



MESC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE:	August 13, 2024
START TIME:	1:20 pm
END TIME:	5:47 pm
LOCATION:	MESC Governance and Training Centre
CHAIR:	Dr. Shauna Bruno
MESC BOARD:	Elliott Young (Google Meet), John Nepoose, Azure Johnson (Google Meet), Carmella Cutknife, Allison Adams-Bull, Councillor Izaiah Swampy-Omeasoo (Google Meet), Helen Bull (Google Meet- Joined 1:40 pm), Jason Makinaw (arrived 2:11pm)
REGRETS:	Ilene Cardinal-Nepoose, Debra Strongman-Omeasoo (late)
MESC STAFF:	Tracy Swampy-Sylvester
RECORDER:	Jenn Nepoose

1. ADOPT AGENDA

TIME:	5 min
PRESENTER(S):	Dr. Shauna Bruno
REFERENCE DOC:	"1. June 11, 2024 Agenda"
DISCUSSION	- Add school usage
DECISION	Moved by Allison Adams-Bull, seconded by Carmella Cutknife, all in favour.

2. ADOPT JUNE 11, 2024 MEETING NOTES

TIME:	5 min
PRESENTER(S):	Dr. Shauna Bruno
REFERENCE DOC:	"2. June 11, 2024 Board meeting notes"
DISCUSSION	- Have not received documentation from Grant. Will follow up. - Request for update on the High School project.
DECISION	Moved by Allison Adams-Bull, seconded by Azure Johnson, all in favour.

3. OWNERSHIP LINKAGE

A. UPDATE FROM CIRCLE OF ELDERS

TIME:	20 min
PRESENTER(S):	John Nepoose
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Discussion on having the students participate in conferences like Reclaiming Our Knowledge.- Request for the Circle of Elders to participate in school cultural camps.- Request for the audit report and funding per student, including sports academy and eligibility for funding.- Reviewing the plan for the Circle of Elders and assigning an employee to oversee the Circle of Elders.- Continue with school visit on alternating months, participating in the classroom.- Need clarity on budget if Elders were to participate in the schools more than once a month.- Request to revisit the purpose of the Elders forum.

B. UPDATE FROM CIRCLE OF PARENTS

TIME ALLOCATION:	15 min
PRESENTER(S):	Azure Johnson and Carmella Cutknife



Maskwacis Education Schools Commission

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REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concern from parent that her child is not being taught culturally appropriate ASL. - Will begin engaging with parents at the schools in the fall. - Promo items will be ordered for PAC Board reps to recruit for school PAC's that are not as established. - Projects to engage with parents can commence in September, they have been included in the 2024-25 budget. - Develop goals for the year for the Circle of Parents.

4. ITEMS FOR DECISION

A. BUDGET REVIEW

TIME ALLOCATION:	60 min
PRESENTER(S):	Trina Vy
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluating staffing and cost efficiencies to streamline processes. Looking for redundancies. - Performance evaluations for school staff are completed annually. - Teachers receive increments annually; central office staff do not receive increments annually. - Teacher increments are capped at 10 years. - High-cost revenue was never included in the funding formula and the amount of funding ISC provides is declining. - Evaluating services provided to students and success rates. - Special needs funding is 2.1 million dollars. - Transitional funding decreased due to competing priorities and proposals from other organizations. - Deferred revenue will be used for operations. Would like to maintain a deferred revenue of 10 million for emergencies. - Transition funds were meant to assist with the establishment of the organization. - Large turnover within ISC has affected MESC funding. Suggestion to meet with ISC in funding discussions as a team. - 2 years remaining in the Southland bussing contract. - Clarify reason for increases and decreases in budgets in future reports. - Decrease in business due to reassessing priorities and reduction in capital revenue. - Looking at evaluating redundancies for the 2025-26 budgets. - Asking departments and schools for data, reports and evaluations on programs, services and staffing. - Inflation has affected all budgets.

