
Strong today
Stronger tomorrow

**Strongest
Together**

MANITOBA

School Boards
ASSOCIATION

58th Annual Convention

Friday, March 11, 2022
Virtual Event

2022 Record of Proceedings



mbschoolboards.ca

Record of Proceedings
Manitoba School Boards Association
58th Annual Convention
Friday, March 11, 2022
(Virtual Meeting)

8:45 a.m. Call to Order and Welcome—President **Alan Campbell**

9:05 a.m. Final Call for Nominations—**Floyd Martens, Chair**

Sandra Lethbridge, St. James-Assiniboia S.D. was acclaimed as Vice-President (greater than 6000 students).

Charlene Gulak, Mountain View S.D. was acclaimed Region 1 Director.

Elections to be held for the position of Region 3 Director and Region 5 Director (one position).

9:15 a.m. CSBA Greetings—**Laurie French**, President (pre-recorded)

9:20 a.m. President’s Address—**Alan Campbell**

9:55 a.m. Greetings from Education and Early Childhood Learning—the **Hon. Wayne Ewasko**

10:00 a.m. Keynote Panel Presentation—**Building the Future of Education** (pre-recorded):

- **Lesley Eblie Trudel**, Associate Dean of Education, University of Winnipeg, and former Superintendent of Sunrise S.D.,
- **Luanne Karn**, from Parents for Public Education in Manitoba, and
- **Brie Villeneuve**, Grade 12 student.

Moderator—**Todd Cuddington**, Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer, Portage la Prairie S.D.

11:00 a.m. Executive Director’s Address—**Josh Watt**

11:25 a.m. Regional Elections (conducted by Zoom poll)

Region 3 Candidates:

- **Penny Helgason**, Evergreen S.D.
- **Paul Magnan**, Sunrise S.D.

A Zoom poll was launched. **Paul Magnan** was declared elected as Region 3 Director.

Region 5 Candidates:

- **Craig Glennie**, St. James-Assiniboia S.D.
- **Sandy Nemeth**, Louis Riel S.D.

A Zoom poll was launched. **Sandy Nemeth** was declared elected as Region 5 Director.

12:10 p.m. Resolutions Debate—**Garry Draper**, Chair

12:40 p.m. Presentation of Recognition Awards (pre-recorded). No Student Citizenship Awards were presented in 2022.

Presidents' Council—**Rose Kimani**, nominated by Winnipeg S.D.

Trustee Long Service (12 years):

- **Donna Calvert**, Frontier S.D.
- **Derek Dabee**, Seven Oaks S.D.
- **Helen Jerney**, Lakeshore S.D.
- **Amy Hopper**, Kelsey S.D.

Retiring Executive:

- **Chris Broughton**, Winnipeg S.D. (2020-2021)
- **Vaughn Wadelius**, Kelsey S.D. (2019-2021)

12:51 p.m. Adjournment—**Alan Campbell**

1:00 p.m. 2022-2023 Provincial Executive Meeting

Alan Campbell, President's Address
Mar. 11, 2022

Welcome again everyone to this Convention and Annual General Meeting.

For the record, I hate doing these addresses virtually. So it's very difficult for me to prepare anything for it because I can't. The prospect of just reading from a speech like this, the whole time, and trying to do this is not appealing. For two virtual conventions in a row, they've given me a 10 minute window and I've blown it out of the water by 25 or 30 minutes, so I really am hoping not to do that today!

We have we have so much to be optimistic about. And at the same time, so much to be careful about as we move forward.

The theme of this year's convention has come up a couple times already, this morning, "strong today, stronger tomorrow, strongest together." I raise this because it informs my remarks here this morning. As much as I don't like reliving the events of the last year or certainly the events in the week that led up to our convention last year, which, of course, was the announcement of Bill 64— I think it's really important for us to recall what exactly has transpired, since our last annual general meeting. I'm not going to do a forensic walk through but I'm going to try to draw a contrast from where we were. From the strength that we had at the time, to the strength that we have today. And why we have good reason to believe in our increased strength going forward.

So first, from one year ago, a quote.

