



Beautiful Plains Teachers' Association
Wednesday, March 1st, 2023
Neepawa Middle School – 4:30 p.m.

In attendance: Allen Hanke (HMK)

Loretta Keller (HMK)

Val Parayeski (NMS)

Denise Selewich (NMS)

Kerry Turner (NACI)

Dale Swanton (NACI)

Robyn Forsman (Brookdale)

Gary Salmon (CC)

Trish James (JM Young)

Michelle Kolbe (NMS)

Alexa Hulme – Twilight

Blair McIntosh (RJ Waugh)

Peter Reid (NACI)

Regrets: Kelvin Hollier (NACI), Ashlee Plett (HMK), Brent Boyle (CC)

1. Call to Order - 4:32 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Moved by Gary and seconded by Kerry that the agenda be accepted as amended.

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Moved by Trish and seconded by Gary that the minutes for February 2023 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from Minutes

a) Public Relations – No other members have shown interest in this position. Brent will be appointed the PR chairperson for the remainder of the year.

b) BPTA/Board supper – possible topics were discussed.

- Indigenous Education - Micki gave a short presentation on possible challenges for indigenous education moving forward. The executive was asked to go back and find out what is being used and done in the schools on this topic.
- Social Media - Gary provided information on how to work with the board on best practices to educate our students about navigating correct and incorrect information on the internet. As well as the influence of social media.
- New Attendance document - It was decided we would not explore the new attendance document as a topic at this time. Allen will send out the document to all the members.

c) Request from Arts Forward for the Sept 29th, 2023 Cultural Day

MOTION: Moved by Gary and seconded by Trish that a donation of \$600.00 be made to Arts Forward, as requested in their letter of January 19, 2023, to help cover costs of the Cultural Day held on September 29th, 2023.

Carried

- d) Orientation with new teachers regarding MTS/BPTA services and a reminder for all teachers; encouragement to contact staff officers if they need advice about an issue and what that might look like.
- The executive will look at creating a pamphlet to out at the New Teacher Orientation in August of each year.

Board Meetings Previously Attended

Feb 7th – Gary

Feb 21st – Loretta

Paper packages and a short summary was given from each meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report – Robyn Forsman

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

CARRIED

6. President's Report - Allen Hanke

- Provincial Executive meetings are coming up in March and April. There are a few SW presidents meeting in Brandon to be virtual observers from the BTA office. With association days in somewhat short supply, I am not planning to attend. We get minutes sent out after the meeting - will rely on SW colleagues to bring forward any major issues/discussions that may not be fully represented in the minutes.

- Upcoming President's Council meeting in April

- A concern was brought forward regarding extra-curricular hours and the limitations on what qualifies. This is a negotiated item, and thus there is nothing we are able to do with it as MTS is currently bargaining provincially

- Over the coming weeks, our Teacher Welfare (TW) department will be piloting an updated triage process for members requiring the assistance of a Staff Officer (SO). Your assistance as a

president will help us with this implementation. We ask that in your role as president, you assist us by doing the following two things:

- Continue to refer members requiring SO support to our TW Department by way of our TW direct department line (204-831-3055) (1-866-494-5747)
- Forward any feedback you receive from members related to our service delivery model to the TW Dept. Head (afilewich@mbteach.org). Your eyes and ears help keep us informed of issues as they arise.

7. Committee Reports

a. Collective Bargaining - Kelvin Hollier (absent)

Report submitted - The MTS and Provincial body have both exchanged packages (proposals) and have had at least 2 – two day bargaining sessions. If I had to guess, I would think that there may have been some in February as well. PX and PBC are meeting this Friday and local associations will be updated with a solidarity letter and members will be notified of the progress of the provincial bargaining protocol shortly thereafter. We should probably hear something before the end of March as to where the process is at. As of today, (could change) there is no plan to have a spring provincial bargaining meeting with local associations.

b. Professional Development - Val Parayeski & Trish James

- The PD committee is in the process of planning our two divisional in-services for 2023-2024.
- Our first divisional in-service will be on Tuesday, October 3rd. This will be an entire division in-service. It will be held in Neepawa at NACI in the gym. A variety of possible presenter names have been brought forward.
- Our second divisional in-service will be held on Monday, February 12th and Tuesday, February 13th. It is the two day Indigenous Treaty Education Training. It will be in Carberry. It will be for teachers and admin only.
- If any teachers have any feedback about the break- out sessions at the February 2023 in-service, please forward them to Val, Trish, or anyone on the PD committee.
- The spring regional PD meeting will be in Brandon on May 10th.
- The next PD meeting will be on Monday, March 6th by zoom.