B. CAPITAL PLAN

TIME ALLOCATION:	30 min
PRESENTER(S):	Trina Vy
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Northgate out of Acheson has provided plans and estimates for modulars. - Consider building the new admin building in either Montana or Louis Bull. - Can stipulate modular or stick build in the RFP. - Include mitigation plan in the RFP. - Funds received through interest would be used to build the new admin office. The bank is also willing to give MESC a loan. - Will look into donee status to seek donations for the build.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggestion to hold off on a bank loan, rather use the deferred revenue and interest earned on it. - Find out the expectancy of the lagoon at the proposed site in the assessment. - Opportunity to locate future resource centres in Montana and Louis Bull. - A clause in the resource and development agreement restricts loan, will need to use own source revenue to pay debt. - If the new admin building is not approved the staff can move to alternate locations. - Estimated 2.8 million in capital projects for the 2024-25 year. - Deferred revenue for Theresa C Wildcat is to finish outdoor spaces. - Majority of capital will be replacing boilers and chillers in the schools. - Future plans include window replacements and boilers. - Cost summary and capital plan can be presented at the summit.
DECISION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reach out to accountant for donee status. - Source 2.5 million from interest earned and 2 million that will be earned this year to start the build. - Can bring back the plan to the Board. - Have the resources internally to further develop a plan. - Include rationale for location. - Present to Chief and Council to receive official approval for designated land.

5. MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE

TIME ALLOCATION:	60 min
PRESENTER(S):	Dr. Shauna Bruno
REFERENCE DOC:	3. a. Monitoring Board Performance Policies
A. EL-4: FINANCIAL CONDITION AND ACTIVITIES- CONTENT REVIEW	
DISCUSSION:	- Policy is still relevant, no changes.
B. GP-4: BOARD PLANNING CYCLE AND AGENDA CONTROL- CONTENT REVIEW	
DECISION	- Amend planning cycle to remove quarterly EL-4 monitoring report. Report will be due in April annually. In its place an in-person finance update will be presented quarterly.
C. GP-8: BOARD AND COMMITTEE EXPENSES – CONTENT REVIEW	
DISCUSSION:	- Policy is still relevant, no changes.
D. GP-8: BOARD AND COMMITTEE EXPENSES – DIRECT INSPECTION	
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage Board members to utilize the health spending - Research the mileage and travel per diem rates for comparability.
E. E: GLOBAL ENDS – MONITORING REPORT	
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommendations are made to schools; each leader carries out directives differently. - Some data is challenging to measure, such as increased number of Cree speaking students. - Suggestion to create a video of students learning and speaking Cree. - Suggestion to collect reports on how the Cree values are implemented in the schools.
DECISION:	- Report adopted
F. EL-7: COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS – MONITORING REPORT	
DISCUSSION:	- Can expedite the process for the succession plan and will provide an update on the questions in the direct inspection form at the September Board meeting.



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6. BOARD EDUCATION, PRESENTATIONS, AND DISCUSSION

TIME ALLOCATION: 15 min

A. MASKWACIS CURRICULUM DEPARTMENT UPDATE

PRESENTER(S): Tracy Swampy-Sylvester

DISCUSSION:

- Reviewing work of the curriculum team and their goals.
- The expectation for curriculum is overwhelming.
- The strength of the team is in resource development.
- Cree Instructors require support.
- Plan is to refocus the team on resource development and support for the schools.
- Tracy and Sharon will finalize the plan and meet with the team to discuss next steps and the changes.
- Suggestion to grant credits for participation in cultural camps.
- Will not need additional staff if the direction of the team changes.

7. OTHER BUSINESS – SCHOOL USAGE

TIME: N/A

PRESENTER(S): Allison Adams-Bull

DISCUSSION

- Complaints of not being able to use the gym for practice during the summer.
- Messages will be sent to the Band Administrators on the procedure for utilizing schools.