



**BOARD MEETING NOTES**

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| <b>DATE:</b>       | November 12, 2024  |
| <b>START TIME:</b> | 1:05 pm  |
| <b>END TIME:</b>   | 5:51 pm  |
| <b>LOCATION:</b>   | MESC Governance and Training Center- Maskwacis, AB   |
| <b>CHAIR:</b>      | Dr. Shauna Bruno   |
| <b>ATTENDANCE:</b> | <b>Board:</b> Ilene Cardinal-Nepoose, Debra Strongman-Omeasoo, John Nepoose, Allison Adams-Bull, Councillor Jason Makinaw (left 3:30pm, joined Google Meet 4:24 pm), Elliott Young (Google Meet), Clainia Potts (Google Meet), Carmella Cutknife, Helen Bull (Google Meet- arrive 1:15 pm), Councillor Izaiah Swampy (Google Meet- 1:22 pm), Azure Johnson (arrived 2:14 pm)<br><b>Staff:</b> Tracy Swampy-Sylvester, Trina Vy (Google Meet) |
| <b>REGRETS:</b>    | Azure Johnson (late)   |
| <b>RECORDER:</b>   | Jenn Nepoose   |

**1. ADOPT AGENDA**

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| <b>TIME</b>        | 5 minutes  |
| <b>ALLOCATION:</b> |  |
| <b>PRESENTER:</b>  | Dr. Shauna Bruno   |
| <b>DOCUMENTS:</b>  | "1. November 12, 2024 Agenda"  |
| <b>DISCUSSION:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conflict with Board members that have family that are employed with MESC.</li> <li>- Decisions are made on staff salary supplements as unbiased.</li> <li>- MESC all staff email has been restricted for who can send emails to the group.</li> <li>- Add "REA Amendment" to agenda.</li> </ul> |
| <b>DECISION:</b>   | Motion to adopt agenda, moved by Debra Strongman-Omeasoo, seconded by Ilene Cardinal-Nepoose, all in favour.   |

**2. APPROVE OCTOBER 8, 2024 MEETING MINUTES**

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| <b>TIME</b>        | 5 minutes   |
| <b>ALLOCATION:</b> |   |
| <b>PRESENTER:</b>  | Dr. Shauna Bruno  |
| <b>DOCUMENTS:</b>  | "1. November 12, 2024 Agenda"   |
| <b>DISCUSSION:</b> | - No business arising from the meeting minutes.   |
| <b>DECISION:</b>   | Motion to adopt October 8, 2024 meeting minutes, moved by Carmella Cutknife, seconded by Ilene Cardinal-Nepoose, all in favour. |

**3. OWNERSHIP LINKAGE**

**A. Negotiations- NFR Presentation**

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| <b>PRESENTER:</b> | Trina Vy and Davy Coyle   |
| <b>DOCUMENTS:</b> | "3. a. NFR GRANT OUTREACH 2025-26 - FAQ - EN.pdf"<br>"3. NFR Grant - Expanding Eligibility - Information Sharing and Engagement - EN" |

