



Beautiful Plains Teachers' Association

Wednesday, December 6th, 2023

4:30 pm at NMS

In attendance: Allen Hanke (HMK)

Loretta Keller (HMK)

Dale Swanton (NACI)

Gary Salmon (CC)

Marina Cewick (NMS)

Kerry Turner (NACI)

Robyn Forsman (Brookdale)

Alexa Hulme (Twilight)

Laurie Robson (RJW)

Regrets: Julie Van Kommer (DO), Michelle Kolbe (NMS),

Denise Selewich (NMS), Hylin McLaren (HMK), Brent Boyle (CC)

1. Call to Order - 4:37 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Laurie and seconded by Dale that the agenda be accepted as amended.

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Moved by Dale and seconded by Kerry that the minutes for November 2023 be accepted as amended.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from Minutes

a) Executive members are to email Gary if you will be missing school for BPTA/MTS business.

There have been 2 days used as of November 1st.

b) Provincial Council: May 23, 24, and 25th

Delegates and alternates to be decided.

5. Board Meetings Previously Attended

a) Nov 7 – Allen - board package provided

b) Nov 21 – Loretta – board package provided

c) Dec 5 – Mikki

6. Treasurer's Report – Robyn Forsman

Motion: Moved by Robyn and seconded by Laurie that the Treasurer's report for November be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

7. **President's Report** - Allen Hanke

Proper protocol for attending the BPSD board meetings as a representative of BPTA, was reviewed as a group. (as per Allen's Nov. 8th email)

Al gave an update on MTS staff officers that are on leave or have returned to work.

8. **Committee Reports**

a. **Collective Bargaining** – Gary Salmon

No report

Gary attended the Divisional Accessibilities Committee meeting and provided a short summary of topics and policies discussed at the meeting .

b. **Professional Development** – Julie Van Kommer and Loretta Keller

Loretta attended the Fall Seminar in Winnipeg on November 3rd and 4th.

Topics included :

1. Advocacy and Facilitation – The Role of the PD Chair.
2. PD Chair Panel – 4 PD Chairs shared how their Local Association's PD committee builds awareness regarding the variety of PD teachers have attended.
3. PD – What's FRAME Got to Do With it? With Nadine Peters – MTS Economic Analyst
4. Engaging Learning and Engagement Through the Power of AI in Education – Kristen Thompson
5. Regional Meetings
6. A facilitated discussion about two Society Initiatives – The Secret Path and Resistance on the Giimooch – Sarah Gazan, MTS Staff Officer
7. Leading a High Functioning Team
8. Everyone has a role to play: Preventing Extremism and Radicalization Begins in School – Linda Mlodzinski (project coordinator of the Extremism and Radicalization to Violence Prevention Project (ERiM)
BOOK provided.

The divisional PD meeting was held on November 20th at the Division Office.

Plans for the February PD days were finalized.

February 12th and 13th – Treaty Education Training, Yellowhead Hall in Neepawa.

The 12th is for all the BPSD staff and the 13th is just for the teachers. There is a survey that is to be filled out by all staff before the in service. The link is attached to the poster that is being shared.

Planning has begun for the 2024/25 school year in services.

Mileage will remain at \$0.25/km for the 23/24 year.

The next meeting is on February 5th. at 4:30 p.m. at the Division Office

c. **Equity & Social Justice** – Denise Selewich and Alexa Hulme

Alexa attended the Fall Seminar on November 17th and 18th in Winnipeg. She is working on a newsletter to give out in the new year. The provincial group is working on creating a spot for teachers to share resources. Money has been allocated to each association. How the money will be used is to be decided.

d. Liaison - Allen Hanke

No report

e. Workplace Safety & Health - Kerry Turner

(submitted report)

The Division WSH meeting was on Dec. 5, 2023 via ZOOM. Topics of discussion:

1. **Bulletin boards in classrooms and hallways should have only one layer of paper** – by covering the bulletin board with paper or plastic and then putting the posters/student work up, that is considered 2 layers – clarification on this topic was provided to BPTA by the Division Office from MSBA.
2. WSH bulletin boards in staffrooms or workrooms – **updated safety bulletins will be distributed by the Division Office to all schools**
3. The next **WSH Training day offered by MTS & MSBA for Supervisors/Admin - School Principals & Vice-Principals/ Other School & Divisional Supervisors is on Thursday, February 15, 2024** – either in-person at McMaster House or virtual
4. **Reminder to report (and document) all concerns to your school's WSH rep or admin.** or, direct your questions or concerns to Allen Hanke (president), an MTS staff officer or myself, Kerry Turner (BPTA WSH Chair).

f. Education Finance - Dale Swanton

BPTA Education Finance Report (submitted)

MTS Education Finance meeting was in Winnipeg on November 4, 2023. There was discussion on educational funding and progress on a new funding model. This has been in progress since December 2021. The lead person from the government has recently resigned for another job. According to the provincial government, the last two actual FRAME documents are yet to be completed. As a result, the documents are not available. BPSD does have actuals though at this time and reported such at a recent BPSD Board Meeting.

