

5. Correspondence (circulated)

6. Treasurer's Report

Motion: Moved by Robyn and seconded by Peter that the treasurer's report for January be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Motion: Moved by Robyn and seconded by Kerry that the treasurer's report for February be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

7. President's Report-Heather Brister

No report

8. Board Coverage Report

February 16-Justine

9. Committee Reports

a. Collective Bargaining-Kelvin Hollier

No report

b. Professional Development-Val Parayeski & Trish James

See attached

c. Equity & Social Justice-Denise Selewich

See attached

d. Liaison-Heather Brister

No report

e. Workplace Safety & Health-Kerry Turner

See attached

f. Education Finance-Mike Adams

See attached

g. Indigenous Education Issues-Michelle Kolbe

See attached

h. Public Relations-vacant

i. Employee Benefits-Peter Reid

No report

j. Wellness-Ashlee Plett

No report

10. New Business

a. MTS Provincial Council - Delegates

The executive will let Heather know if they would like to attend.

b. Staff Mental Health

The executive discussed ways to support staff mental health and well being. This is a possible Liaison topic.

11. Board Coverage Report

March 16 Micki

April 20 Val

May 18 Robyn

June 15 Kelvin

12. Next Meeting-Wednesday, April 7 @ 4:15 (zoom)

13. Adjournment - 5:30 p.m.

****See attached reports below****

ESJ Report-March 2021

Welcoming Remarks - James Bedford

Karen Ebanks - No Justice, No Peace

Racism, Discrimination and Oppression Conversations Unions/Associations/Schools

Does our union/association train teachers on how to navigate conflict between students based on racism, discrimination and oppression?

Does our union/association navigate member to member conflict based on racism, discrimination and oppression?

Feb. 6, 2021

WSH Winter Seminar via ZOOM

Regional meetings: Most of the concerns focused on **members' mental health** due to the various school teaching models (blended / alternating days, dual-plex or tri-plex models, every-third day, remote teaching at the same time as in-class, remote teaching via ZOOM or Google Meet in the evenings), member burn-out and feelings of isolation (not taking sick days / personal days due to sub shortage, no breaks during the day or evening, no breaks in between classes - teachers are going from one ZOOM / Google Meet to the next), added anxiety / stress waiting to hear about the Education Review from the government. Other concerns focused on issues in regards to the new Covid variants and how this would affect members / schools (new rules to follow and implement, close contacts and new rules, continuing remote learning for how long), cleaning product usage (were members properly trained depending on the product), sanitizing chemicals and their effect on members, cloths used to wipe down teacher and student desks must be switched out three or more times a day (preferably after every class in high schools, early and middle years throughout the day).

Presentations: **Life Speak** presented their library of online videos that deal with many aspects of mental health, physical health, and nutritional health. This website is available for members and their family.

I will attend the divisional workplace safety and health meeting on Tuesday, March 9.

How can our members access LifeSpeak?

- ▶ MTS' unique URL and Password
 - URL: <https://mbteach.lifespeak.com>
 - Client Password: MTSBalance
- ▶ MTS' Website
 - Access the LifeSpeak platform from the Health & Benefits section of the MTS website
- ▶ Monthly & Custom Communications
 - [Sign up to get LifeSpeak communications to the inbox of your choice!](#)
- ▶ On the LifeSpeak App
 - Client Name: mbteach
 - Client Password: MTSBalance
- ▶ Download the LifeSpeak App now!



MTS Indigenous Chair Winter Seminar-February 26, 2021

Overview

The MTS Indigenous Chair Virtual Winter Seminar took place on Feb. 26, 2021 via Zoom. The day consisted of three components, keynote message: “No Justice, No Peace”, by Karen EBanks, staff wellness and the bi-annual Indigenous chair’s meeting in Breakout room collaborative opportunities. Goals of this conference were for MTS representatives of the Indigenous Chair positions to talk openly about racism, social justice, First Nations topics, moving forward in fairness and equity. This conference was divided into different components. Staff wellness specialized in workshops of yoga, meditation and First Nations wellness themes that provided chairs the opportunity to engage in self-care and reflection. The end of the day focused on the collaborative idea-sharing meetings Indigenous Chair representatives Breakout rooms and sharing.

Keynote

Karen EBanks, keynote speaker shared her message, “No Justice, No Peace”. Themes of combating racism in different areas such as union, staff and school were discussed in this narrative. Breakout rooms provided members a chance to talk about how to work with discrimination, as well as how to move forward with inclusivity.

Breakout rooms were provided for representatives to collaborate and share ideas with support from the keynote speaker and MTS coordinators.

Wellness Workshop- Elder Chickadee Richard

I attended the First Nations Wellness session with speaker, Elder Chickadee Richard. This was structured as a virtual sharing session, with members being offered to share messages they would take away. Elder Chickadee Richard shared themes of life balance, anger management, self-control, spirituality and identity. The spirit of wellness offered members a chance to connect on a personal level.

Indigenous Chair Breakout Session

The Indigenous Chair virtual session provided a platform for the goal of collaborating with colleagues to gather information and share ideas. Teacher recruitment and attrition of new First Nations teachers were discussed. Another focus was for Indigenous Chairs to share ideas of moving forward with positive representation for their school divisions.

Report written by: Michelle Kolbe, Indigenous chair, BPTA