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| <b>DISCUSSION:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overview of the New Fiscal Relationship (NFR) grant.</li> <li>- Ability to transition between the contribution agreement and the grant.</li> <li>- The NFR grant is a funding mechanism.</li> <li>- In the 6th year of operating with the mechanism.</li> <li>- Ability to invest according to Board priorities such as major capital or post-secondary education.</li> <li>- Funds are released in a lump sum on April 1st rather than on scheduled payments.</li> <li>- Funding is not compensatory, "catching up".</li> <li>- Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financial management, Policy on Financial Administration.</li> <li>- Financial Performance, Financial Performance Indicators (audit statements).</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Resource and Development Agreement would need to be reviewed to ensure alignment.</li> <li>- NFR is not meant to replace the Maskwacis funding model under the Resource and Development Agreement. The NFR would be a mechanism to flow the funding. An amendment to the R&amp;D Agreement is required.</li> <li>- K-12 does not qualify for the NFR 2% escalator. Some features of the R&amp;D, such as O&amp;M and healthy lifestyles, would qualify for the escalator.</li> <li>- No timeline on unexpended funding. It can be spent on items outside of the program. No limitations on how to allocate funds.</li> <li>- The timeline is flexible to accommodate MESC reporting and engagement schedule.</li> <li>- ISC has not received negative feedback or major concerns from groups accessing the grant. It is meant to reduce red tape and support First Nations and First Nations programs in funding their priorities.</li> <li>- Changes in the federal government would need to respect any signed agreements. A political party can stop new groups from joining the grant if they choose to move in a different direction.</li> <li>- Need to consider MESC's Treaty based funding.</li> <li>- The \$2,500/student FNMI funding and 1.5% floor are features unique to the MESC funding model. Will be able to maintain these features with the NFR.</li> <li>- Suggestion to formalize the process to get feedback from Chiefs and Councils on the grant.</li> </ul> |
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| <b>DECISION:</b> | - Require more research and engagement before pursuing the NFR grant. |
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| <b>ACTION ITEMS</b> |  |  |
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| <b>ASSIGNED TO:</b> | <b>ACTION ITEM:</b>   | <b>DEADLINE:</b> |
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| Tracy and Trina     | Detailed presentation on funding mechanisms, including NFR. | February 2025    |

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| <b>B. REA Amendment</b> |  |  |
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| <b>PRESENTER:</b> | Trina Vy |
| <b>DOCUMENTS:</b> | N/A      |

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| <b>DISCUSSION:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Docusign in the new process for ISC to approve funding amendments.</li> <li>- \$2.1 million was submitted in the proposal. ISC approved \$463,000.00.</li> <li>- Requested details on what was approved and denied in the proposal.</li> </ul> |
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| <b>DECISION:</b> | A summary of amendments will be emailed to the Board before completing the docusign. |
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| <b>C. Items for Decision</b> |  |  |
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| <b>PRESENTER:</b> | Dr. Shauna Bruno |
| <b>DOCUMENTS:</b> | "Bonus 2025.pdf" |

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| <b>DISCUSSION:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Christmas donation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. \$3,300 could be allocated from Board meeting expenses.</li> <li>2. Purchasing a table at the MCC Gala was a decision made between the Chair, Vice Chair and Superintendent.</li> </ul> </li> <li>ii. Christmas bonus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review budget. No changes in budget allocation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>iii. Staff salary supplement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discussion on budget to accommodate the staff supplement.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
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| <b>DECISION:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Christmas bonus- Motion <b>No. 204 Board and Exec Xmas Bonus</b>. Moved by John Nepoose, seconded by Allison Adams-Bull, all in favour, motion carried.</li> <li>ii. Staff salary supplement- Motion <b>No. 205 Official MESC Motion- Salary supplement</b>. Moved by Ilene Cardinal-Nepoose, seconded by Carmella Cutknife, all in favour, motion carried.</li> <li>iii. Christmas donation- Motion <b>No. 206 Official MESC Motion- Donation to Maskwacis Food Banks</b>. Moved by Azure Johnson, seconded by Debra Strongman-Omeasoo, all in favour, motion carried.</li> </ul> |
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**D. Update from Circle of Elders**

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| <b>PRESENTER:</b> | Helen Bull, John Nepoose |
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| <b>DOCUMENTS:</b> | N/A |
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| <b>DISCUSSION:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Confusion on meeting date.</li> <li>- Discussion on the term “cultural” in Ends Policy 1. Suggested amendments were drafted.</li> <li>- Discussion on protocol.</li> <li>- Assignment for school participation in December.</li> </ul> |
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| <b>DECISION:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revisit Ends Policy 1 with the Circle of Elders in January.</li> </ul> |
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**ACTION ITEMS**

| <b>ASSIGNED TO:</b> | <b>ACTION ITEM:</b>                   | <b>DEADLINE:</b> |
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| Helen and John      | Proposed amendments to Ends Policy 1. | January 10, 2025 |