"We don't need trustees now because there's not going to be the need for bargaining. Because we're going to centralize bargaining so that teachers don't have to spend their time out of class going and negotiating with trustees on their wages in dozens of different school divisions..." The quote goes on, "...and secondly tax setting on education will no longer be done at the local level." And he goes on in the same press announcement "...keeping school trustees to train them to become city councillors in Winnipeg or MLAs is not a smart use of money. We'll take the millions of dollars, that we'll save and we'll move it to the schools to the teachers and the children on the front line, that way our system will work better for our kids. If the solution to having a better education system was to have more trustees and more superintendents, then Manitoba is already doing that, yet it is in last place." That "wisdom" was from former Premier of Manitoba Brian Pallister on March 15 2021.

And that, in a nutshell, in a very infuriating nutshell, was the plan. The plan was to tell Manitobans what he thought Manitoba wanted to hear— that school boards, senior administration teams, and indeed school divisions as a whole, would be gone. They wouldn't be amalgamated they wouldn't be reduced, they wouldn't be streamlined, they would be gone. Despite the fact that the K to 12 Education Review Commission recommended none of that. None of that elimination piece. But that was the plan and starting on March 15 of 2021 until the fall of the same year, that is what Manitoba was fed by our provincial government.

The plan was to ram that legislation through in spring of 2021 in the spring, sitting of the legislature, 10 days after the Premier's comments about why getting rid of school trustees and getting rid of school boards— as MLA and city councillor training grounds— was going to help frontline education funding.

The question of the existence of school boards— of nonpartisan school boards— became an entirely partisan affair, because 10 days after the then Premier made those comments, the Opposition delayed Bill 64 until the fall sitting. I include reference to this in these remarks, not as an endorsement of any kind for the Opposition. But it is a statement of fact and the partisan political move by Her Majesty's Official Opposition to delay the Bill remains perhaps one of the single most important moves that enabled the fall of Bill 64. It was very important to the fight that we were about to launch.

As with most things, making the fight against Bill 64, in such a partisan context, did not make it pleasant. As I've talked about a number of times, the nonpartisan nature of school boards– and I know I'm not alone in this– is one of my very favourite parts about being a school board trustee. We are not tied down if any party of any stripe wants to do anything that is to the detriment of public education and local voice. We can go up against them because we're not tied to anyone.

So when this fight against Bill 64 became defined by the stubborn push by the executive branch of the government and the very public push against Bill 64 by the Opposition, we were stuck in the middle. Because for us, even though we were fighting for our existence and, as great as it was to see incredible enthusiasm from grassroots organizations and from grassroots individual amount of Manitobans, we remained in the very challenging position where, if we were successful in beating down Bill 64, we would still need to work productively with the government.

I want to clarify that we would take the exact same position and engage in the exact same advocacy if it were any party leading the Government. And this is difficult because we need to work with them at all times– maintaining balance. The need to maintain that relationship is what I now want to focus because wanting to focus on a little bit because we have succeeded in that aim.

I look back on some of the social media traffic and some of the media availabilities that myself and other school board representatives had. And we didn't hold back. Certainly not against the then Minister of Education, Cliff Cullen, and certainly not against then Premier Brian Pallister. Because there was just a never ending supply of ridiculous commentary and misinformation and half– or non truths– every day, that deserved response, even though this became perceived by government as an attack the credibility of their plan. As the fight got more heated, the divide got deeper.

I'll say we live in a world now, in March of 2022, where that fight in many ways, seems like a distant memory. Because there's another divide in our society that is far deeper and far more troublesome because it's been created by the pandemic. It's between citizens on one side of a very deep divide and citizens, on the other, and I won't get into that, but of course I'm referring to the very strong positions in our communities about public health mandates and about vaccination and about masks.

The divide that we saw this summer and had nothing to do with this citizen versus citizen dynamic. The divide was everyone literally everyone against the few supporters of Bill 64– and there were a handful of those, because Josh and I were the subject of many, many, many, many, many social media attacks by trolls who remained, for the most part anonymous or under some alias– but whom, when it came to the public discourse, emerged as the most ardent government backers.

