F. Ends Policy 1 amendment

TIME:	10 min
PRESENTER:	Tracy Swampy-Sylvester
DOCUMENTS:	“4. d. E-1 Proposed Amendments.pdf”

DISCUSSION:

- Change “cultural” to “nehiyaw”.
- Maintain focus on Maskwacis Cree while maintaining inclusivity for students and staff from other Nations.
- Change "in' to "through" in number 2.

DECISION: - Amendments have been approved.

7. BOARD EDUCATION, PRESENTATIONS, AND DISCUSSION

A. HICE Reports

TIME:	15 min
PRESENTER:	Board Governors that attended
DOCUMENTS:	N/A

DISCUSSION:

- Introduced to a student exchange program out of New Zealand. Interest to explore how to incorporate similar programs in Maskwacis. Will pass along contact information to administration.
- Research on where students find hope. Programs with a focus on mental health have proven to encourage students and provide a space they feel safe in. Interest in looking into indigenous joy. Our children need to see themselves in their future.
- Interest to host a National Indigenous Education conference.
- Desire to provide opportunities to students to visit other Nations and learn from experiences outside of Maskwacis.
- Appreciation for what MESC has been able to achieve.
- Gained access to numerous research papers that can inform planning and programming.
- Made connections with people that MESC can partner with in the future.
- Became aware of other opportunities for student and professional learning.
- Gained ideas for new programs and alternate methods to enhance student learning.
- Information, perspectives and research can be used to inform MESC Board policies to guide the system.
- Reconsider how MESC students are being connected to universities and mentorship programs.
- Introduced to best practices and alternate methods to develop curriculum.

B. Strategic Plan

TIME:	15 min
PRESENTER:	Tracy Swampy-Sylvester

DOCUMENTS: "5. a. MESC 2025-2030 Strategic Plan"

DISCUSSION:

- Strategic priorities, goals and strategies have been approved for the revised 5 year strategic plan.
- Strategic priorities have been developed based on the Maskwacis Cree Declaration and Board Ends policies.
- The strategic plan will be used to create operational plans for schools and branches.

C. Wild Meat Program update

TIME: 15 min

PRESENTER: Tracy Swampy-Sylvester

DOCUMENTS: N/A

DISCUSSION:

- The program was approved in 2021.
- Will do a call out for hunters within MESC. If hunters cannot be acquired internally, hunters will be sought out within Maskwacis
- Storage and inspections have been completed and approved.
- The meat will be processed and packaged by the Nanatohk Miciwin staff.
- Honorarium for hunters will be provided based on delivery of animals.
- Looking into legalities of involving students in acquiring the animal.
- Nanatohk Miciwin staff will be trained to process, package and serve the meat for students.
- Hoping to develop an exchange program around hunting.
- Recommendation to open the program to berries and traditional medicines.

D. Swearing-In: Bruce Littlechild

TIME: 15 min

PRESENTER: Dr. Shauna Bruno

DOCUMENTS: N/A

DISCUSSION:

- Conducted swearing in ceremony.