**E. Update from Circle of Parents**

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| <b>PRESENTER:</b> | Carmella Cutknife, Azure Johnson |
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| <b>DOCUMENTS:</b> | N/A |
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| <b>DISCUSSION:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Group of Jr High students are going to Vancouver this year.</li> <li>- Grade 12 students are travelling to Japan this year.</li> <li>- Advised parents to present options to engage and ideas to enhance school events such as wellness activities.</li> <li>- Parent conference was well attended.</li> <li>- Not all PACs have appointed their Chair yet. Results in challenges arranging a Circle of Parents meeting at this time of the year.</li> <li>- A brochure was created to inform parents about MESC Parent Advisory Committees.</li> <li>- Suggestion to promote parental engagement at Christmas concerts and other school events.</li> <li>- Once each school has appointed their Chair a Circle of Parent meeting will be scheduled to create their plan.</li> </ul> |
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**F. Ermineskin Cree Nation Leadership Update**

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**PRESENTER:** Elliott Young

**DOCUMENTS:** N/A

**DISCUSSION:**

- Met with Ermineskin Chief and Council on October 21, 2024.
- Discussed the summit, home schooling and support for students that are deaf or hard of hearing.

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**G. Montana First Nation Leadership Update**

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**PRESENTER:** Debra Strongman-Omeasoo

**DOCUMENTS:** N/A

**DISCUSSION:**

- Discussed nehiyawewin, students from Meskanahk Ka Nipa Wit School participation at the summit, and supporting students with high needs.
- Tracy attended the Montana Director meeting. Will share information on student support, communication and partnerships with the school and visitors in the school.

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**4. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

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**TIME** 10 minutes

**ALLOCATION:**

**PRESENTER:** Tracy Swampy-Sylvester

**DOCUMENTS:** "4. October 2024 Superintendent Update"

**DISCUSSION:**

- Follow up on how information is communicated to parents regarding student services.
- Report at the summit on how gifted students are supported in the schools.

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**5. MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE**

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**A. Ends Policies- Content Review**

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**PRESENTER:** Dr. Shauna Bruno

**DOCUMENTS:** "6. Monitoring Board Performance - Policies"

**DISCUSSION:**

- E-1: Cree Life and Identity
  - Approve proposed amendments to E-1 from the Circle of Elders.
- E-2: Rates of Graduating Students
  - Superintendent interprets trades to be included in post-secondary.
  - Policy is still relevant. No changes.
- E-3: Academic Success
  - Discussion on literacy levels and how the Superintendent achieves the Board priorities.
  - Policy is still relevant. No changes.
- E-4: Healthy Lifestyles
  - Discussion on student transportation home for students after evening activities.
  - Policy is still relevant. No changes.

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**B. GP-2: Core Values- Content Review**

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**PRESENTER:** Dr. Shauna Bruno

**DOCUMENTS:** "6. Monitoring Board Performance - Policies"

**DISCUSSION:**

- Policy is still relevant. No changes.

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**C. BMD-1: Unity of Control- Direct Inspection**

**PRESENTER:** Jenn Nepoose  
**DOCUMENTS:** “Direct Inspection Worksheet (BMD-1-11.2024)”  
**DISCUSSION:** Evidence of compliance:  
- Board motions are passed at regular Board meetings.  
- Direction and decisions for the Superintendent are made as a Board, not by individual Board members.  
- Committees make recommendations to the Board for the decision to be made at the Board level.

**D. GP-9: Code of Conduct (volunteering)**

**PRESENTER:** Dr. Shauna Bruno  
**DOCUMENTS:** N/A  
**DISCUSSION:**  
- Would be a conflict of interest if a Board member were to receive any compensation or financial support to provide transportation for students.  
- Discussion on declaration of involvement in the schools. Any volunteer time in the school should be declared and made know to the Board.  
- Communication of Board involvement in the school is crucial.  
- Take into consideration the relationships between Maskwicasak and limitations of policy.  
- Unique circumstances with parent representatives on the Board while maintaining involvement in the schools.

