



MESC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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| DATE: | January 9, 2024 |
| START TIME: | 1:06 pm |
| END TIME: | 5:33 pm |
| LOCATION: | MESC Governance and Training Centre |
| CHAIR: | Dr. Shauna Bruno |
| MESC BOARD: | Helen Bull (left 4:15pm), Ilene Cardinal-Nepoose, Councillor Clainia Potts, John Nepoose, Azure Johnson, Carmella Cutknife, Debra Strongman-Omeasoo, Elliott Young (Google Meet), Allison Adams-Bull (arrived 1:28 pm), Councillor Jason Makinaw (arrived 4:10 pm) |
| REGRETS: | Councillor Izaiah Swampy-Omeasoo, Chief Desmond Bull |
| OBSERVERS: | Henry Raine- Circle of Elders |
| MESC STAFF: | Tracy Swampy-Sylvester |
| RECORDER: | Jenn Nepoose |

1. Miyowâcimowin

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| TIME: | 10 min |
| PRESENTER(S): | Group |
| REFERENCE DOC: | N/A |
| DISCUSSION | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Parents in Louis Bull shared that they are learning Cree from their children that attend a MESC school.- Sharing of events during the holidays; students participating in drumming, singing and sports.- First day back at school yesterday. |

2. ADOPT AGENDA

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| TIME: | 5 min |
| PRESENTER(S): | Dr. Shauna Bruno |
| REFERENCE DOC: | "1. January 9, 2024 Agenda" |
| DISCUSSION | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Add Meskanahk Ka Nipa Wit school update.- Add Cheques and cheque signing.- Add donation to school sports team.- Add Nation constitutions,- No conflicts of interest declared. |
| DECISION | Moved by Azure Johnson, seconded by Debra Strongman-Omeasoo, all in favour |

3. ADOPT DECEMBER 12, 2023 MEETING NOTES

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| TIME: | 15 min |
| PRESENTER(S): | Dr. Shauna Bruno |
| REFERENCE DOC: | "2. December 2023 Board notes" |
| DISCUSSION | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Spelling correction of "decision" on page 2.- Confirm there were no regrets for the December Board meeting. <p>Business arising from minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Swag for school sports teams- There is room in the Board budget for donations. |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is not a common practice to donate to a MESC school for items that could be included in the school budget. - The school had unexpected expenses for jerseys. - Request for number of school sports teams and what leagues they participate in. - Want to maintain fairness with donations. - Desire to support students who may not be able to afford the school swag. |
| DECISION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will not donate to school sport team. Suggestion to discuss fundraising with the Circle of Parents to assist the team in buying school swag. - Adoption of meeting notes: Moved by Azure Johnson, seconded Carmella Cutknife, all in favour |

4. Ownership Linkage

| a. Update from Circle of Elders | |
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| TIME: | 20 min |
| PRESENTER(S): | John Nepoose, Helen Bull and Belinda Lightning |
| REFERENCE | N/A |
| DOC: | |
| DISCUSSION: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some Circle of Elders attended the school Christmas concerts. Enjoyed students emceeding the event. - Circle met with school Cultural Advisors and Cree Department staff. - Request for professional development with COE and Cultural Advisors on passing on cultural teachings that students may not be receiving. Tracy will follow up with John to discuss further. - Suggestion to have the Circle of Elders and Circle of Parents meet to discuss cultural teachings for students. - Cultural teachings could address behaviours displayed in students that have been expelled. - Suggestion to create expulsion hearing guidelines, using the core values as the foundations. |
| b. Update from Circle of Parents | |
| TIME | 20 min |
| ALLOCATION: | |
| PRESENTER(S): | Azure Johnson and Carmella Cutknife |
| REFERENCE | N/A |
| DOC: | |
| DISCUSSION: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attended Christmas concerts. One concert had students do a song in ASL. - Promoting the school PACs. The next MCHS PAC meeting is on January 16th. - Lots of parents attended the school Christmas concerts. - Will look into including Cree teachings at PAC meetings. - Interested in meeting with the Circle of Parents. |

