



## MESC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE:	March 12, 2024
START TIME:	1:07 pm
END TIME:	5:15 pm
LOCATION:	MESC Governance and Training Centre
CHAIR:	Dr. Shauna Bruno
MESC BOARD:	Elliott Young (Google Meet), Ilene Cardinal-Nepoose, John Nepoose, Carmella Cutknife, Azure Johnson, Allison Adams-Bull (left 5:00 pm), Izaiah Swampy-Omeasoo (arrived 1:23 pm- Google Meet), Debra Strongman-Omeasoo (arrived 1:53 pm)
REGRETS:	Helen Bull (absent), Debra Strongman-Omeasoo (late), Allison Adams-Bull (leaving early)
MESC STAFF:	Tracy Swampy-Sylvester
RECORDER:	Jenn Nepoose

### 1. MIYOWÂCIMOWIN

TIME:	10 min
PRESENTER(S):	Group
REFERENCE	N/A
DOC:	
DISCUSSION	- Stories of school sports and activities.

### 2. ADOPT AGENDA

TIME:	5 min
PRESENTER(S):	Dr. Shauna Bruno
REFERENCE	"1. March 12, 2024 Agenda"
DOC:	
DISCUSSION	- Add update from Montana under Board education, presentations and discussion.
DECISION	Approve agenda: Moved by Allison Adams-Bull, seconded by Azure Johnson, all in favour.

### 3. ADOPT FEBRUARY 13, 2024 MEETING NOTES

TIME:	15 min
PRESENTER(S):	Dr. Shauna Bruno
REFERENCE	"2. February 13, 2024 Board notes"
DOC:	
DISCUSSION	- No business arising from the minutes.
DECISION	Adopt meeting minutes: Moved by Ilene Cardinal-Nepoose, seconded by Azure Johnson, all in favour.

### 4. OWNERSHIP LINKAGE

#### A. UPDATE FROM CIRCLE OF ELDERS

TIME:	20 min
PRESENTER(S):	John Nepoose, Helen Bull and Belinda Lightning
REFERENCE	N/A
DOC:	
DISCUSSION:	- Presentation from Julia Burrill on the Kisipatinahk School exterior project. Retrofit due to mold and ventilation. Design will reflect Louis Bull and original intent of the design in relation to the band office.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will be renaming the old kindergarten building. Recommendations of the name will be brought to the Board after consultation is complete.</li> <li>- Request for a think tank with the Circle of Elders. Will discuss items such as healing circles, restorative justice practices, nehiyawatisiwin and wahkohtowin.</li> <li>- Consider inviting the Board to the Elders think tank session in May.</li> <li>- A follow up meeting will be scheduled with the Circle of Elders and the school Cultural Advisors. The group will have focus conversations to discuss how issues can be handled in the schools.</li> <li>- February school visits went well.</li> <li>- Parent reps, Azure and Carmella, are invited to the next Circle of Elders meeting on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.</li> <li>- John and Alfred attended the Open House.</li> </ul>
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**B. UPDATE FROM CIRCLE OF PARENTS**

TIME ALLOCATION:	20 min
PRESENTER(S):	Azure Johnson and Carmella Cutknife
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Azure will be collecting newsletters to provide to leadership. Methods of delivering school newsletters vary between schools.</li> <li>- Discussion on how consistent communications strategies across Maskwacis make it difficult to share and receive information.</li> <li>- Identifying learning sessions for parent councils such as parent portal and student services.</li> <li>- Schools will be uploading PAC meeting minutes to a shared google drive that will be accessible to the Board.</li> <li>- PAC at the high school discussed grad and staff appreciation.</li> <li>- The high school has a grad package for parents covering what to expect.</li> <li>- Will be promoting PACs on Hawk Radio.</li> <li>- Engaged with parents at the open house.</li> </ul>
DECISION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parent representative Board members will provide school newsletters and information to the Nation representative Board member to report to leadership to maintain lines of communication with leadership.</li> <li>- Inform the Superintendent of need or inconsistency in communications to parents.</li> <li>- Add parental involvement and communication to parents as an item at the parent conference.</li> </ul>

