



Maskwacis Education Schools Commission

Box 58

Maskwacis, AB, T0C 1N0

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE:	August 22, 2023
START TIME:	1:12 pm
END TIME:	6:09 pm
LOCATION:	MESC Governance and Training Centre
CHAIRPERSON:	Dr. Shauna Bruno
MESC BOARD:	John Nepoose, Elliott Young, Azure Johnson, Carmella Cutknife, Ilene Cardinal-Nepoose, Debra Strongman-Omeasoo, Allison Adams-Bull (Google Meet), Councillor Izaiah Swampy (Google Meet). Chief Desmond Bull (Google Meet- left 4:50 pm), Councillor Jason Makinaw (arrived 1:40pm)
MESC STAFF:	Tracy Swampy-Sylvester
RECORDER:	Jenn Nepoose

### 1. Miyowâcimowin

TIME:	N/A
PRESENTER(S):	N/A
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Back to school visit was a success. Evander Kane was able to meet everyone in attendance. Recorded 371 attendees.</li><li>- MESC hosted summer camps for students.</li></ul>

### 2. Adopt Agenda

TIME:	5 min
PRESENTER(S):	Dr. Shauna Bruno
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Added to other business:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Associate Superintendent of Corporate Services- Tracy Swampy-Sylvester</li><li>b. WRPS meeting (Sept. 13)- Dr. Shauna Bruno</li><li>c. Usage of schools- Allison Adams-Bull</li></ul></li><li>- No disclosure of conflict of interest.</li></ul>
DECISION:	Moved by Elliott Young, seconded by Ilene Cardinal-Nepoose, all in favour

### 3. Adopt Minutes- June 13, 2023

TIME:	5 min
PRESENTER(S):	Dr. Shauna Bruno
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Business arising from minutes:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Jacket/sweater sizers at MGTC for the Board and Circle of Elders. Order will be placed mid-September.</li><li>- Executive is developing a plan to report to leadership to improve communication and partnerships. Will present at the September Board meeting.</li></ul></li></ul>
DECISION:	Moved by Azure Johnson, seconded by Carmella Cutknife, all in favour



#### 4. Ownership Linkage

##### a. Update from Circle of Elders

TIME:	15 min
PRESENTER(S):	John Nepoose and Jenn Nepoose
REFERENCE	N/A
DOC:	
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a need to review key documents and ESA's with the Circle of Elders.</li> <li>- Request for tech training on use of devices.</li> <li>- Will provide a visual of the MESC agreements to clarify MESC's purpose.</li> <li>- Ilene will attend the September 6<sup>th</sup> Board meeting to address misunderstandings about MESC.</li> <li>- The Circle requested a staffing report to address rumours of high turnover.</li> <li>- Discussed Cree terms for the website.</li> </ul>

##### b. Update from Circle of Parents

TIME	15 min
ALLOCATION:	
PRESENTER(S):	Azure Johnson and Carmella Cutknife
REFERENCE	N/A
DOC:	
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sat at the MESC booth at the Samson pow wow. Engaged with parents and visitors.</li> <li>- Getting questions about school supplies. Request for information from admin on who qualifies for school supplies.</li> <li>- Request to be introduced at the staff breakfast to promote the PAC's and assist with their establishment.</li> <li>- Would like to address grief recovery with parents at the school. Azure will bring engagement ideas to the Ownership Linkage Committee.</li> <li>- Task the parent reps to discuss how the schools can encourage involvement on the PAC's.</li> </ul>

#### 5. Items for Decision

##### a. Committee Composition

TIME	10 min
ALLOCATION:	
PRESENTER(S):	Dr. Shauna Bruno
REFERENCE	N/A
DOC:	
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of committee composition.</li> <li>- Discussion on creation of a negotiation committee; Interest from Allison, Debbie, Izaiah, Elliott, Ilene and Shauna.</li> <li>- Need to discuss the process for negotiations.</li> <li>- The Board will take negotiation training and consult with Maskwacis leadership to identify priorities.</li> <li>- Suggestion to hold special Board meetings to prioritize items for negotiation.</li> <li>- Recommendation to consult with the Circle of Elders when negotiation preparation starts.</li> <li>- The committee will meet with ISC to conduct negotiations based on the Board's negotiation plan.</li> </ul>
DECISION:	Motion 185: Moved by Debra Strongman-Omeasoo, seconded by Ilene Cardinal-Nepoose, all in favour.