You'd be hard pressed to find a Bill 64 supporter among most of those who support the government, so the divide increasingly became between our communities and the Government itself. Yet again, we found ourselves in a challenging situation with “us” being on the side of our communities, while on the other side of that divide, lay the Government. This is not a place we chose, and not one we can live sustainably. It's not a place where we can just continue to fight back and fight back and push and push, and then somehow hope to move forward productively with our government.

So, as we made our way to the fall of 2021 we had political rhetoric from both sides. We had the need for us to protect our future relationships for this association and for you, our member boards. We appreciate that those relationships need to continue to be amended and they need to continue to be productive. In spite of what needed to be disputed and challenged by us publicly when spokespersons for Government made ludicrous remarks on social media and in local community newspapers around Bill 64 and its implementation strategy, we now need to move forward with these representatives on a productive and positive footing.

So, these past few months, we have been working through that.

I am pleased to underscore that we have had extremely positive conversations with new Minister of Education Wayne Ewasko and, one to one, he has found a number of times to reach out by phone. He has, for the first time in a long time, sat down with board chairs in an extremely productive conversation— introductory conversation— between him and his partners in education and with us as school boards.

On March 7 of this year, the Winnipeg Free Press quoted Minister Ewasko— “As elected officials school boards and trustees are charged with decision making that addresses their local needs, including if they choose to continue requiring the use of masks. As elected officials school boards and trustees are charged with decision making that addresses their local needs.”

That quote from a Minister of Education or frankly any Minister of the Crown in this province was unfathomable a year ago, maybe two years ago, as we continued to wait with bated breath about what the K to 12 review was going to bring. So that is where we are now.

Yesterday, Superintendents, Secretary Treasures and the leadership from MSBA attended an education partners meeting, where we learned more details on the plans moving forward to wind down pandemic safety measures. Connected to what the Minister said about local board autonomy, when it comes to keeping masked mandates, for example, we learned more of those details about what our “return to normalcy” will look like, before the end of this school year. While I'm very cognizant of our collective trepidation that such return to normalcy could lead to fifth or sixth pandemic wave, my impression is that we all, somewhat and to various extents, believe that we really could get back to normal.

Following our role in defeating Bill 64 and coordinating the significant pandemic response, it's time for your association to refocus. Get back to what it is we need to focus on for you, for our schools, for our community and for our education system. And it's time for you, our boards, to refocus. To take that positive, respectful engaged approach about all things non-pandemic and work to move forward. I don't say that, as if everything gets back to normal in our world because, whether it's the lingering aftershocks of Bill 64 or in any step of the way forward, there is no “old way” of doing many things that we used to do.

You know that, and I know that.

At the same time, there are many positive things that we can continue to build on, that we need to face head on productively and respectfully and with the best interest of students in mind. Let me be clear here. Central teacher bargaining, and the government's plans to phase out local taxation, do not spell the end of meaningful trusteeship in Manitoba. And if there is an impression around your board table that they do, then you have tough decisions to have to make, and you have tough discussions to have. You heard from Laurie French this morning, representing the Canadian School Board Association, where there are 10 provinces represented, and I'm here to tell you that we were the only one left that has those things, and yet all of the other provinces— all of the other provinces— continue to have meaningful trusteeship.

Is the ground shifting? Yes. Is there opportunity for us to impact what central teacher bargaining and what a different taxation and education funding model will look like? Yes. That is where your attention needs to be focused— not the diminishment of your role, but the fact that we have the opportunity to be consulted and to be engaged and to work with a Minister who publicly states the importance of our local authority.

So, as we move forward on the education funding review— myself and my Vice Presidents— while we sit on the education funding review team, we drive the point home repeatedly and will continue to do so, that there is no funding model that can be considered unless it is adaptable and flexible.

To the local needs that local boards currently fund and, as you know, because I'm sure you all read the brief that we put forward to respond Bill 71— which is the legislation that phases out school property taxation— our

position remains that education funding in this province should be funded 80% by the Provincial Government by general coffers, whatever general coffers looks like nowadays, and 20% by local fund revenue. As we have explained and as I'm sure many of you have already explained during your consultations with the education funding review team's contractors, Leger and Steve Powers, is that the likelihood of having one central pot of money that will be flexible and adaptable enough to meet the array of local needs that are currently being supplemented by local school boards, is very unlikely.