**5. ITEMS FOR DECISION**

**A. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE**

TIME:	20 min
PRESENTER(S):	Dr. Shauna Bruno
REFERENCE DOC:	"3. Negotiation Committee- Negotiation Tasks"
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of Gantt chart and structure of the negotiations committee.</li> <li>- The committee would consult with the Board, Maskwacis leadership, Circle of Elders and ISC throughout the process and draft the priorities and compromises to present to the Board.</li> <li>- Fees for negotiations training will not come out of the Board PD budget.</li> <li>- Recommendation to have a Board member that is eligible to sit another term and a member that has already sat for 2 terms for their experience and knowledge.</li> <li>- Recommendation to host a ceremony before starting the process.</li> <li>- John will follow up with Helen to confirm committee position.</li> </ul>
DECISION:	<b>No. 196 Official MESC Motion- Negotiation Committee:</b> Moved by Azure Johnson, seconded by Ilene, John Nepoose abstained in the event that he is



selected as the Elder representative on the committee, all in favour. Motion carried.

**6. MONITORING BOARD PERFORMANCE**

**A. BMD-5: SUPERINTENDENT COMPENSATION (DIRECT INSPECTION)**

TIME ALLOCATION:	10 min
PRESENTER(S):	Dr. Shauna Bruno
REFERENCE DOC:	"4. Monitoring Board Performance (A&B)"
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Other allowances include travel and cell phone allowances.</li> <li>- Relationship with the Nations would not impact the Superintendent salary. The Board manages and maintains the relationship with leadership through updates with Nation representatives.</li> <li>- GP-19: Governance Dispute Resolution is in place to address concerns from Nations.</li> <li>- The Board acts consistently with this policy by; having a term of reference for evaluation committee that reflects this policy and a regular review of the policy.</li> <li>- Recommendation to rotate the committee members each year.</li> </ul>

**B. BMD-6: SUPERINTENDENT COMPENSATION (CONTENT REVIEW)**

TIME ALLOCATION:	10 min
PRESENTER(S):	Dr. Shauna Bruno
REFERENCE DOC:	"4. Monitoring Board Performance (A&B)"
DISCUSSION:	- No changes, policy is still relevant.

**C. E-4: HEALY LIFESTYLES, MONITORING REPORT WORKSHEET**

TIME ALLOCATION:	10 min
PRESENTER(S):	Dr. Shauna Bruno
REFERENCE DOC:	"Monitoring Report-E-4.03.12.2024.pdf"
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Goal is to always provide mental health support.</li> <li>- Looking at other measurements for mental health.</li> <li>- More group sessions are being held to address grief and anger. The single student visits have decreased as a result.</li> <li>- Suggestion to use data from student services at the Circle of Elders think tank.</li> <li>- Student Services will be training more staff to have more small group sessions with students.</li> <li>- Working with Nation organizations to support students when the family is unable to access services.</li> <li>- Suggestion to conduct a pre-evaluation and post-evaluation when with students accessing counselling services.</li> <li>- Schools provide information to students on how to access mental health supports. Some teachers develop non-verbal cues for students to communicate their need.</li> <li>- Received concerns from teacher about having students all gather in the common areas for lunch. Expressed that some students feel safer in the classroom during lunch. Recommend the teacher that expressed their concern speak with the principal.</li> </ul>

**D. EL-3: PLANNING, MONITORING REPORT WORKSHEET**

TIME ALLOCATION:	10 min
PRESENTER(S):	Dr. Shauna Bruno
REFERENCE DOC:	"Monitoring Report EL-3.03.12.2024"
DISCUSSION:	- Succession plan will be included in the 2024-2025 branch and school plans. People Services will identify key steps to complete the succession plan and identify employees that are of high potential and employees that are interested in key roles. People who are not MESC staff will be considered in the succession plan as well.