#### ACTION ITEMS

ASSIGNED TO:	ACTION ITEM:	DEADLINE:
JENN NEPOOSE	Send out 2023-24 committee list.	ASAP



<b>6. Monitoring Board Performance</b>	
<b>A. GP-4: BOARD PLANNING CYCLE AND AGENDA CONTROL- DIRECT INSPECTION</b>	
TIME ALLOCATION:	N/A
PRESENTER(S):	Dr. Shauna Bruno
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
B. DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Content review of the policy and changes to the planning cycle.</li> <li>- No request for evidence.</li> <li>- Chiefs or their proxy are welcome to attend any committee meeting.</li> </ul>
DECISION:	All in favour of amendments to the planning cycle.
<b>C. GP-8: BOARD AND COMMITTEE EXPENSES- CONTENT REVIEW &amp; DIRECT INSPECTION</b>	
TIME ALLOCATION:	N/A
PRESENTER(S):	Dr. Shauna Bruno
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Point of clarification; the Chiefs or proxy are non-voting members on the Board.</li> <li>- No changes to the policy or request for evidence.</li> </ul>
<b>D. NEW POLICY: DISPUTE RESOLUTION</b>	
TIME ALLOCATION:	N/A
PRESENTER(S):	Dr. Shauna Bruno
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the event of a dispute, the elder representative for the Nation that is disputing will be excluded from the process.</li> <li>- Staff disputes are handled internally, separate from this policy.</li> <li>- Grievances against staff are handled administratively.</li> <li>- This policy would address governance disputes.</li> <li>- The policy was drafted by legal counsel.</li> <li>- Include healing circles when needed in the recommendations from any level.</li> <li>- Nations have either a constitution, code of conduct and/or restorative justice procedures to handle disputes at a Nation level. These processes will include Elders when needed.</li> <li>- <i>Allison Adams-Bull absent from 3:05 pm.</i></li> </ul>
DECISION:	Motion 186: Moved by Azure Johnson, seconded by Carmella Cutknife, all in favour
<b>E. PROCEDURE FOR MONITORING REPORTS</b>	
TIME ALLOCATION:	N/A
PRESENTER(S):	Dr. Shauna Bruno
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proposing to complete the monitoring report on the entire policy rather than providing an interpretation on each statement alone.</li> <li>- Tracy will start providing Superintendent updates.</li> <li>- May invite staff to present on a monitoring report as needed.</li> </ul>
<b>F. PROCEDURE FOR DIRECT INSPECTION</b>	
TIME ALLOCATION:	N/A
PRESENTER(S):	Dr. Shauna Bruno
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 options to conduct direct inspection; continue as is, Board as a group, as a committee or assign Board members to each policy.</li> <li>- Direct inspection is an examination of if the Board is following their policies.</li> </ul>
DECISION:	Move forward with option 1 and review at a later date.



<b>7. Board Education, Presentations, and Discussion</b>	
<b>A. FINANCE QUARTERLY REPORT</b>	
TIME ALLOCATION:	45 min
PRESENTER(S):	Trina Vy
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
G. DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The 5-month temporary budget ends August 31<sup>st</sup>.</li> <li>- This report is for April to June 2023.</li> <li>- All revenues came in as expected.</li> <li>- Surplus in school budgets after June.</li> <li>- Most of the expenses in Business Services will occur in the summer months for maintenance and capital projects.</li> <li>- Any surplus after August 31<sup>st</sup> will be added to the surplus allocations. Surplus has been allocated for emergency funds and capital projects.</li> <li>- Concern of lower deferred revenue decreasing funds available for capital development. Will need to negotiate with the federal government for capital if needs are not met.</li> <li>- Important to be cost efficient but need to prioritize needs and examine if each school is meeting their needs to effectively support student success.</li> <li>- Learning Services provides resources to the schools for literacy and numeracy.</li> <li>- Consider using surplus in the school budgets to add staff as needed.</li> <li>- Principals have been asked to provide tutoring for students. One challenge with offering these services is parental involvement and student commitment.</li> <li>- A typical school district allocates approximately 85% of their budget to salaries and benefits. MESC is able to allocate 46% to salaries and benefits due to our revenues. Other school districts are not able to provide staff and student with support that MESC offers.</li> </ul>
<b>B. CSBA CONFERENCE REPORT</b>	
TIME ALLOCATION:	15 min
PRESENTER(S):	Group discussion
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beneficial, recommend attending next year.</li> <li>- <i>Allison returned, 4:05 pm.</i></li> <li>- Given the time and resources it would be beneficial to host our own indigenous education conference or creation of a national Board.</li> </ul>
<b>C. 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN</b>	
TIME ALLOCATION:	30 min
PRESENTER(S):	Tracy Swampy-Sylvester
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of priorities to address how Cree values, student success, communication, staff success.</li> <li>- Will meet with the parent reps to get feedback from parents on what they want to see in the schools.</li> <li>- Will present the timeline and priorities at the September Board meeting.</li> <li>- Need to provide students with opportunities to explore the trades.</li> <li>- Need to encourage people to use the language throughout the Nation, not only in the schools.</li> <li>- Suggestion to use Cree terms for projects and initiatives such as the buffalo harvest.</li> <li>- Parent reps tasked with asking parents in the schools; what is student success and how do you support student success at home?</li> </ul>
<b>D. UPDATE ON LEADERSHP QUARTERLY REPORT</b>	
TIME ALLOCATION:	15 min