So we continue to hold that position. I know that any of you that have met with Leger have already been told repeatedly by them that "we don't want to talk about where the money's coming from, we just want to talk about how it's going to be distributed." Yeah well, no. We need to talk about where the money's coming from as well, obviously where and how it's being distributed is the main objective when it comes to education funding and distribution of funds. So we would be remiss and we would be negligent if we, as the association representing many of you who rely on local funding for more than half of your revenue— we would be negligent if we did not push hard on maintaining that 20% average share of provincial education funding.

So we continue to do that, and you need to continue to do that to.

On central teacher bargaining— many of you who are lucky enough to have Justin Rempel as your Labour Relations Consultant in years past, are now are now going to be able to share him with all of us, as he takes on his lead role with the provincial teacher bargaining process. We will continue to engage and consult with each of you, to ensure that to the greatest extent possible— a term I never used before Covid!— to the greatest extent possible, that bargaining process will be reflective of what all boards are looking for. Will that process satisfy all of you know? Likely no, it won't. But nobody ever said it would. Our aim as your association is to fairly and equitably represent you and your interests within the framework provided under Bill 45— provincial legislation.

Many of you have made decisions, tough decisions, about the elections in the fall. Many of you haven't made decisions but might be thinking about changing what your life looks like, come the next round of trustee elections in October. Whether or not you are seeking re-election or not or retiring or stepping away from trusteeship— something you should think about, in my opinion, is that you have an obligation. To reach out to your community to ensure that people who are now more engaged than ever in your community, when it comes to the role of your local school board, are considering a run for a trustee spot on your board.

Again, this is not something you should just be thinking about. I believe you are obligated to do so and no, I am not talking to the board chairs alone! It is not enough to go through what we have gone through in the last year and then not take advantage of that opportunity to bring new, important underrepresented voices from our communities to the table.

Nicole Chaske's opening remarks about her life story and her role on her board is a shining example of what incredible engagement can look like and whether we're talking about members of Indigenous communities or newcomer communities or sections of our communities in rural or urban Manitoba which, for the first time, have members in them who have taken an interest in boards— we have to capitalize on that.

So please take that very seriously. If you don't think you have time to engage in the mentorship program I get it, I totally get it. If you do think you have time to engage in the MSBA mentorship program please, please do, and if you don't that's okay, too, but you don't have to engage in the MSBA mentorship program to reach out to one of your neighbours a few streets away, who took a stop bill 64 sign and planted it on their lawn for all to see. Have that conversation about whether or not they would consider running for election in the fall.

I want to take an opportunity to acknowledge the incredible heartbreak that plays out before our eyes in Ukraine every day. We are in this privileged position where we can come together, I think, 350 of us here today via Zoom virtual meeting. To a place of our choosing. To talk about what we're doing to fight for local democracy for public education.

And at the same time, many of us who are on this call, right now, have family in Ukraine, maybe not immediate family but for some of you may be immediate family or perhaps extended family, perhaps friends or neighbours who have family there. They have gone through the process of saying their goodbyes to relatives who are hunkered down because they don't know, if they're going to make it through the night.

So, to those of you that have close connections to Ukraine, we are all thinking about you and I'm sure doing as much as we can in support for the people of Ukraine. There are many, many opportunities and communities where people can get involved and contribute to those efforts. I speak for all of us when I say that one of the things that we are most proud of, are the countless examples where public schools have taken the lead on raising awareness about the conflict in Ukraine and raising awareness about what can be done locally to support both families of those in Ukraine and the people in Ukraine themselves.

So I wanted to highlight that as well, before I moved to my last item– which is just a note of sincere thanks, first of all to our Executive team. We had our traditional Thursday evening meeting before Convention last night and I gave my sincere thanks to the outgoing members of our Executive. Lena Kublick and Sherilyn Bambridge– both of them have completed their terms as regional directors, thank you to both of you.