- An evaluation for Associate Superintends is being developed.
- Principals have interested staff shadow the admin team or assume an administrator role for a day.
- Concern of scope of the succession plan and ensuring Maskwacis employees are considered for promotions. The Superintendent can direct supervisors to support and develop Maskwacisak skills for key roles.
- If Nation members approach Board members with concerns about employment or recruitment, the Nation member can be directed to contact the Associate Superintendent of People Services or Superintendent with concerns and complaints.
- Positions are opened internally before posting externally.
- In the Board policy, 10% of funding is to be allocated to surplus. Need clarification on what revenue is being allocated for surplus.
- Costs have increased due to inflation.
- Additional staff have been brought on to support programming; custodial, education assistants, family support workers, etc.
- Need to build partnerships to fund the new high school.
- 3 million is dedicated to the capital plan annually. The Kisipatinahk School project will be conducted in four phases. ISC has indicated that if there is surplus MESC could recoup capital expenses.
- The updated capital plan will be presented to the Board once it is finalized.
- The deferred revenue is from multiple funding sources.
- An architect developed a conceptual design to accommodate approximately 1500 students in the new high school. The design was based on data collected from each Nation to project nominal roll.
- There is a clause in the agreement that allows MESC to defer revenue.
- Terminology is inconsistent in the report for deferred revenue and surplus. Surplus term is used in the audit due to auditing standards.
- Atrieve is the accounting software used by MESC.

**E. EL-4: FINANCIAL CONDITIONS AND ACTIVITES, MONITORING REPORT WORKSHEET**

TIME ALLOCATION:	10 min
PRESENTER(S):	Dr. Shauna Bruno
REFERENCE DOC:	"Monitoring Report EL-3.03.12.2024"
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Restricted funds are limited for a specific purpose.</li> <li>- Un-restricted funds can be used for any purpose.</li> <li>- Salary advances are not permitted.</li> <li>- Recommendation to present the EL-4 monitoring report tin the same month as the quarterly financial report.</li> </ul>
DECISION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consensus to amend dates for EL-4 monitoring report on the planning cycle to align with quarterly financial reports to the Board.</li> </ul>

**7. Board Education, Presentations and Discussions**

**A. 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

TIME ALLOCATION:	10 min
PRESENTER(S):	Tracy Swampy-Sylvester
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Request from school staff for a weeklong break in November.</li> <li>- Historically staff absences increase in November.</li> <li>- Considering 2 days in November before and after Remembrance Day.</li> <li>- Recommendation to consider starting a week early to accommodate a weeklong spring break.</li> </ul>



Maskwacis Education Schools Commission

Box 58

Maskwacis, AB, T0C 1N0

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Considering staff mental health, would support weeklong spring break.</li><li>- The high school schedule would need to be adjusted if a weeklong fall break is implemented.</li><li>- Discussion on how staff are supported for mental health.</li></ul>
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#### **B. IT UPDATE**

TIME ALLOCATION:	10 min
PRESENTER(S):	Tracy Swampy-Sylvester and Trina Vy
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- All schools have boosters installed to improve reception.</li><li>- Upgrading to 10GB for internet.</li><li>- Will be interviewing for an IT Director.</li></ul>

#### **C. POTENTIAL GRADUATES**

TIME ALLOCATION:	10 min
PRESENTER(S):	Tracy Swampy-Sylvester
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 50 potential grads from the high school and 7 from the outreach.</li><li>- Student attendance at the outreach has been low.</li><li>- Will be moving the outreach program to the site of MGTC. Staff at MGTC will move to the existing outreach.</li><li>- Board supports the move.</li></ul>

#### **D. LITERACY AND NUMERACY STRATEGIES**

TIME ALLOCATION:	10 min
PRESENTER(S):	Tracy Swampy-Sylvester
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Curriculum and assessment team is examining each classroom to align literacy assessment.</li><li>- A literacy coach has been identified at each school.</li><li>- Developing literacy framework for each grade level.</li></ul>

#### **E. MONTANA UPDATE**

TIME ALLOCATION:	10 min
PRESENTER(S):	Tracy Swampy-Sylvester
REFERENCE DOC:	N/A
DISCUSSION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Will be reviewing the facility requests procedure with the schools. Requests to use a school will go to the Principal and they will assist the group with filling out the form.</li><li>- Working with the HUB in Montana on supports for students.</li></ul>