ACTION ITEMS

| ASSIGNED TO: | ACTION ITEM: | DEADLINE: |
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| TRACY | Create expulsion hearings guidelines. | TBD |

5. Items for Decision

| a. Schedule Superintendent Evaluation | |
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| TIME: | 5 min |
| PRESENTER(S): | Dr. Shauna Bruno |
| REFERENCE | N/A |
| DOC: | |
| DECISION: | Confirm January 31, 2024, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm at MGTC. |



| 6. Monitoring Board Performance | |
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| A. EL: General Executive Constraint - Content Review | |
| TIME ALLOCATION: | 10 min |
| PRESENTER(S): | Dr. Shauna Bruno |
| REFERENCE DOC: | "3. Monitoring Board Performance" |
| DISCUSSION: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reflect terms in the legal documents.- Difficult to interpret and find evidence for the policy.- The process of monitoring reports is new and both the Board and Superintendent are learning. |
| DECISION: | Policy is still relevant, no changes made. |
| B. GP-9: Code Of Conduct (Direct Inspection) | |
| TIME ALLOCATION: | 10 min |
| PRESENTER(S): | Dr. Shauna Bruno |
| REFERENCE DOC: | "3. Monitoring Board Performance" and "GP-9 worksheet" |
| DISCUSSION: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Censure is a formal expression of disapproval.- The policy is reviewed every other year and up for direct inspection every other year.- Board members are responsible for bringing forth concerns.- Completed direct inspection worksheet as a group.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Discussion on loyalty to MESC.- Hearsay and allegations influencing participation.- Board Chair would discuss concerns with Board members one-on-one.- No connection to Cree values and teachings in the policy.- Review Nation constitutions and add to number 7. |
| C. GP-16: Handling Of Apparent Policy Violations (Content Review) | |
| TIME ALLOCATION: | 10 min |
| PRESENTER(S): | Dr. Shauna Bruno |
| REFERENCE DOC: | "3. Monitoring Board Performance" |
| DISCUSSION: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Review report, no concerns or request for more information. |
| DECISION: | Policy is still relevant, no changes made. |
| D. BMD-2: Accountability Of The Superintendent (Content Review) | |
| TIME ALLOCATION: | 10 min |
| PRESENTER(S): | Dr. Shauna Bruno |
| REFERENCE DOC: | "3. Monitoring Board Performance" |
| DISCUSSION: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Review report, no concerns or request for more information.- The Board's only employee is the Superintendent.- Discussion on conflict of interest and how the Board can proceed to avoid conflicts.- Request for a lawyer to present to the Board on what is considered conflict of interest.- Consider requests from committees to the administration team, limit direction to only the Superintendent. |
| DECISION: | Policy is still relevant, no changes made. |
| E. E-3: Academic Success- Monitoring Report Worksheet | |
| TIME ALLOCATION: | 10 min |
| PRESENTER(S): | Tracy Swampy-Sylvester |
| REFERENCE DOC: | "Monitoring Report E-3 01.09.2024.pdf" |
| DISCUSSION: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Statement of partial compliance and will seek details from the school on their demonstration of student creativity.- Did not continue with math leads to realign the focus. |



- Additional funds with head start are being allocated to supporting students and parents.
- Extra funding is provided to head start programs every year and varies depending on work at Treaty 6.
- Consider student needs in planning for the high school.
- Curriculum will be addressed in the policy that specifically addresses curriculum.
- Acceptable to display compliance in the 2025 monitoring report.
- Board members must complete the monitoring report worksheet before the February Board meeting.