When it comes to the Executive as a whole I want to say– Sherilyn shared with us last night that during her whole term there was not one in-person meeting with us, it was all virtual due to the pandemic– in spite of that incredible challenge, our group is extremely cohesive and extremely engaged and extremely willing to tell their President, when they think that we need to change course about something, which is appreciated. So thank you to our Executive.

Josh and his team are incredible, there are no real ways to say it, the pandemic has taken the role of our school board association and amplified it in ways that no one could have ever anticipated and, by extension, amplified the workload of our staff. Of Josh and his team and Josh's ability to delegate to different members of the team the work of pandemic response, with Bills 45, 64, and 71 thrown in between, has been incredible. Central bargaining and working with government to ensure that the role of MSBA is what it needs to be– in terms of what government and what school boards and what teachers need it to be, in time for the legislation to move forward, according to government's timeline. Those are not small things, those are big things on their own in a non-pandemic year. So on behalf of all of us, Josh and to your team, thank you.

To the senior administrators on the call. Thank you, I thank you in these addresses and on probably, to the point of annoyance for some of you, and that's too bad frankly! The work that you do in support of your local school division continues to be completely overshadowed.

When we talk in general about public education, I talked a little bit about mandates and about the different the challenges that exist in communities across this province. For some of you wading through what supporting your community looks like– supporting the operation of your school division in support of your community– we know that has been all consuming. I am confident, your boards are supporting you in the way that they need to but the work that you're doing will continue to be absolutely integral. As we move forward this morning I happen to know that many of you were on your probably 30th morning call this winter, determining whether or not schools should be closed. That's just one small example because now you'll go back to your email and you'll have 50 emails from people who thought you should have left schools open and another 50 people who have concerns about something else, in the midst of supporting your divisional staff. Of course it's also the 11th of March– budget development for many boards is still well underway– and that poses its own huge challenge for senior administration teams. So senior administration, thank you!

Finally, to members of our boards. If you are seeking reelection this fall, I am too, and I wish you the best of luck. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you, whether your term is ending in October or whether we're moving forward together.

What we have accomplished in the last year is incredible and we need to continue to move forward in the ways that I've talked about, so thank you very much.

It is now my pleasure, to invite for his remarks to us here today, the Honorable Wayne Ewasko, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning. I will turn it over to you, Minister Ewasko and welcome you here today.

Thanks everyone!

Josh Watt, Executive Director Address
Mar. 11, 2022

What a year it has been! Louis Riel once said that, though a community may be small, in its smallness it has its rights and no one community has greater rights than the rights of the small because the right is the same for everyone. Your efforts and advocacy certainly have affirmed our chief founder's avant garde vision for this province.

Truly and honestly, my sole reason for addressing you on this occasion is to express my thanks to you for taking a stand that has set an example for our continent to follow. Indeed, being tied in to the work of our southern neighbours, I can affirm that all eyes were on this province to see what would happen and your example will remain as a beacon when those who attempt to erode our democratic heritage and institutions arise once again to achieve the same.

In particular, I want to thank all those of you who are leaving the trusteeship— and it seems every day I learn of others who are making this difficult decision. Whatever your reason for doing so, together, I certainly hope you do so with your heads held high, recognizing that your service has occurred during some of the most challenging times faced by school boards in our province. As this is my last opportunity to address you prior to the fall elections, all I can and wanted to say on this occasion, is a heartfelt thank you.

At the same time that many trustees are departing, we also know that there are members of our senior leadership teams who will call 2022 their retirement year. Being hand in glove with what has occurred over these past two years, that you endured the high calling incumbent upon you during such trying times remains testament to your commitment to the cause of our students, staff, schools and communities. Again, all I can say is a genuine and authentic thank you.

There are four individuals in particular who I wish to thank as they depart from the fold.