There was a discussion on pros and cons of block funding versus grant funding. Block funding

- While it is more flexible and responsive to needs, there is more accountability put on school divisions as the decision makers compared to grant funding. With this shift in power given to school divisions, accountability becomes more prevalent.
- There is variability between divisions on how this money is spent.

Grant funding is:

- Considered more rigid, requires more reporting, and has a slower response time in getting the money compared to block funding.
- More consistent and targeted. Reduces variability between divisions.

There was also a discussion on cost-based vs enrollment-based funding. The presenter stated that if a division is having declining enrollment it is more damaging to a rural division vs city division.

An info graph was provided outlining Hanover School Division 2023-2024 Final Budget. The budget total expenditures are \$105,871,000. Total reductions or budget cuts are \$2,693,400. This included cutting 10.5 teaching positions. Student enrollment was to go up 279 students from 7935

to 8214. Noted was, that with this increased enrollment it equated to 15 FTE that were unable to be added for growth.

The afternoon portion focus was on P3 funding (**Private-Public Partnership**) of schools under construction. Governments like P3 funding because the capital investment does not appear on the government balance sheet. It is important to note expenditures such as this is mostly a concern if government debt rises to an amount that would affect their credit rating.

Since the MTS education finance meeting, Premier Kinew said the NDP prefers the traditional construction model, which sees government pay for construction and amortize capital costs are paid over decades. The 2027 proposed deadline for the build of the nine P3 schools is under review in the province. This includes funding regardless if the construction is P3 or public funded. This will effect timelines.

The NDP education minister is to bring in P3 legislation with more rules to protect schools. The provincial NDP government passed similar legislation (Public-Private Partnerships Transparency and Accountability Act) in 2012. The provincial Conservative government eliminated (repealed) this legislation in 2017. The bill included a preliminary analysis of the costs and benefits, public consultation, and a report from the public sector entity.

The possible concerns identified in the presentation for P3 funding vs provincial government funding include:

1. P3s are more expensive: governments borrow at lower rates than the private sector
2. Higher transaction costs
(SK spent 4X on maintenance of P3 schools)
3. Risks not transferred
(if company goes bankrupt - government has to step in, design flaws on a SK hospital meant it couldn't be used as planned, Hamilton P3 water system 135 million liters of raw sewage, quality of construction related to agreement when government takes over the school)
4. Lack of transparency with P3 contracts
(P3 numbers for cost have been redacted in reports released by various provincial governments in other provinces)
5. Local employment and social procurement at risk in P3s
(no benefits to community with local hiring, and workers in unionized jobs to build school)

MTS pointed out cost and building quality are important questions. Teacher focus, regarding questions, may be more related to the affect a P3 school may have on them. Knowing such things as:

- how a P3 vs public funded build may be more restrictive
(use of gym after school hours)
- should we expect less maintenance
(painting or fixing things deemed not important) and
- will it impact what a teacher can and cannot do in the classroom

These are a sample of possible questions.

Solutions shared included:

- Require independent value for money assessment of all proposed P3s
- Reinstate the Public-Private Partnerships Transparency and Accountability Act

g. Indigenous Education Issues - Michelle Kolbe (absent)

(Submitted report)

BPTA Indigenous Voice and Action Chair Fall Seminar Report

November 24 and 25, 2023

Winnipeg, Manitoba

By: Michelle Kolbe, Indigenous Voice and Action Chair, BPTA

I attended the Indigenous Voice and Action Chairs' Fall Seminar on Nov. 24 and 25, 2023.
The topics presented were:

1. Nehtho Law and Sovereignty, presented by Sylvia McAdam
2. Anishinabe Law and Sovereignty, presented by Dawnis Kennedy
3. Skirting Around Colonialism, presented by Sylvia McAdam
4. Group work collaboration of Indigenous Chairs to create an Indigenous Specific Racism Anti-Racism Protocol resource for MTS teachers, facilitated by Sheila MacLean
5. Red Dress Making initiative, hosted by Sarah Gazan, MTS
6. Wellness Workshop (Indigenous concept-based) hosted by Virginia Birch

The main focus of these 2 days were for Indigenous Chairs to be able to learn, listen, participate and collaborate about the themes presented.

h. Public Relations – Brent Boyle (absent)

No report

i. Employee Benefits – Hylin McLaren (absent)

No report

j. Wellness – Marina Cewick

No report

9. New Business

No new business

10. Upcoming Board Coverage

Dec 19 – Gary

Jan 2 – no meeting

Jan 16 – Hylin

Feb 6 - Loretta

Feb 20 - Mikki

Mar 5 - Kerry

Mar 19 - Brent

Apr 2 - Robyn

Apr 16 - Alexa
May 7 - Denise
May 21 - Dale
Jun 4 - Allen
Jun 18 – Kerry

11. Next Meeting- Wednesday, January 10th, 2024, 4:30 pm at NMS

12. Adjournment 5:37 p.m.