



Maskwacis Education Schools Commission

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BOARD MEETING NOTES

DATE:	September 10, 2024
START TIME:	1:18 pm
END TIME:	4:54 pm
LOCATION:	MGTC- Maskwacis, AB
CHAIR:	Dr. Shauna Bruno
ATTENDANCE:	Elliott Young (Arrived 1:34 pm), John Nepoose, Ilene Cardinal-Nepoose, Helen Bull (Arrived 1:27), Debra Strongman-Omeasoo, Tracy Swampy-Sylvester, Jenn Nepoose, Councillor Izaiah Swampy-Omasoo (Google Meet- Arrived late)
REGRETS:	Councillor Clainia Potts, Allison Adams-Bull, Azure Johnson
RECORDER:	Shayna Roan

1. MIYOWÂCIMOWIN

TIME ALLOCATION:	10 min
PRESENTER:	Dr. Shauna Bruno
DOCUMENTS:	
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not have quorum, will proceed for informational purposes only. - Good start to a new school year, kids are excited to be back. - Recommend Jerry Saddleback creation story. - Jordan's Principle can be used for children to apply for schools supplies - Health spending can be accessed between September 1st - August 31st. Unused funds do not carry over.

2. ADOPT AGENDA

TIME ALLOCATION:	5 min
PRESENTER:	Dr. Shauna Bruno
DOCUMENTS:	"1. September 10, 2024 Agenda"
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reached quorum at 1:34pm

3. OWNERSHIP LINKAGE

A. UPDATE FROM CIRCLE OF ELDERS

TIME:	15 min
PRESENTER:	Helen Bull, John Nepoose
DOCUMENTS:	
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommendation to adopt Veterans recognition in MESC schools. - Discussed a Four Nations Elders Gathering. Chiefs are in support. Unclear on who would organize and fund the event. - Discussed Iyiniw Mamitonehikan being weaponized and need to reframe our knowledge and understanding of nehiyawewin. - Updated on Elders Forum, Cree department and building updates. - Discussed the format of Circle of Elders meetings and who will support the

group with meetings and connecting the Elders with the schools/departments.

- Suggestion to record Circle of Elders when talking about Cree values.
- Would like to include discussions on the values and laws on COE agendas and partner with curriculum to discuss how to properly capture the meaning of iyiniw mamitonehikan.
- Some young people understand the language but struggle with speaking the language out loud. The words are understood but hard to repeat.

ACTION ITEMS

ASSIGNED TO:	ACTION ITEM:	DEADLINE:
Tracy Sylvester	Follow up on Maskwacis Elders Gathering- need more info.	Oct. 2/24
Tracy Sylvester	Include values discussions at Circle of Elders meetings	TBD

B. UPDATE FROM CIRCLE OF PARENTS

TIME:	15 min
PRESENTER:	Jenn Nepoose on behalf of Azure Johnson, Carmella Cutknife
DOCUMENTS:	
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ordering; Appointment cards for school PAC meetings, vests, name badges, tablecloth and swag. - Circle of Parents meeting on September 17th to plan the parent conference. May discuss priorities for the year.

4. ITEMS FOR DECISION

A. BOARD COMMITTEES

TIME ALLOCATION:	5 min
PRESENTER:	Dr. Shauna Bruno
DOCUMENTS:	“3. 2023-24 BOG Committees”
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finance Committee remain as is – Elliot will Chair - Ownership Linkage remains as is – Chair switches – Debra will now Chair - Discipline and Expulsion Hearing – Debra would like to step down. Carmella to fill in for Debra as school involvement. - The High School Building committee remains as is. - Discussions on Land and we cannot use deferred revenue for capital. Looking into funding streams. - Negotiations Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revisit where we are with negotiations, and funding this fall with Trina. - Committee needs to meet before the annual meeting with ISC. Hopefully before the leadership Summit. - May have direction for the High School Building Committee after meeting with ISC.

DECISION: **Motion No. 203 Official MESC Motion-2024-25 BOG Committees.** Moved by Ilene Cardinal-Nepoose, seconded by John Nepoose, all in favour.

ACTION ITEMS

ASSIGNED TO:	ACTION ITEM:	DEADLINE:
Jenn Nepoose	Send Board motion with committee assignments	Oct. 8/24

5. MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE

A. EL-10: STUDENT TRANSPORTATION- CONTENT REVIEW

TIME: N/A
PRESENTER: Dr. Shauna Bruno
DOCUMENTS: "4. a-c. Monitoring Board Performance"
DISCUSSION: - Review policy.
- No changes, policy is still relevant.

B. GP-3: BOARD JOB CONTRIBUTIONS- DIRECT INSPECTION

TIME: N/A
PRESENTER: Dr. Shauna Bruno
DOCUMENTS: "4. a-c. Monitoring Board Performance"
DISCUSSION: - Completed the Direct Inspection worksheet together.
- Committees are in place and all Board policies are followed. Discussion occurred on who is available to sign cheques and the concern has been resolved. Board receives an annual bonus to include additional tasks which includes signing cheques.
DECISION: - Follow up with the selection committee on the selection for the 1 Member at Large position.
- Finance and Audit Committee research cheque signing procedures.