F. EL: General Executive Constraint - Monitoring Report Worksheet

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| TIME ALLOCATION: | 10 min |
| PRESENTER(S): | Tracy Swampy-Sylvester |
| REFERENCE DOC: | "Monitoring Report EL 01.09.2024.pdf" |
| DISCUSSION: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Request for extension to collect data and further understand the policy. - Completed worksheet as a group. |

7. Monitoring Board Performance

A. Planning – Professional Development

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| TIME ALLOCATION: | 10 min |
| PRESENTER(S): | Dr. Shauna Bruno |
| REFERENCE DOC: | N/A |
| DISCUSSION: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requested areas for PD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial literacy - Board Governance - Negotiation training - Treaty No. 6 education / UNDRIP / TRC (Treaty 101 with Wilton Littlechild) - HICE 2025 (January 3 – 6, 2025) - First Nations Educators Conference (February 6, 7 & 8). In-person registration is full. - Mental Health / VTRA / Traumatic Event Systems. How the community reacts to trauma (Kevin Cameron). - Training on children in care. - Opportunities to present at conferences. - Identify budget items, topics and priority for each PD suggestion. - Nation constitutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ermineskin is reviewing their constitution. Aiming to have the review completed by June. The MESC Chair can request access to the constitution. Ermineskin would like to include local system in Treaty week in the schools. - Samson is creating their constitution. - Louis Bull has a constitution. - Requests to view the Nation constitutions would be to align MESC governance practices and to enable Board members to become knowledgeable of local systems. - Suggestion to request a summary or request only relevant sections. - Review constitutions and site them in appropriate MESC documents. |
| DECISION: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Details on suggested PD will be prepared for the February Board meeting. - Motion 192: First Nation Educators Conference. Azure Johnson, Carmella Cutknife, John Nepoose, Helen Bull and Dr. Shauna Bruno will attend virtually. |

B. Update From Montana Chief And Council Meeting



Maskwacis Education Schools Commission

Box 58

Maskwacis, AB, T0C 1N0

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| TIME ALLOCATION: | 10 min |
| PRESENTER(S): | Tracy Swampy-Sylvester, Debra Strongman-Omeasoo and Ilene Cardinal-Nepoose |
| REFERENCE DOC: | N/A |
| DISCUSSION: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Met with Montana Chief and Council on December 13th - Chief, Council and admin shared their concerns and questions about MESC. - Requested report on socio-economic status of Montana students to assist in planning of programs and services and updates on school events. - Interest in the MNKW Principal attending Director meetings. - Need clarification on Board policies and structure. - Would like to see the students speaking Cree more. - Access to the school gym for programing. Tracy will follow up with MFN on the procedure for use of the gym. - Invitation to further meetings. - Perception of the low number of Montana members employed with MESC. - Continue to hear negative feedback on MESC in the community, - New Council were not aware of the operation and procedures for MESC. |

C. Meskanahk Ka Nip Wit Update

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| TIME ALLOCATION: | 10 min |
| PRESENTER(S): | Debra Strongman-Omeasoo |
| REFERENCE DOC: | N/A |
| DISCUSSION: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requesting an update on losses in the community that may have impacted the school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Counsellors will be called to the school to support students dealing with grief. Some information is confidential. - MESC has been invited to the next HUB meeting in Montana to discuss families in need. - Requesting a report on support available to the students and staff and if it will continue throughout the year. - Request for the school to utilize the Nation Elders. |

8. OTHER BUSINESS

a. January Meeting Dates

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| TIME: | 5 min |
| PRESENTER(S): | Dr. Shauna Bruno |
| REFERENCE DOC: | N/A |
| DISCUSSION: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - January 12: Student Discipline and Expulsion Committee - January 25: Special Board meeting - January 31: Superintendent Evaluation |

b. Cheques and cheque signing

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| TIME: | 5 min |
| PRESENTER(S): | Dr. Shauna Bruno |
| REFERENCE DOC: | N/A |
| DISCUSSION: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Request for all Board members make themselves available to sign cheques. - Tracy will follow up with finance on cheque signing. - Elliott is unable to commit to signing at the moment. Offer to have the supplement deducted from salary. |