Wayne Shimizu. I first met Wayne when appearing before the West Saint Paul Municipal Council and although we were there for very different reasons, I believe the purpose was essentially the same: to do our best to defend the cause of our school system and Wayne's words of affirmation following that episode certainly validated the track we were taking. However, beyond that occasion, I do believe that it is time to recognize Wayne as the driving spark behind the \$5.4M that our association shepherded on each of your behalves in respect of Climate Action Incentive Funding from 2020 to 2021. Had Wayne not alerted me to our rightful entitlement to these funds in the first place, we would not have seized the day to go directly to the Prime Minister's Office to take hold of these funds. While a small investment, every bit makes a difference and good things happened province-wide because of that initiative. As you enter your well deserved retirement Wayne, I hold up your example to all leaders as to the positive difference you can make if you choose to focus your efforts on doing so.

And in that respect, while I said I wanted to single out four individuals, I would really be remiss if I didn't repeat what I said three years ago to this audience in that, if you want expertise you go to your Barkman, not a Burgundy. So on that note, Kelly Barkman, if you are here, just know that the expertise I already acknowledged will be sorely missed.

Ted Fransen, my thanks to you for always sending your small, diplomatic, messages to provide compass. There is a certain art in being able to confer sage counsel in very few words but Ted, those times you did so, were of inestimable value.

Bart Michaelleski, your spirit of collaboration and partnership have always been appreciated. You always provided expert insight every occasion advice was sought from the field and I always knew that I didn't have the full and well-rounded perspective I needed, on so many matters, until your email appeared in my inbox. I truly wish you the best in your retirement.

Before I close, there are a few important announcements I wish to make. With Bill 64 being withdrawn in August and the future of this association in hand, it was time to proceed to the changes necessary to move our association further into the 21st century. With an eye on optimizing our resources to increase service to you, our members, while promoting greater efficiencies, several staffing changes have been made that will achieve these objects.

I am happy to announce that Morgan Whiteway is now Director of Labour Relations Services. For those of you who are board chairs, you know that Morgan has literally worked his tail off over the last one and a half years, through all things pandemic, on top of many of the labour relations issues that our association had to confront during such a trying and challenging period.

Morgan was certainly there every step of the way and, as I recently alerted to our executive, even during vacations and holidays. Morgan's steadfast dedication to the work of our association has been without parallel during this entire period. And so, to him a debt of gratitude on behalf of the Association, for all of the work that he has done while acting in that position, and now, my congratulations to him, as he moves into the permanent position.

Alan had mentioned that Justin has now moved into a new position, of Director of Human Resource Services and Provincial Bargaining and I believe many of you are aware of that, because Justin has had to pedal his bike up hill in a short span of time, to try and get a foundation laid for provincial bargaining.

I want to assure each of you that this first run of provincial bargaining will be our pilot experience upon which we will continue to build and refine our practice and model into the future. As with any adaptive change leadership process, many values, interests, institutions and ways of knowing and doing come into view. The goal is to promote the best interests of a system as diverse as ours, knowing that on the not so distant past, our national peers have all transitioned to the same centralized bargaining model. Our benefit is to avoid their mistakes and draw upon their lessons learned to create a made in Manitoba model that will work.

Janis Arnold has been promoted to Director of Governance and Professional Development Services. Janis came into this position as the Director of Education and Communications Services, following from Heather Demetriooff's retirement right before bill 64 hit, and I have to say, that Janis' leadership was again, without parallel.

My thanks to Janis for seemingly working 24/7 during that entire period, to make good things happen for you our members. For contributing her ingenuity and innovation to a successful campaign, and for truly leading a campaign that has now gained recognition continent wide and that continues to be in demand. As I believe Alan mentioned, he and I have again been invited to CSBA Congress this year to provide a presentation on what was achieved here in Manitoba and a lot of this recognition and appreciation, has to do with the work of our ECM team – not we least of which involved Janis at the helm.

Finally, Robyn Winters remains Chief Financial Officer of the Association but has expanded leadership over Risk Management and Insurance Services

Each of these staff commenced in their new duties effective February and I must say, the high expectations I have for our senior leadership team here at MSBA continue to be met each each and every day.

I am also pleased to announce the addition of two new Labour Relations Consultants who will commence duties starting April 11. Details announcing these new staff will be coming out soon.

