



Maskwacis Education Schools Commission

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Board MEETING NOTES

DATE:	October 8, 2024
START TIME:	1:05 pm
END TIME:	5:30 pm
LOCATION:	MGTC – Maskwacis, AB
CHAIR:	Dr. Shauna Bruno
ATTENDANCE:	Board: Azure Johnson, Illene Cardinal-Nepoose, Carmella Cutknife, Elliot Young (online), John Nepoose (1:16pm Online. Arrived 2:26 pm in Person), Alison Adams-Bull (1:27pm left 4:15pm), Jason Makinaw (Online 1:25 pm), Helen Bull (1:27 pm, left 4:27 pm), Jeff Raine (3:17 pm), Izaiah Swampy (3:20pm online) Staff: Jenn Nepoose, Tracy Swampy-Sylvester, Ashley Dennehy (for student leadership presentation)
REGRETS:	Debra Strongman Omeasoo, Allison Adams-Bull (late)
GUESTS:	Student Leadership: Tara Johnston, Eliza Moonias, Suree Yellowbird- Dixon, Kieran Saddleback, Ahlyzah Redcrow, Branson Deschamps, Karey Roasting
RECORDER:	Shayna Roan

1. MIYOWACIMOWIN

TIME:	1:25 pm
PRESENTER:	Group
DOCUMENTS:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parent Committee welcomes back from summer break and Indigenous games (First meeting back) - Elders kehtayak forum - Young Entrepreneurs - Partnership building and collaboration with Young Spirit Winds and MESC. Young Spirit Winds is helping with grief loss, depression, mental health awareness - New Cree Book release, 3 interview requests since. - MESC Communications Team won a National Communications Award.

2. ADOPT AGENDA

TIME:	1:37 pm
PRESENTER:	Dr. Shauna Bruno
DOCUMENTS:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transportation presentation moved to the end of the agenda - Table EL-11: Curriculum- Monitoring report
DECISION:	Adopt Agenda Moved by Azure Johnson, Seconded by Carmella Cutknife, all in favor

3. ADOPT AUGUST 13, 2024 MEETING NOTES

TIME: 1:40 pm
PRESENTER: Dr. Shauna Bruno
DOCUMENTS: N/A
DECISION: Meeting notes approved by Azure Johnson, seconded by Illene Cardinal-Nepoose, all in favor.

ACTION ITEMS

ASSIGNED TO:	ACTION ITEM:	DEADLINE:
Jenn Nepoose	Jenn will send out updated committee list	

4. OWNERSHIP LINKAGE

A. UPDATE FROM CIRCLE OF ELDERS

TIME: 1:43 pm
PRESENTER: Helen Bull, John Nepoose, Tracy Swampy-Sylvester
DOCUMENTS: N/A
DISCUSSION:

- Protocol Handbook proposal, reviewed importance of protocol and general discussion on Cree language.
- Protocol Handbook was accepted.
- Recommendation for the gathering of elders: Determine the focus.
- There are different cultures and standards being adopted that aren't Maskwacis Origin, and teachings. Recommendation to establish consistency and concerns of borrowed traditions.
- Concerns on how the Protocol Handbook will be presented to the staff. Do not want the handbook to be a guideline and to be followed strictly. Would like the discussion of protocol to remain authentic.
- Recommendations for school Cultural Advisors to be collaborators in the Protocol Handbook.
- Buffalo Treaty to be included in the school curriculum.
- Elders involvement in the schools – Drafted schedule sent out to the Principals.
- Henry will be involved in the Remembrance Day Assembly.
- Elders will not be speaking at the Summit.
- There will be a grand entry at the Summit with drumming and speaking.
- Acknowledgments to Curriculum.
- John Nepoose participated in the Buffalo Harvest this morning.

B. UPDATE FROM CIRCLE OF PARENTS

TIME: 2:30 pm
PRESENTER: Azure Johnson and Carmella Cutknife
DOCUMENTS: N/A
DISCUSSION:

- 44 parents signed up for PAC at the back to school BBQ event.
- Schools are now getting Parent Advisory Committees in the newsletters .
- Pigeon Lake school Parent Advisory is on October 17, 2024.
- Supporting Junior High School with a PAC guidelines and the process.
- Meeting with the High School this month. A lot of positive stir for travel club. Going to Japan in June 2025 for 1 week. First MESC trip.
 - Students must go to school 70% of the time and be passing to go to travel club for Grade 12 students – working with aligning travel club and PACs.
- Suggestion to follow up with Joline Bull on the Ashoro group that visited Wetaskiwin.