c. Equity & Social Justice - Denise Selewich

- A newsletter will be sent out to all the members with the latest information. Teachers are encouraged to share all they are doing regarding this topic.

d. Liaison - Allen Hanke

- No report

e. Workplace Safety & Health - Kerry Turner

Feb. 4, 2023 WSH Winter Seminar in Winnipeg

Presenters were Dr. Jennifer E. Lawson and Richelle North Star Scott. Co-authors of the book Teacher, Take Care. Talked about educator well-being and workplace wellness.

The framework of the book is based on the Sacred Hoop in recognition of Indigenous Knowledge and perspectives. The presenters explained the 4 directions of the Sacred Hoop: spiritual, physical, emotional, mental. Each chapter in the book addresses one or all of the four directions. The presenters discussed how this book will help a person to explore wellness from a holistic perspective – that one should consider their own physical, emotional, mental and spiritual directions of their life-work balance. I have a copy of the book if anyone would like to sign it out.



Regional Meetings were in the afternoon. Discussions were about school inspection checklists that each division is using – WSH is trying to put together a common document for all divisions. Another topic was the lack of incident reporting – members are not being provided the information or being encouraged to report all incidents (violence/harassment/injury)

March 7 – Divisional WSH meeting at 1:15 via zoom. If there are any topics/concerns you would like brought forward please pass this on to your school WSH rep or to me (Kerry Turner)

f. Education Finance - Dale Swanton

- There is a meeting in Winnipeg on March 11th.

g. Indigenous Education Issues - Michelle Kolbe

BPTA Indigenous Chair Report: Indigenous Voice and Action Chair's Winter Seminar

February 24 & 25, 2023, MTS, McMaster House, Winnipeg, MB

Michelle Kolbe, M. Ed

Indigenous Voice and Action Chair, BPTA

I attended the Indigenous Voice and Action Chair's Winter Seminar on Feb. 24 and 25 2023. Dr. Sheelah McLean's keynote address of "decolonizing education" and "anti-racism" established an overarching theme in all workshops. Indigenous Chair participants, MTS members and Dr. McLean worked together to analyze the foundations of racism and talk about anti-racist strategies, experiences and discourse using the WAVES and Care discussion models. Additional materials provided to participants included: Schick and St. Denis (2003) "*What Makes Anti-racist Pedagogy in Teacher Education Difficult? Three Popular Ideological Assumptions*", Dr. Amy Tan's (2016) "*Power and Privilege in Canada*", Gorksi's (2016) "*Ten Commitments for Equity-Literate Educators*" and Wilson's (2021) "*Nine practices that perpetuate racism*". These resources supported anti-racism and equity themes.

Land-based learning, with teaching hosts from Mystery Lake School Division were presented on Saturday, February, 25, 2022.. This session offered insight into creative and traditional ways of teaching, in which Mystery Lake School Division connects with students. Indigenous perspectives and numeracy were the main themes of this workshop. Educators and support staff facilitators discussed ideas of starting up, hosting Mystery Lake, and Indigenous-inclusive child-centered programming.

h. Public Relations

i. Employee Benefits - Peter Reid

- No report

j. Wellness - Ashlee Plett (absent)

- No Report

8. New Business

- a) Delegates for Provincial Council in May 24-26 in Wpg; delegate list due March 31st; 3 delegates; 2 rooms assigned (can request extras - letter from Brandon); can send alternates as well
 - Allen, Gary, and Micki will attend as delegates. Blair and Val will be considered as alternates.
- b) BTA Resolution re: MTS picking up cost for one alternate of small associations
 - BPTA will be a seconder on the resolution.

c) Scholarships - NACI request
BPTA will continue to contribute to scholarships in the same way as previously done.

c) Pensions – Val provided information from the retirement seminar she attended. Teachers are encouraged to become educated on what retirement will look like for them in the future.

d) Taxable – Box 40 on paystubs – further discussion at the April meeting.

9. Board Coverage

Mar. 7th - Allen

Mar. 21st -Kerry

Apr. 4th - Micki

Apr. 18th - Brent

May 2nd - Robin

May 16th - Peter

June 6th - Denise

June 20th - Kerry

10. Next Meeting- Wednesday, April 5th, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. – Carberry Collegiate

11. Adjournment – 6:20 p.m.