**DECISION:** - Board members are able to volunteer.

**E. EL-11: Curriculum- Monitoring report**

**PRESENTER:** Tracy Swampy-Sylvester  
**DOCUMENTS:** “7. Monitoring Report EL-11”  
“EL-11 Monitoring Worksheet. Oct 2024”  
**DISCUSSION:**  
- Request for data to show progression of student literacy.  
- Request for detailed information on Integrated programs. It tells you what they offer but no detail on how they are implemented. How do you monitor these outcomes  
- How are teachers who are struggling identified? What type of support are provided to those teachers?

**ACTION ITEMS**

| <b>ASSIGNED TO:</b> | <b>ACTION ITEM:</b>          | <b>DEADLINE:</b> |
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| Tracy               | Email responses to the Board | Dec. 10, 2024    |

**F. E-2: Rates of Graduating Students- Monitoring report**

**PRESENTER:** Tracy Swampy-Sylvester  
**DOCUMENTS:** “8. Monitoring Report E-2”  
“E-2 Monitoring Worksheet. Nov 2024”  
**DISCUSSION:**  
- Question on how many Grade 12 students applied for post secondary trades in their 12th year and how is this measured  
- Question if students move on to post secondary, trades or employment.

**ACTION ITEMS**

| <b>ASSIGNED TO:</b> | <b>ACTION ITEM:</b>          | <b>DEADLINE:</b> |
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| Tracy               | Email responses to the Board | Dec. 10, 2024    |

**G. EL-9: Organizational Culture- Monitoring report**

**PRESENTER:** Tracy Swampy-Sylvester  
**DOCUMENTS:** “9. Monitoring Report EL-9 “  
“EL-9 Monitoring Worksheet. Nov 2024”

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| <b>DISCUSSION:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Request for results from a staff survey. Connect these to metrics of staff satisfaction, professional development, etc. Create benchmarks of where we think staff satisfaction should be at.</li> <li>- Question on what types of issues might fall under the whistleblower procedure vs AP 137</li> </ul> |
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**ACTION ITEMS**

| <b>ASSIGNED TO:</b> | <b>ACTION ITEM:</b>          | <b>DEADLINE:</b> |
|---------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Tracy               | Email responses to the Board | Dec. 10, 2024    |

**6. BOARD EDUCATION, PRESENTATIONS, AND DISCUSSION**

**A. Ohpikiahawasiwin Conference Debrief**

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| <b>PRESENTER:</b>  | Jenn Nepoose   |
| <b>DOCUMENTS:</b>  | N/A  |
| <b>DISCUSSION:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Suggestion to host the conference in each Nation.</li> <li>- Consider a format where a presentation is made on the results.</li> <li>- Setup worked well.</li> <li>- Good feedback, format accommodated expected outcomes.</li> <li>- Improved communication and accountability.</li> </ul> |

**B. Hawaii International Conference on Education Presentation**

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| <b>PRESENTER:</b>  | Dr. Shauna Bruno   |
| <b>DOCUMENTS:</b>  | “10. HICE Presentation Confirmation “  |
| <b>DISCUSSION:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presenters will be the Board Chair, Vice Chair, Superintendent, Curriculum team member and the Executive Coordinator.</li> <li>- Debra expressed interest in presenting.</li> <li>- Honorarium and travel will be available at the December Board meeting.</li> </ul> |

**C. Discipline & Expulsion Hearing Committee Update**

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| <b>PRESENTER:</b>  | Tracy Swampy-Sylvester   |
| <b>DOCUMENTS:</b>  | N/A  |
| <b>DISCUSSION:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Update on student behaviour and focus moving forward.</li> <li>- Partnership is being developed with Young Spirit Winds to support students.</li> </ul> |

**D. Negotiation Committee Update**

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| <b>PRESENTER:</b>  | Dr. Shauna Bruno, Elliott Young   |
| <b>DOCUMENTS:</b>  | N/A   |
| <b>DISCUSSION:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An updated presentation has been emailed out.</li> <li>- A committee meeting will be scheduled once a response is received on the grant proposal.</li> </ul> |