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PRESENTER(S):	Nation Representatives
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No meetings have taken place.</li> <li>- Ermineskin elections are coming up. Montana is having elections in October.</li> <li>- Allison will be reaching out to the Louis Bull assistant to be added to a regular Chief and Council meeting.</li> <li>- Aim to meet with all leadership groups before the summit.</li> </ul>
<b>E. PROCEDURE FOR QUARTERLY REPORTS</b>	
TIME ALLOCATION:	10 min
PRESENTER(S):	Dr. Shauna Bruno
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meet with Chiefs and Councils as a group. Include the circle of elders reps, the Board Chair and the Superintendent.</li> </ul>
<b>F. CHEQUE SIGNERS</b>	
TIME ALLOCATION:	10 min
PRESENTER(S):	Dr. Shauna Bruno
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proposing an addition to the Board policy.</li> <li>- Have the finance staff ensure all cheques are signed before the cheque signers leaves.</li> </ul>
<b>G. MEETING WITH THE MINISTER</b>	
TIME ALLOCATION:	10 min
PRESENTER(S):	Dr. Shauna Bruno
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shauna, Elliott and the Chiefs will meet with the Minister to discuss the provincial framework agreement.</li> <li>- Board members are welcome to attend and observe the meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>H. BLACK GOLD MEETING INVITATION</b>	
TIME ALLOCATION:	5 min
PRESENTER(S):	Dr. Shauna Bruno
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tracy spoke with the Superintendent of Black Gold. Their district is interested in developing partnerships with MESC to provide opportunities for student and teacher collaboration. They would like to utilize Cree classes for their students and staff and are offering for MESC students to participate in their programming, such as trades programming.</li> <li>- There is interest in similar partnerships from multiple school districts in the central Alberta area.</li> <li>- Need to identify priorities and benefits of pursuing partnerships.</li> <li>- Opportunity for data sharing.</li> <li>- Opportunity to promote MESC programming and good will as a teaching moment.</li> <li>- Can influence decisions in other school districts that support Maskwacis student success in their systems.</li> <li>- Develop an MOU with school systems to establish an understanding and respect. Identify desired outcomes.</li> </ul>
DECISION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shauna will respond, accepting the invitation to the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting with Black Gold.</li> <li>- Will identify agenda items at the September Board meeting.</li> </ul>



<b>8. Other Business</b>	
<b>A. ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT OF CORPORATE SERVICES</b>	
TIME ALLOCATION:	N/A
PRESENTER(S):	Tracy Swampy-Sylvester
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Previously had a Corporate Services branch, the departments had been moved to Business Services and the branch was changed to transportation.</li> <li>- The Corporate Services branch was recreated, and the position of Associate Superintendent was opened to the public.</li> <li>- All applicants were interviewed.</li> <li>- Mario Swampy was selected for the Associate Superintendent position. His contract has a 1-year probationary period.</li> <li>- Concern about perception of the relation to the Superintendent.</li> <li>- Concern that the 1-year probationary period is too long. Recommendation to shorten the probation period to 6 months.</li> </ul>
<b>B. WRPS MEETING (SEPT 13)</b>	
TIME ALLOCATION:	N/A
PRESENTER(S):	Dr. Shauna Bruno
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting with the WRPS Board on Sept 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at the WRPS office in Wetaskiwin.</li> <li>- Will be discussing:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ESA</li> <li>- Cree language</li> <li>- Hockey academy</li> <li>- Pow Wow</li> <li>- Transportation</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Jolene Mearon-Bull is the Maskwacis trustee on the WRPS Board. She is approaching the Chiefs to meet in the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> to provide her update.</li> <li>- The agenda will be shared with the Board once it is finalized.</li> </ul>
<b>C. USAGE OF SCHOOLS</b>	
TIME ALLOCATION:	N/A
PRESENTER(S):	Allison Adams-Bull
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complaints to Nation leadership on the usage of schools.</li> <li>- Recommendations to provide information to the Nations on the procedure to utilize the school gyms during the summer.</li> <li>- Would like to work on a Nation calendar of events to anticipate facility requests.</li> </ul>
<b>D. LOUIS BULL TRIBE EDUCATION PROGRAMS</b>	
TIME ALLOCATION:	N/A
PRESENTER(S):	Chief Desmond Bull
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will be amalgamating the Louis Bull head start, daycare, education, post-secondary programs, adult education, and any other education related programs into one department.</li> <li>- Would like MESC to be involved in the amalgamation and develop a partnership with the new organization.</li> <li>- Currently conducting a feasibility study on the amalgamation.</li> </ul>