



"Accepting the Challenge"

# **MSBA Resolutions Committee Minutes**

Tuesday, December 1, 2009, 12:00 noon  
Conference Room, Administration Office

Present: P. Bartlette, L. Ross, Dr. D. Michaels, G. Barnes

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

The MAST Resolutions Committee Meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. It was agreed Trustee Bartlette 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 2010 MSBA Annual Convention:

- 1) Private Donations For Capital Projects
- 2) Provincial Support – High Ability Learners
- 3) Mandatory Kindergarten
- 4) Pre Kindergarten program
- 5) Addiction's Foundation of Manitoba Support
- 6) High Ability Learners
- 7) School Bus Ridership Program
- 8) Manitoba Liquor Control Commission Contribution
- 9) Associate Membership – First Nations Education Authority

The Committee agreed that the resolutions be forwarded to the Board for approval on these items.

### **Recommendation:**

That the Board submit to the MSBA Resolution and Policy Committee, resolutions on the following:

- 1) Private Donations For Capital Projects
- 2) Provincial Support – High Ability Learners
- 3) Mandatory Kindergarten
- 4) Pre Kindergarten program
- 5) Addiction's Foundation of Manitoba Support
- 6) High Ability Learners
- 7) School Bus Ridership Program
- 8) Manitoba Liquor Control Commission Contribution
- 9) Associate Membership – First Nations Education Authority

## **IV. OPERATIONAL INFORMATION**

NIL

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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P. Bartlette, Chair

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L. Ross

## **RESOLUTION:**

**CATEGORY: EDUCATION FINANCE**

**TITLE: PRIVATE DONATIONS FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS**

**SPONSORING DIVISION: BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT MSBA petition the Government of Manitoba to have the Public Schools Finance Board provide a policy and/or parameters allowing School Divisions to solicit private donations for major building additions/renovations or capital equipment (e.g. vocational equipment, computer systems).

### **Comments:**

Financial constraints in funding by the Provincial Government and at the local level result in capital projects being reduced, delayed or cancelled. There may be instances where School Divisions could obtain private donations in support of such projects allowing them to proceed. To date the Provincial Government, Manitoba Education, or the Public Schools Finance Board have not provided guidelines to school Divisions or provided encouragement in this regard. The ability to obtain private corporate support would be beneficial to School Divisions.

## **RESOLUTION:**

**CATEGORY: EDUCATION FINANCE**

**TITLE: PROVINCIAL SUPPORT -  
HIGH ABILITY LEARNERS**

**SPONSORING DIVISION: BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT MSBA petition Manitoba Education for financial support for High Ability Learners programming.

### **Comments:**

In accordance with Bill 13 – Appropriate Educational Programming, school divisions must meet the needs of all learners, including high ability learners. Manitoba Education provides grants to support programming for special needs students. Provincial support is required high ability learners.

## **RESOLUTION:**

**CATEGORY: STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTION**  
**TITLE: MANDATORY KINDERGARTEN**  
**SPONSORING DIVISION: BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT MSBA urge the Government of Manitoba to make Kindergarten mandatory; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT MSBA urge the Government of Manitoba to change the "compulsory school age" as defined in The Public Schools Act to five years.

### **Comments:**

Government already funds Kindergarten. The Public Schools Act and what currently occurs seems inconsistent. 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. This 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 next great development in education must take place in this area if the political will to act exists.

We cannot ignore what we already know.

## **RESOLUTION:**

**CATEGORY: STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTION**  
**TITLE: PRE KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM**  
**SPONSORING DIVISION: BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT MSBA PETITION Manitoba Education to have Pre-Kindergarten as an authorized program within Manitoba public schools and provide increased Provincial support for this program.

### **Comments:**

The importance of early years education in the development and achievement of young children has been well documented in various research reports and professional literature. Further it is well known that Early Development Inventory scores of students entering Manitoba public schools are quite low in relationship to the rest of Canada. In order to meet this challenge, the implementation of a more formalized pre-kindergarten program is required with additional Provincial funding required to support the program.

## **RESOLUTION:**

**CATEGORY: STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTION**

**TITLE: ADDICTIONS FOUNDATION OF MANITOBA SUPPORT**

**SPONSORING DIVISION: BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT MSBA petition the Provincial Government to provide additional funding to the Addiction's Foundation of Manitoba to appropriately support the counselling services provided to Manitoba schools.

### **Comments:**

During the past two years school divisions have experienced significant increases in the service fee levied by AFM for the counselling services they provide. The per day fee for a years service has increased from \$3,500 to \$4,500 and now to \$7,500 for next year. These counselling services are very important in addressing the needs of our students and are provided by professionals having appropriate training and experience in addictions counselling. Even with the increases AFM does not fully cover the costs for this service. Assigning greater costs to school divisions for addictions counselling is again downloading of health costs to education and the pubic school system. These costs are a societal cost which the Provincial Government should provide through increased support to the AFM.

## **RESOLUTION:**

**CATEGORY: STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTION**

**TITLE: HIGH ABILITY LEARNERS**

**SPONSORING DIVISION: BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT MSBA urge Manitoba Education to require Manitoba teachers to receive education in instructional programming and program delivery methods for high ability learners.

### **Comments:**

Many resources are provided for programming for special needs students. Bill 13 – Appropriate Educational Programming also requires school divisions to meet the needs of high ability learners. To meet this need, it is necessary that teachers are prepared for this task by receiving appropriate education in acquiring their teacher education.

## **RESOLUTION:**

**CATEGORY:                      TRANSPORTATION**

**TITLE:                              SCHOOL BUS RIDERSHIP PROGRAM**

**SPONSORING DIVISION:    BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT MSBA petition Manitoba Education Pupil Transportation to provide updated school bus ridership program material for student instruction in Manitoba public schools.

### **Comments:**

Over past years the Manitoba Association of School Business Officials has been requesting the Pupil Transportation unit to provide an updated school bus ridership program. The instruction of students in school bus ridership is a legislated requirement and is evaluated by the Pupil Transportation Unit when they review school bus operations throughout the divisions. The instruction and guidelines for school bus ridership should be consistent throughout the Province. The Pupil Transportation Unit should be taking the leadership role in this regard providing the necessary directions and assistance to all Manitoba school divisions.

## **RESOLUTION:**

**CATEGORY: EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**TITLE: MANITOBA LIQUOR CONTROL  
COMMISSION CONTRIBUTION**

**SPONSORING DIVISION: BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT MSBA petition the Manitoba Government to require the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission to commit funds to the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba on an annual basis to support counselling services for Manitoba public school students.

### **Comments:**

During the past year the fee assessed to public schools for counselling services provided by the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba has increased from \$3,500 to \$7,500 per day for a years service. This is a significant increase for school divisions. AFM has advised that although funding support is received from the Manitoba Lotteries Commission no such funding support from the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission is provided. It is considered that support from MLCC should be provided to assist with these health related addiction counselling services in Manitoba schools to offset the downloading of societal health costs to education.

## **RESOLUTION:**

**CATEGORY: EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**TITLE: ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP –  
FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION AUTHORITY**

**SPONSORING DIVISION: BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT First Nations Education Authorities be allowed to become Associate Members in MSBA.

### **Comments:**

The provision of appropriate education to First Nations students throughout the Province is an important priority for all levels of government. The cooperation between Public Schools Boards and First Nations Education Authorities could contribute to this matter. It is felt that First Nations Education Authorities should be provided the opportunity to join our Association as Associate Members.