



Maskwacis Education Schools Commission

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING NOTES

DATE:	March 11, 2025	
START TIME:	1:12 pm	
END TIME:	4:41 pm	
LOCATION:	MESC Governance & Training Centre	
CHAIR:	Dr. Shauna Bruno	
MESC BOARD:	<div> <div>Helen Bull (arrived 2:21 pm)</div> <div>Carmella Cutknife</div> <div>Azure Johnson (Google Meet, left 1:45 pm. Rejoined in-person 4:05 pm)</div> <div>Bruce Littlechild</div> <div>Ilene Cardinal-Nepoose</div> <div>John Nepoose</div> </div> <div> <div>Debra Strongman- Omeasoo</div> <div>Elliott Young</div> <div>Cllr. Jason Makinaw (arrived 1:56 pm)</div> <div>Cllr. Izaiah Omeasoo (Google Meet)</div> <div>Cllr. Clainia Potts (Google Meet)</div> <div>Chief Joel Mykat (Google Meet)</div> </div>	
REGRETS:	Allison Adams-Bull	
STAFF:	Tracy Swampy-Sylvester, Sharon Currie, Trina Vy	
RECORDER:	Jenn Nepoose	

1. ADOPT AGENDA

TIME:	5 min
PRESENTER:	Dr. Shauna Bruno
DOCUMENTS:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Move "Negotiation Plan - Roles and Responsibilities" to the special Board meeting agenda. - No conflict of interest.
DECISION:	- Adoption of agenda moved by Debra Strongman-Omeasoo, seconded by Elliott Young, all in favour.

2. ADOPT FEBRUARY 11, 2025 MEETING NOTES

TIME:	5 min
PRESENTER:	Dr. Shauna Bruno
DOCUMENTS:	"2. February 11, 2025 Board Meeting Notes.pdf"
DISCUSSION:	- Transportation department is ensuring the buses are adhering to the inclement weather administrative procedure.
DECISION:	- Adoption of February 11, 2025 Board meeting notes moved by Elliott Young, seconded by Carmella Cutknife, all in favour.

3. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

TIME:	10 min
PRESENTER:	Dr. Shauna Bruno
DOCUMENTS:	"3. Superintendent Report.pdf"
DISCUSSION:	- Central office supports were in place for students and staff after the passing of an employee.

- Circle of Elders recommend not having an administrative procedure to respond to death.
- Circle of Elders also recommended following each Nations protocol for lowering flags. Follow up with Principals determined that flags would be only lowered for elders. Direction for lowering flags may be included in handbooks.
- Adjustments to the salary grid were based on market rates. Teacher and Education Assistant salary grid is comparable to neighbouring school districts.
- MESC salaries are not comparable to KTCEA because of their northern allowance fees.
- Have not compared the salary grid to other First Nations with an REA.
- Reports of bullying in a school and students not wanting to speak with staff about the issue.

4. ITEMS FOR DECISION

A. GP-8, Board PD Honorarium Rates

TIME: 20 min

PRESENTER: Dr. Shauna Bruno & Trina Vy

DOCUMENTS: "4. a. Amendment to GP-8.pdf"

DISCUSSION:

- Increase in Board professional development honorarium can be accommodated for in other areas of the Board budget.
- The Board professional development plan for 2025-2026 needs to be determined. An accurate projection can then be determined.
- Expenses have increased overall.
- Suggestion for compensation for presenters.
- Discrepancies in honorarium for Board members are due to voting and non-voting Board members receive compensation differently.
- Suggestion to increase honorarium for Elders only. Can bring the Circle of Elders honorarium rates at a future meeting.
- Recommendation that the Chief and proxy be permitted to both attend Board meetings with compensation. Will be addressed at a future Board meeting.
- Discussion on rates and taking into consideration long term spending and implications.
- Point of clarification on voting member salary and ex-officio compensation.

DECISION:

- Board professional development rates adjusted as follows:
 - \$250.00/day for professional development within Alberta.
 - \$300.00/day for professional development out of province.
 - \$350.00/day for professional development out of country. (Funds will be issued in Canadian dollars equivalent to US exchange rates at the time of expense submission)
- Motion 2024-25/2025-03-11/211. Moved by Bruce Littlechild, seconded by Elliott Young, all in favour, motion carried.