Some of you will also have the pleasure of working with Pat Denovan, ever the consummate professional, who returned to MSBA January 11 on a six month term to extend a helping hand during this extraordinarily occupied period for our staff. Pat's graciousness in coming out of retirement to provide such critical support is a true gift and I want to thank her for agreeing to so serve!

Each and every member of MSBA's team has served with excellence during this pandemic and throughout the Local Voices, Local Choices campaign. Time does not permit me to acknowledge each and every one for all that they did but I do believe they know what they did and continue to do. There is an old French saying "une homme n'est jamais un héros dans les yeux de son valet." A man is never a hero in the eyes of his valet. I can only hope that my own service these past two years at least places me into the sidekick category, as the heroism here is truly shared by each of our staff members, and goes to everyone who rose to the occasions required of them, every day, every evening, every weekend, every vacation and every holiday. If there is another truth in that old French adage, it is that a man cannot get anywhere without those who drive the vehicle forward and in this respect, my team is truly Formula 1.

Finally, as this is the first occasion for me to address you following from all the events of this past year, I want to recognize the contributions and work of our President and Executive team.

It is always difficult to thank people who have dedicated so much of their personal lives to the service of our Executive. For those who, Alan has mentioned, are leaving the team, my sincere thanks and appreciation to you for your all of your dedication during this most busy time in the history of our association and not least of which, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge Alan himself.

When Alan started as President, I think you know that there was a very different context, and while there were grey clouds were on our horizon, I don't think anybody could have anticipated

the selflessness, the constant commitment, that would be required from our President— and I have to say that on a what is essentially a voluntary position, Alan has served almost full time. I want the membership to know that, because it speaks to everything that we were able to achieve and accomplish. Every single pandemic related meeting Alan was there. Every single time that the press called wanting a comment from the association— and there were a lot of them, especially with the onset of Bill 64— without fail Alan always rose to the occasion. Making time amidst his busy work and life schedule to acknowledge the realities of what we were facing, what you as school boards were facing in this province. I think more than anything, he has single-handedly raised the profile of this association just by virtue of the magnanimous personality that he brings to this office and so my sincere thanks to him, which is not nearly enough recognition and appreciation for all that he did and continues to do.

Those who are long serving may recall my inaugural address as Executive Director back in 2016. On that occasion, I concluded my remarks with a quote from one of the chief architects of North America’s system of public schools. Horace Mann, who served as first Secretary of the Massachusetts Common Schools Board, stated that a “man should be ashamed to die before he has made some small contribution to the cause of humanity.” You may recall that I recontextualized that quote as “a trustee should be ashamed to leave office before they have made some small contribution to humanity.”

And so, as each of you prepare for your future, whether or not we see your faces at the next general meeting of this association, I hope that you appreciate what I stated earlier. Every lawn sign you helped plant, every letter written, every person you encouraged to sign up for 64— the second largest public demonstration in the history of this province since the first women gained voting rights— every decision you made to keep staff, students and schools safe during one of our shared humanity’s greatest public health emergencies, each difficult budget option you have studied to promote sustainable programming, services and supports for our children, all of that, fulfills the high calling and vocation which was yours to see through as a democratically chosen, locally representative school trustee.

Together, based on our most recent public opinion research poll, you helped move the needle on the compass— as a result more Manitobans favour keeping local school boards to serve local communities. Far fewer Manitobans want to see larger school boards or heaven forbid, abolition of boards altogether. More Manitobans believe in electing rather than appointing school trustees than they did before 2018. A greater proportion of our people now strongly agree that it is their fundamental right to elect their local school trustee and a lesser number believe there are efficiencies to be gained from having the provincial government rather than elected citizens governing the public education system. And as you heard during the panel, over a third of Manitobans support what you did when flowing funds to support staff compensation, in spite of the challenges that have come with that, in the belief that greater investment in our staff and classrooms are what is needed to improve education in Manitoba.

And so I end by saying “well done, good and faithful servants.” Your communities owe you a debt of gratitude that will certainly stand the test of time. Our world continues to face so many opportunities and challenges and so I hope that your leadership continues to inform our progress towards making it a better place in your own way.

