



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

MSBA Resolutions Committee Minutes

Monday, December 2, 2013, 4:00 p.m.
Secretary-Treasurer's Office, Administration Office

Present: L. Ross (Chairperson), via conference phone, M. Sefton, D. Labossiere

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

The MSBA Resolutions Committee Meeting was called to order at 4:00 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 2014 MSBA Annual Convention:

- 1) AMM Resolution regarding Education Property Taxation and Funding.
It was agreed by the Committee that MSBA should be responsible for this item.
- 2) Lobbying the Government to revise the formula for calculating classroom capacity.
It was agreed by the Committee to bring this item forward as a proposed resolution.
- 3) Lobby the Government to develop a strategy to close the divide between the early learning and child care system and the public education system.
It was agreed by the Committee to bring this item forward as a proposed resolution.
- 4) Seat Belts on School Busses.
It was agreed by the Committee that given the stance of the Canada Safety Council with respect to this topic, the Committee would not be bringing this item forward.
- 5) Lobby the Government to revise the timelines in the regulations accompanying Bill 18 regarding the notification of Trustees re: student suspensions.
It was agreed by the Committee to bring this item forward as a proposed resolution.

The Committee agreed that the resolutions be forwarded to the Board for approval on the three items noted above. (Appendix "A").

Recommendation:

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

- 1) Calculating classroom capacity;
- 2) Closing the Divide between Early learning, Child Care and the Public Education System;
- 3) Timelines Regarding Notification of Trustees – Student Suspensions.

IV. OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

NIL

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Ross, Chair

M. Sefton

RESOLUTION:

CATEGORY: FACILITIES AND MATERIALS

TITLE: CALCULATING CLASSROOM CAPACITY

SPONSORING DIVISION: BRANDON

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association Executive lobby the Minister of Education to revise the formula for calculating classroom capacity.

Comments:

Today's classrooms are busier than ever. In addition to the usual student work spaces, additional space is often required to facilitate the infusion of technology in our classrooms. There are increasing numbers of students with special needs in regular classrooms. Many of these students have adult Educational Assistants and this also has an impact on the space available. Accordingly, the number of students who can reasonably be accommodated is smaller than the current formula indicates.

RESOLUTION:

CATEGORY: STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTION

**TITLE: CLOSING THE DIVIDE BETWEEN EARLY LEARNING,
CHILD CARE AND THE PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM.**

SPONSORING DIVISION: BRANDON

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association Executive lobby the Minister of Family Services and the Minister of Education to develop a strategy to close the divide between the early learning and child care system and the public education system.

Comments:

We are seeing a steady decrease in EDI scores in Manitoba. This means that students are starting in our schools with more and more deficits. This has an inevitable impact on their ability to progress toward achieving desired learning outcomes. Developing a strategy to close the divide between the systems will set students up for greater success.

RESOLUTION:

CATEGORY: STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTION

**TITLE: TIMELINES REGARDING NOTIFICATION OF TRUSTEES –
STUDENT SUSPENSIONS**

SPONSORING DIVISION: BRANDON

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Manitoba School Boards Association Executive lobby the Minister of Education to revise the timelines in the regulations accompanying Bill 18 regarding the notification of Trustees re: student suspensions.

Comments:

There are problems with the 24 hour notification window and the nature of the information that is to be conveyed. In many circumstances, meeting the 24 hour timeline will be very difficult. If a suspension is issued to a student late on a Friday afternoon, there may not be personnel available to provide notice. Additionally, providing the amount of detail prescribed may place Trustees in a difficult situation if there is a subsequent appeal of the suspension and the Board is required to adjudicate the appeal. Because of the notification provisions, a parent may argue that the Board's impartiality has been compromised.