- The PAC handbook is technical. Updating and summarizing handbooks for the parent conference. The handbook is meant to be a guide for the Principals.
- Recommendations for PAC information in newsletters and would like the information to go beyond ex: stats how many parents attend parent teacher interviews.
- PAC parent Supports and 1 line of Parent Support communication across the District.
- PAC materials will be ordered by the end of October.
- The Circle of Parents plan is being developed – Low Parent attendance is a challenge.
- Parent Teacher night reports are reported yearly per school and per school event.
- New Principal portfolios will include the parents' feedback.
- Children in different schools. Getting parent teacher nights to gather names.
- Suggestion to separate parent teacher nights and PAC meetings.
- Emphasis in the pamphlet PACs is for parents to voice their concerns.
- Finding other measures of success and continuing to emphasize communication.
- Recommendation: Send out emails about what was discussed at PACs for parents that were unable to attend.
- Discussions to continue to provide support for parents in the schools despite fluctuating parent participation.

DECISION: - Tracy to have Continual conversations with Principals about PACs

C. STUDENT LEADERSHIP

TIME: 1:55 pm

PRESENTER: MCJHS Student Leadership: Tara Johnston, Eliza Moonias, Suree Yellowbird-Dixon, Kieran Saddleback, Ahlyzah Redcrow, Branson Deschamps, Karey Roasting

DOCUMENTS: N/A

- DISCUSSION:**
- Clarifying Discussions on the definition of curriculum for the students.
 - Mental health and physical health in the schools has been a good support for the leadership students. Such as going into the weight room – being motivated to go to the weight room by staff.
 - Discussion on benefits of 1:1 between student and teacher for support.
 - Negative Social Media posts – Online Bullying of both Staff and students is common.
 - Student Leadership has a private Tik Tok to promote positivity and to change the current social media narrative.
 - No Ermineskin elder at the Jr High – Elder Teachings would be beneficial for students.
 - Some teachers can be intimidating when telling students to take off their hat.
 - Do not like when teachers use their own cultures as a form of discipline.
 - Barriers for parents to attend parent teacher night: Students in multiple schools. Students may be cared for by other family members. Students participating in sports and extracurricular activities on the same night of parent teacher nights.
 - Suggestions to improve communication with parents: sign agenda daily. Improve relationships with parents.
 - Discussion on Treaty Kits in the schools.
 - Students feel they are pressured to speak Cree fluently.

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Schedule Negotiation Committee Meeting

TIME: 3:22 pm
PRESENTER: Jenn Nepoose
DOCUMENTS: N/A
DECISION: November 4, 2024. 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

6. MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE

A. E: Global Ends – Content Review

TIME: 3:25 pm
PRESENTER: Dr. Shauna Bruno
DOCUMENTS: “3. Monitoring Board Performance- Policies”
DECISION: Still Relevant - No Changes

B. GP-1: Governing Style – Direct Inspection

TIME: 3:30 pm
PRESENTER: Jenn Nepoose
DOCUMENTS: “3. Monitoring Board Performance- Policies”
DISCUSSION:

- Review of Board performance monthly holds the Board accountable.
- Improved direct inspection process.
- Self evaluation process provides opportunity to improve and address concerns.
- Utilize expertise of Elder and Parent reps in Board meetings.
- "Board will initiate policy, not merely react". Improve on initiating and improving Board policy. Ex: initiating Board policy when dealing with concerns or complaints. Or bringing ideas back to the Board to improve policies.
- Self-Evaluation is scheduled for January.
- Determining the 360 evaluation of the Board. First 360 Evaluation will be in September of 2025.

DECISION: Completed direct inspection form as a group.

