



"Accepting the Challenge"

MSBA Resolutions Committee Minutes

Monday, November 21, 2011, 3:30 p.m.
Conference Room, Administration Office

Present: L. Ross (Chairperson) M. Sefton, G. Barnes

I. ELECTION OF CHAIR/SETTING REGULAR MEETING DATES/REVIEW COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The MSBA Resolutions Committee Meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. It was agreed Trustee Ross would serve as Committee Chairperson.

II. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

NIL

III. OTHER COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

A) The Committee considered and discussed the following items to be forwarded to the 2012 MSBA Annual Convention:

- 1) Occupational Health Services to be paid by Manitoba Health;
- 2) Withdraw membership in Canadian School Boards Association;
- 3) Lobby the Government to fully fund Full Day/Every Day Kindergarten;
- 4) Judicial Systems lack of enforcement regarding bus safety rules;
- 5) Lobby the Government to provide the necessary funding to meet the Provincial mandated program under Bill 13 for students to attend school to the age of 18 years;
- 6) Provision of funding to provide equitable education for all students;
- 7) Discontinue the Tax Incentive Grant in favour of a more transparent and equitable system.

The Committee agreed that the resolutions be forwarded to the Board for approval on these items. Final drafts of the final resolutions to be presented to the Board will be forwarded to Committee members before taking to the Board for approval. (Appendix "A").

Recommendation:

That the Board submit to the Manitoba School Boards Association resolutions on the following:

- 1) Occupational Health Services
- 2) Membership in Canadian School Boards Association
- 3) Full Day/Every Day Kindergarten
- 4) School Bus Safety
- 5) Bill 13 – Preparing Students for Success Act
- 6) Funding for Equity
- 7) Tax Incentive Grant

IV. OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

NIL

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Ross, Chair

M. Sefton

Appendix A

RESOLUTION:

CATEGORY: STUDENTS & INSTRUCTION
TITLE: OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES
SPONSORING DIVISION: BRANDON

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association lobby the Province of Manitoba to fund the cost of occupational health services for school aged children.

Comments:

School Divisions are presently required to fund and provide occupational health services for school aged children through the hiring of staff or contracted services. Occupational health services are obviously a health cost and not an education cost. Although the school might be the more appropriate location to provide these services to school age children, the Provincial Health Department not school divisions should be responsible for the costs.

RESOLUTION:

CATEGORY: SCHOOL BOARDS

TITLE: MEMBERSHIP IN CANADIAN SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

SPONSORING DIVISION: BRANDON

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association Executive review in detail the benefits and cost of maintaining membership in the Canadian School Boards Association, submitting a report to the 2013 MSBA Convention for consideration by the members.

Comments:

Over the past few years there have been discussions and changes at the Canadian School Boards Association. As a result, the provinces of Alberta, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island have withdrawn their membership in CSBA. Further, there have been discussions by Manitoba Trustees as to retaining our membership and at what cost. A formal review of this matter should be undertaken by the Executive with a report submitted to the 2013 Convention for consideration by the members.

RESOLUTION:

CATEGORY: STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTION
TITLE: FULL DAY/EVERY DAY KINDERGARTEN
SPONSORING DIVISION: BRANDON

BE IT RESOLVED THAT MSBA urge the Government of Manitoba to fund full day/every day Kindergarten.

Comments:

Government currently funds Kindergarten on a half time basis. Government has also spoken strongly about and has initiatives in place regarding early childhood education. All current educational research stresses the vital importance of early childhood education particularly in regards to literacy and numeracy development. Further, how early development instrument (EDI) and lack of school preparedness by pre-schoolers extenuates the need for early education for our students. Full day/every day Kindergarten would lend stronger support to the education of all children, the system and to government initiatives, i.e. a strong message would be given to the public/community for public education and the great need for the initiatives in early child development. The Province of Ontario has recently accepted the importance of full day/every day kindergarten commencing on a phase-in basis. The next great development in education must take place in this area if the political will to act exists.

RESOLUTION:

CATEGORY: TRANSPORTATION
TITLE: SCHOOL BUS SAFETY
SPONSORING DIVISION: BRANDON

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association lobby the Province of Manitoba Justice Department to enforce the traffic laws regarding school bus drive bys when overhead flashing lights are operating while loading/unloading students.

Comments:

The safety of students is very important to school divisions including school bus safety. School Divisions strive to provide a safe environment for our transported students by providing training for both our school bus drivers and students. It is frustrating when drivers of vehicles who pass school buses through the flashing overhead lights while loading school children are not prosecuted according to the law. The safety of our students is important and Provincial enforcement of the law regarding school bus pass-bys is necessary.

RESOLUTION:

CATEGORY: STUDENTS & INSTRUCTION

TITLE: BILL 13 – PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS ACT

SPONSORING DIVISION: BRANDON

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association lobby the Provincial Government to provide the necessary funding to meet the Provincial mandated program under Bill 13 for students to attend school to the age of eighteen (18) years.

Comments:

The Province of Manitoba recently passed Bill 13 – “Preparing Students for Success Act” mandating students to attend school to the age of eighteen (18). This mandate will require school divisions to incur significant additional costs for off-site programming to meet the requirements of some students and/or to employ additional staff for smaller classes or individual programming. These additional costs should be totally supported by the Provincial Government as the program has been mandated by them with no input from school divisions.

RESOLUTION:

CATEGORY: EDUCATION FINANCE

TITLE: FUNDING FOR EQUITY

SPONSORING DIVISION: BRANDON

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association petition the Province of Manitoba to provide additional financial support to meet student equity needs for the education of English as an Additional Language students and First Nation students.

Comments:

Manitoba School Divisions provide a public education system for all students with varying needs. It is very important that students be provided with the supports to balance the playing field in meeting their educational goals and expectations. Equitable education programs for First Nation and Immigrant students have been identified by the education professionals. Our Division has significant costs in delivering appropriate programming for its English as Additional Language students with Provincial grants supporting approximately 36% of the costs. Increased Provincial Funding is required to provide the necessary equity needs of identified students.

RESOLUTION:

CATEGORY: EDUCATION FINANCE
TITLE: TAX INCENTIVE GRANT
SPONSORING DIVISION: BRANDON

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association request the Province of Manitoba to discontinue the Tax Incentive Grant and reallocate this funding to Manitoba School Divisions in a more transparent and equitable manner.

Comments:

The implementation of the Tax Incentive Grant by the Province has not been well received by School Divisions. The grant appears to be politically motivated, is non-transparent and definitely is not equitable and addressed towards student need. The grant cannot be defended or adequately explained by the Schools Finance Branch. It has pitted Divisions against each other as it cannot be logically justified nor is it fair. The Tax Incentive Grant should be discontinued immediately with these public education funds reallocated in a fair and transparent manner to meet the educational needs identified by school divisions.