C. GP-10: INVESTMENT IN GOVERNANCE- CONTENT REVIEW

TIME: N/A
PRESENTER: Dr. Shauna Bruno
DOCUMENTS: "4. a-c. Monitoring Board Performance"
DISCUSSION: - Distribution of cheque signing is based on missing 1 Member at large.
- Compensation for annual bonus which includes signing cheques.
- All designated are responsible for ensuring validity and accuracy of the payments being signed.
- Large amounts are to have descriptions for what the payments are for.
- Discussion of thresholds for what is to be signed. Petty cash compared to large amounts.
- Discussion on signing limits and who should be signing cheques.
- Questions on payments and being aware of payments. It's not a concern of withholding payment but a concern of what the payment is for and clarifications.
- Signing limit used to be \$50,000 now it is \$100,000.
- Board motions are needed for payments over \$100,000.

ACTION ITEMS

ASSIGNED TO:	ACTION ITEM:	DEADLINE:
Tracy Sylvester	Follow up with finance going to cheque signers	N/A

D. E-1: CREE LIFE AND IDENTITY- MONITORING REPORT

TIME: N/A
PRESENTER: Tracy Sylvester
DOCUMENTS: "4. d. Monitoring Report E-1.09.10.2024"
"E-1: Cree Life and Identity- Monitoring report worksheet"
DISCUSSION: - Review monitoring report worksheet feedback.
- Suggestion to review policy with the Circle of Elders, curriculum team and Principals for interpretation and evidence.
- Board and Superintendent to discuss whether the word "cultural" as in "cultural practices" "cultural dance" is the appropriate term to be used.
- Although each of our ENDS policies are equally important, the Cree Life and

- Identity is foundational and is significant to MESC.
- A breakdown of which classes learn the various cultural experiences - ex. fishing may have only happened with specific grades - drumming happens in certain schools - round dances are also not mentioned and neither is powwow.

DECISION: Board accepts monitoring report.

E. EL-10: STUDENT TRANSPORTATION- MONITORING REPORT

TIME: N/A

PRESENTER: Tracy Sylvester

DOCUMENTS: "4. e. Monitoring Report EL-10 .09.12.2024"
"EL-10: Student Transportation- Monitoring report worksheet"

DISCUSSION:

- Review monitoring report worksheet feedback.
- Discussion about transportation presentation at the summit. Will be included in the results presentation.

DECISION: Board accepts monitoring report.

ACTION ITEMS

ASSIGNED TO:	ACTION ITEM:	DEADLINE:
Tracy Sylvester	Add transportation presentation to Oct Board meeting agenda	Oct. 8/24

6. BOARD EDUCATION, PRESENTATIONS, AND DISCUSSION

A. SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS

TIME: N/A

PRESENTER: Tracy Sylvester

DOCUMENTS: N/A

DISCUSSION: - Are completed by Schools supporting Admins

B. STUDENT LEADERSHIP PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

TIME: N/A

PRESENTER: Tracy Sylvester

DOCUMENTS: N/A

DISCUSSION:

- 5 students will attend the October Board meeting.
- Will discuss their presentation at the summit and how they can be involved with the Board.

C. CURRICULUM DEPARTMENT NEXT STEPS

TIME: N/A

PRESENTER: Tracy Sylvester

DOCUMENTS: N/A

DISCUSSION:

- Curriculum team is overwhelmed.
- Strategic plans reviewed.
- Identifying the work to be completed this year, and next year to review so they are not overwhelmed.
- This year they are addressing collaborations.
- Will have a sweat with their team to renew their internal relationships.

D. SUCCESSION PLAN UPDATE

TIME: N/A

PRESENTER: Tracy Sylvester

DOCUMENTS: N/A

DISCUSSION: - Before Covid was the last succession plan

- Intellimedia put together a document on best practices, frequently asked questions, progresses, facts sheets, succession plans, what potential means, general facilitator tips. In conclusion, how to communicate that to employers. September to October to be reviewed. Then it proceeds to the Board.
- Question: What is the Board's Idea of a Succession plan?
 - Planned retirements – Mentoring those who can succeed following. Success plans in all areas – EA's and TAs to succeed. Professional development plan
 - Staff going back to school – Potentials for staff
- Tracy encourages roles and leadership roles to be fulfilled.
- Keeping in mind not only the Superintendent's Office, but as well as other executive positions and branches.
- Promoting professional development within our own Nation members.
- Good governance practice to ensure there is a strong clear succession plan for smooth transition and growth for MESC.
- Discussion on mentoring processes.

E. CELL PHONE POLICY

TIME:	N/A
PRESENTER:	Tracy Sylvester
DOCUMENTS:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion on how cellphones are being handled in schools and what MESC's stance is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From a Provincial stand it is encouraged to use minimal. But each district is to address how they suite fit. - Process: Warning - Taken for the day – Parent picks up the Phone – Then it is a meeting with the parents. - If suspected videoing bad behaviour, Admins will have to see the recording - Parent survey was opened in September to get parent feedback on the topic. - No reason for Phones when students use Chromebooks - Suggestion to have student leadership can collect feedback from students before the summit. - Question for children with needs what type of support they need. Ex: Apple Watch

F. BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

TIME:	N/A
PRESENTER:	Tracy Sylvester
DOCUMENTS:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Addressing the amounts given for bereavement. Payment processing is making a time delay. - \$300 Gift cards rather than cheques for all staff and Board Governors. - Funds will be expensed from each department. - Shaynna Receives the information and will track to ensure no duplication of support.