C. GP-7.2: OWNERSHIP LINKAGE COMMITTEE ToR- Content Overview

TIME: 3:35
PRESENTER: Dr. Shauna Bruno
DOCUMENTS: “3. Monitoring Board Performance- Policies”
DISCUSSION: Still relevant, no changes

D. EL-5: Asset Protection – Monitoring Report

TIME: 3:40
PRESENTER: TTracy Swampy-Sylvester and Jenn Nepoose
DOCUMENTS: “3. Monitoring Board Performance- Policies”
DISCUSSION: No comments or requested information from the report.
DECISION: Board accepts monitoring report.

7. BOARD EDUCATION, PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

A. TRANSPORTATION

TIME: 4:33 pm
PRESENTER: Mario Swampy
DOCUMENTS: N/A
DISCUSSION: - Nanahtok Miciwin, Transportation, and Security are under Corporate Services.

- Transportation Director is working towards a National Bus Designated Certification.
- Buses are serviced by Red Seal Mechanics.
- 34 bus routes on reserve across all 4 nations and to Wetaskiwin.
- MESC subcontracts 15 bus routes to Prairie Bussing. Contract expires in 2026.
- MESC is one of the only districts with a full fleet of Bus drivers.
- MESC supports training for MESC Bus drivers certifications.
- Challenges with jurisdiction of students in Wetaskiwin and Ponoka.
- Will be prioritizing transportation with the negotiations committee.
- Last year was the first year we have had Cameras on buses. Cameras are helpful for the support of Bus drivers to maintain their safety on the road and the safety on the buses.
- Bus transfer sites have security subcontracted locally with Ermineskin and Samson security.
- Concerns on vehicles passing buses when they have their lights on. Looking for large extensions for the “STOP” signs on the buses.
- Sports teams and extracurricular must have a driver with a class 4 license, criminal record, vulnerable sector check and abstract.
- Struggles with Bus App and connectivity – Some buses lose connection while on runs.
- Bus Monitor program has been a helpful improvement.
- Suggestion to present bus safety and awareness to PACs.
- Bus routes are adapted so younger students are not sitting on the bus for too long periods of time.
- Parental convenience is only available to parents who do not have any access to a bus route.
- Discussion for next Board meeting to review the Policy for Board members to get their class 4 and drive for extracurricular activities.
- Discussion on improving communication with parents regarding bussing.

B. MASKWACIS EDUCATION SUMMIT X PLAN

TIME:	3:53 pm
PRESENTER:	Jenn Nepoose
DOCUMENTS:	“4. Draft Summit X Agenda”
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grand entry as per Circle of Elders recommendation. - Day 1 is round table set up. - Day 2 Nation reps and Chiefs & Councils will sit together for focus conversations on negotiation priorities. - Board Nation Reps will take notes of their Nations discussion. - Selection Committee meeting in the evening of November 21, 2024 - No Conflicting Meetings with Ermineskin and LB confirmed - Chief Mykat and Chief Bull are Confirmed
DECISION:	Agenda assignments. See Summit agenda.

C. SUMMIT – CURRICULUM PRESENTATION

TIME:	4:11 pm
PRESENTER:	Tracy Swampy-Sylvester
DOCUMENTS:	Curriculum Update Presentation
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Buffalo Treaty is included in Treaty kits. - Curriculum is attending a Language Conference in November. - Misitim program will have 1 councilor assigned to the program on wellness day.

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- AUIDS 310 is a Treaty class partnership with University of Augustana
 - Maskwacis Elders are recording Cree books.
 - Can-core Link access for Indigenous resource teaching access. Username and Password can be found in the Superintendent's Update.
 - Currently struggle is EA resources for students with High needs.
 - Will consider expanding the curriculum team in the next planning cycle.
 - Elder videos are recorded for the Yodle dolls to be played for children
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8. OTHER BUSINESS

TIME: 5:17 pm

PRESENTER: Group

DOCUMENTS: N/A

DISCUSSION:

- New this year is Health Care Aid Supports – For EA and teacher support.
- Consider a school nurse in future negotiations.
- Assessments outside of the school are a 1-2 year wait.
- Assessments can help receive extra support such as extra child support tax credit, cultural sensitivity, speech therapy, speech therapy in Cree,
- Practicum placement report will be in the Annual Report.