B. Allocation of deferred revenue

TIME: 20 min

PRESENTER:	Trina Vy	
DOCUMENTS:	"4. b. i. 2024-2025 Budget Entry Summary Report.pdf" "4. b. ii. Amendment to EL-4.pdf" "4. b. iv. 2024-25 BOG Statement of Operations.pdf"	
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Deferred revenue is part of the overall budget and does not require a motion for allocation. It can be carried over year to year, and the agreement does not include the retention of 10% of deferred revenue.- Deferred revenue must be used for educational costs as outlined in the federal agreement.- Discussion included the amount remaining in deferred revenue after this year and its allocation to operational expenses. A request was made for forecasting of deferred revenue, including expected budget, anticipated expenses, contingencies, and trends in revenue, expenses, and deferred revenue.- Remediation of the Maskwacis Cree Junior High School gymnasium remains a priority and will be included on the agenda at a future meeting with ISC. ISC is currently not able to fund the gymnasium remediation.- Consensus was reached to amend policy related to deferred revenue management.- A request was made to meet with the Chiefs to advocate for the inherent rights of sovereign Nations to control their education system. Chiefs will be invited to the next ISC meeting.- An amendment was sent via DocuSign. This is a new process for accessing funds through the contribution agreement and was not a requirement in the past. It was noted that Board members were unaware the amendment had been sent to them. Moving forward, Board members are to be removed from DocuSign and will receive paper amendments instead. All future DocuSign requests will be vetted by Trina Vy. Board members will not sign any documents unless notified by Trina.- ISC representatives appear to be misinterpreting the MESC Resource and Development Agreement and are attempting to impose restrictions that are not part of the agreement. Board request to document any breaches of the agreement by ISC.	
DECISION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Rescind motion 157. Motion 157 was passed under the assumption that deferred revenue could be allocated to the new high school.- Motion 2024-25/2025-03-11/212. Moved by John Nepoose, seconded by Carmella Curknife, all in favour, motion carried.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ilene and Azure were absent for vote.	
ACTION ITEMS		
ASSIGNED TO:	ACTION ITEM:	DEADLINE:
Trina Vy	- 5 year comparison and forecasting.	June 10, 2025
C. 2025 - 2026 Board Budget		
TIME:	20 min	
PRESENTER:	Tracy Swampy-Sylvester	
DOCUMENTS:	"4. c. DRAFT BOG 2025-2026 budget.pdf"	

DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reminder to submit health spending by August 31; the benefit renews annually. - Increases approved for negotiation task force honorarium and promotional materials. - New projects have been included under Board operational costs. - The Circle of Parent budget is a new item but replaces a previous project. - Students are not monetarily compensated but receive credits toward graduation. - Suggestion made to collaborate with the Islamic community and student leadership. - Adjustments will be made in areas that typically show a surplus to support the increases. - Compensation should reflect the responsibilities and expectations placed on Elders. - MESC Elder rates for local meetings may be higher than rates set by the Nations.
DECISION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board PD plan to be discussed at the April Board meeting. - Circle of Elders honorarium adjustments will be reviewed at the June Board meeting.

5. OWNERSHIP LINKAGE

A. Update from Circle of Elders

TIME:	10 min
PRESENTER:	Helen Bull, John Nepoose, Tracy Swampy-Sylvester
DOCUMENTS:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussed the preliminary plan for the Kehtehayak Forum and signed a sponsorship request letter, which was delivered to the Chiefs. - Lester Brown has joined the Circle of Elders. - Suggestion to create a report highlighting the advantages of MESC. - Reviewed the draft administrative procedure for response to death. The Circle of Elders advised against writing a formal procedure, as sacred teachings related to these situations must be taught, not documented. - Request made to use the old Pigeon Lake Head Start building for community events.

B. Update from Circle of Parents

TIME:	10 min
PRESENTER:	Azure Johnson, Carmella Cutknife
DOCUMENTS:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning is underway for evening family events; the high school will be hosting a paint night. - The Circle of Parents plan will support and supplement schools in their efforts to engage parents.

C. Update from Nation Representatives

TIME:	10 min
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PRESENTER:	Allison Adams-Bull, Ilene Cardinal-Nepoose, Debra Strongman-Omeasoo, Elliott Young
DOCUMENTS:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	- No update to the Chief and Council have been made.

6. MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE

A. EL-3: Planning - Content Review

TIME:	5 min
PRESENTER:	Dr. Shauna Bruno
DOCUMENTS:	"5. a. Content Review- EL-3, GP-11, BMD-5.pdf"
DECISION:	- Policy is still relevant, no amendments.

B. GP-11: Board Linkage with Ownership - Content Review

TIME:	5 min
PRESENTER:	Dr. Shauna Bruno
DOCUMENTS:	"5. a. Content Review- EL-3, GP-11, BMD-5.pdf"
DECISION:	- Policy is still relevant, no amendments.

C. BMD-5: Superintendent Compensation - Content Review

TIME:	5 min
PRESENTER:	Dr. Shauna Bruno
DOCUMENTS:	"5. a. Content Review- EL-3, GP-11, BMD-5.pdf"
DECISION:	- Policy is still relevant, no amendments.

D. BMD-6: Superintendent Termination - Direct Inspection

TIME:	5 min
PRESENTER:	Dr. Shauna Bruno and Jenn Nepoose
DOCUMENTS:	"5. b. BMD-6.pdf"
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consensus that the Board always acts consistently with policy. - Request for evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The superintendent review is reviewed by the entire board together. There are no side meetings or discussions outside the board circle. - Areas of the policy where Board actions are considered as "some of the time", "rarely" or "never": <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewing this specific policy - Staff evaluation of Superintendent - Commitment to taking in the next year to improve application of this policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zoom meetings. - Read the policies that have not been amended or have a direct inspection of over 2-3 years. Read the entire policy - Board strategies can include ensuring proper support and understanding of the board policies as new members come on to the Board in the future. - Board will continue to review it to ensure it remains relevant and effective.

E. E-4: Healthy Lifestyles - Monitoring report

TIME:	5 min
PRESENTER:	Tracy Swampy-Sylvester
DOCUMENTS:	"5. c. Monitoring Report-E-4.03.11.2025.pdf"

DECISION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partial compliance indicated. - Follow up with attendance strategies at the June 2025 Board meeting.
F. EL-3: Planning - Monitoring report	
TIME:	5 min
PRESENTER:	Tracy Swampy-Sylvester
DOCUMENTS:	"5. d. Monitoring Report EL-3.03.11.2025.pdf"
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Succession planning meetings have continued. - In compliance.