



Maskwacis Education Schools Commission

P.O. Box 58
Maskwacis, AB
T0C 1N0
P: (780) 585-3333

MESC Board of Governors Meeting

August 17, 2021

Google Meet

Chairperson: Dr. Shauna Bruno

Board Members: John Nepoose, Councillor Mario Swampy (left 11:55am), Allison Adams-Bull (Google. Left at 1:30pm), Tamara Wildcat, Councillor Tyler Makinaw, Jerry Saddleback, Randal Potts (Google. Left at 1:40pm), Dr. Wilton Littlechild (arrived 11:55am, left at 1:00pm, returned 3:05pm), Helen Bull (arrived 11:30am)

Staff: Sanila Mehal, Brian, Randy, Trina

Recorder: Jenn Nepoose

1. Meeting called to order at 10:00am

Opening prayer by John Nepoose

2. Miyowâcimowin (discussed as occasion occurs)

- a. Discussion on AIG. Would like to support Maskwacis youth for future events.

3. Adopt agenda

Presenter: Dr. Shauna Bruno

Discussion:

- a. Add connectivity to the agenda
- b. Moved by Jerry Saddleback Jr., seconded by John Nepoose, all in favour.

4. Adopt minutes

Presenter: Dr. Shauna Bruno

Discussion:

- a. June 15, 2021 Board meeting notes
 - i. No business arising from minutes
 - ii. Moved by Tamara Wildcat, seconded by Jerry Saddleback Jr, all in favour.

5. Items for decision

a. **2020-21 Audit**

Presenter: Jeff Berlot- MNP and Trina Vy

- i. Review audit presentation.
- ii. Discussion on difference in consulting fees.
- iii. Discussion of carry over and options for allocations of the surplus. Allocations include capital projects, scholarships and bursaries.
- iv. Discussion on funding for post secondary in the future for programs such as the Transition Year Program. MESC is applying for donee status, possibility of these funds for post secondary funding for education programs. Add item to the summit agenda.



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- v. Discussion on enhancing outdoor sport facilities with surplus funds.

b. Student and Staff Bursaries

Presenter: Finance and Audit Committee and Trina Vy

Discussion:

- i. Review draft policy and committee recommendations regarding student scholarships.
 1. Student scholarships will be in place for next year.
 2. Students who receive a certificate of completion qualify for the scholarships as long as course marks meet requirements.
 3. The August 30th deadline allows for assessment throughout the school year and any students attending summer school.
 4. Consider naming scholarships in honor of Maskwacisak.
 5. Change requirement of 1500 word essay to provide a word essay up to 500 words.
 6. Individuals can donate funds for personalized scholarships.
- ii. Review staff bursaries policy
 1. Staff bursaries procedures will need to begin this year.
 2. Clarification on priority positions.
- iii. Suggestion to hire casual support staff throughout the summer for sports programming.
- iv. Table item. Have finance and audit committee review the following before the September board meeting:
 1. Potentially naming awards.
 2. Continuing education to post secondary.
 3. Reducing or eliminating essays.
 4. Clarification on academic scholarship vs grade 12 completion incentives.

6. Ownership Linkage

a. MESC 2021-2022 Re-Entry Update

Presenter: Brian Wildcat

Discussion:

- i. Review Re-Entry plan
- ii. Received legal opinion, can mandate unvaccinated staff to test regularly for COVID-19.
- iii. Staff declaration form to inform their supervisor of their vaccination status and if experiencing any symptoms.
- iv. Discussion on increased engagement with parents to support students.
- v. No further developments with internet connectivity.
- vi. Maintain communications with ESA partners regarding health and safety of students.
- vii. Discussion on entitlements and leave without pay for employees that contract COVID.
- viii. There was an increase in food costs.
- ix. Gatherings and school events will hinge on vaccination rates.
- x. Suggestion to have the Elders post teachings virtually.
- xi. Suggestion to have students provide video updates on the website.
- xii. Suggestion to host a ceremony where students can receive their Cree names.



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b. Update from Circle of Elders

Presenter: Helen Bull and John Nepoose

Discussion:

- i. Group from Saskatchewan wants to meet with the Circle of Elders regarding the development of MESC and the Circle of Elders. Concern with black print that was presented. Consulting with Cecil.
- ii. Will be meeting with the Principals every month. Will invite the Board for the presentation.

7. Board Education, Presentations, and Discussion

a. Selection of Maskwacis Trustee for September

Presenter: Brian Wildcat

Discussion:

- i. Can invite WRPS to the September board meeting to select the Maskwacis Trustee.
- ii. Ensure the Chiefs and their proxy are in attendance. Send request for Chiefs to have recommendations of the trustee prior to September 21.
- iii. Need the trustee selected prior to the swearing in, first official meeting after the election.
- iv. MESC Board can send the Chiefs recommendations for trustees. Attach the Maskwacis Education Law.

b. MESC Transportation

Presenter: Randy Risto

Discussion:

- i. Did not purchase Maskwacis Transportation.
- ii. Temporarily contracting Prairie bus lines for off-reserve routes.
- iii. Discussion on leasing busses and purchasing after 5 years.
- iv. Offered contracts to drivers from Maskwacis Transportation.
- v. Hosted 2 open houses for drivers. Provided conditional letter of employment pending required information and documentation is submitted.
- vi. Offering training for drivers to obtain their class 5.
- vii. Opportunity to contract out bussing services in the future.
- viii. Discussion on repairs and upgrades to the bus compound.
- ix. Discussion on where transportation sits in the organizational structure.
- x. Will be doing a ceremony with the busses and drivers in the fall. Can provide swag to the students as well. Ongoing bus driver appreciation will take place. Will invite the Board.
- xi. The busses for the younger students will be labelled with animals as identifiers.
- xii. Suggestion to use Cree and syllabics on the busses.
- xiii. Discussion on radio system for communication.

c. Meeting with Minister LaGrange



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Presenter: Brian Wildcat and Randy Risto

Discussion:

- i. Agenda items:
 1. Discuss curriculum, both provincial and Maskwacis.
 2. Capital- new composite high school.
 3. Internet connectivity
 4. Transportation
- ii. Can prepare speaking notes for the Chair and Chiefs.
- iii. Consider joining ASBA.
- iv. Make it known that the meeting is between MESC and the Minister and not a consultation on behalf of Alberta First Nations.
- v. Wilton will attend.

8. Monitoring Board Performance

Presenter: Dr. Shauna Bruno

- a. EL-7: Compensation and Benefits- Content Review
 - i. Review policy, no changes.
- b. GP-4: Board Planning Cycle and Agenda Control- Direct Inspection
 - i. Review policy
 - ii. Edit:
 1. Change director of education to superintendent of education
 2. Change month for all monitoring frequency to November.
 3. Update the charts
- c. GP-8: Board and Committee Expenses- Content Review & Direct Inspection
 - i. TABLED
- d. BMD: Global Board-Management Delegation- Direct Inspection
 - i. TABLED

9. Other Business

a. Connectivity

Presenter: Jerry Saddleback Jr.

- i. Potential funding for the project. Brian can assign a technician if needed.
 - ii. MCTC Board can provide updates back to MESC in the progress of the project. Brian can attend the next meeting.
- b. Research local facilitators that can conduct the Board self evaluation.
 - c. Schedule meetings with ESA partner Boards virtually.
 - d. Suggestion to allow students or youth to control social media accounts to talk about vaccines.

10. Adjourn 3:55pm, moved by Tamara Wildcat.

Dr. Shauna Bruno - Chairperson

Date