Finally, Нашим братам і сестрам в Україні (to all of our brothers and sisters in Ukraine), we hold you in our deepest thoughts and prayers. For those of you with relatives and family in our ancestral homeland, I hope and trust that your hearts will soon find peace and that this incomprehensible conflict soon comes to an end. These last two weeks have been some of the hardest to watch, with complete and utter helplessness, but you should be assured that the work of your association has taken stock of this conflict to see how we might support our colleagues, especially those at the Novopecherska School in Kyiv, the only school in Ukraine that teaches the Manitoba k-12 curriculum. One of the very last face to face meetings I had before the pandemic struck was with a delegation from this school. To think that two short years later these same colleagues would now have to face what they must, is unspeakable.

One final picture that I want to leave you with, is this:



It is an enduring picture of children in a bunker being taught by their teacher. And it goes to show you that education prevails, no matter what.

Слава Україні! (Glory to Ukraine!) Thank you, merci.

**DISPOSITION OF
2022 MSBA Convention Resolutions
and Special Business**

2022 Rules of Procedure CARRIED pages 16-18

By-Laws

B-01-22 By-Law #5 5 b) Annual Convention: Board Ballots CARRIED page 19

B-02-22 By-Law #5 9 d) Annual Convention: Elections..... CARRIED page 19

Auditor and Financials

A-01-22 Receipt of Financial Statements..... CARRIED page 20

A-02-22 Appointment of Auditor CARRIED page 20

NOTICE OF MOTION

The Chair of the MSBA Resolutions and Policy Committee shall move or cause to be moved a motion regarding adoption of the Rules of Procedure for the resolution process, as follows, at the MSBA Annual General Meeting:

MARTENS (Resolutions & Policy Committee)/DUPUIS (Resolutions & Policy Committee)CARRIED

2022 RULES OF PROCEDURE

Process:

1. All resolution proceedings shall be governed by these rules of procedure, the MSBA Act, and the MSBA By-Laws. In the event of any conflict, the provisions of the MSBA Act and the MSBA By-Laws shall prevail. Where any of the aforementioned identified instruments are silent, the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, shall apply.
2. The resolution process shall be conducted by a "Resolutions Chair", referred to in the following sections as the "Chair".
3. The Chair will advise the membership of the disposition of emergent resolutions submitted to the MSBA Executive and request the assembly's consideration of those late resolutions not adopted by the Executive.
4. Resolutions shall be dealt with in the following order:
 - (a) consideration of new resolutions in the order listed in the resolutions booklet and any emergent resolutions adopted by the MSBA Executive at the end of the section in which the resolution is assigned (point #3 above);
 - (b) consideration of emergent resolutions not adopted by the MSBA Executive but approved by the assembly for debate;
 - (c) any resolution(s) for reconsideration in the order of receipt by the Chair (point #25).
5. Should any resolution be identified as a particular concern of the assembly, that resolution may be brought forward in the convention proceedings for discussion and debate by majority consent of the assembly. A motion requesting this action must be moved and seconded.
6. Proposed resolutions shall be read and moved by members of the Resolutions and Policy Committee and the Chair shall immediately ask for a seconder who may speak to the proposed resolution and close debate.

Resolutions:

7. Resolutions submitted by any member board in the period between the deadline for receipt of regular resolutions and the final Executive meeting preceding the annual general meeting will be considered emergent resolutions.

The Executive will assess emergent resolutions to determine whether the issue addressed was evident prior to the deadline for submission of regular resolutions. Where the Executive deems the resolution to be truly emergent in nature, it will be included among those for consideration at the annual general meeting.

Any emergent resolution not adopted by the MSBA Executive will require a separate motion to be added to the annual general meeting agenda and must be moved and seconded and receive the support of not less than two-thirds of the delegates present and voting in order to be considered.

2022 Rules of Procedure, cont'd....

8. Any resolution sponsored by the provincial executive will be deemed to be a regular resolution, whether or not it meets the timeline outlined above.
9. Extraordinary resolutions arising out of the business of the annual general meeting may be considered if consideration is supported by a two thirds majority of voting trustees.

Debate:

10. As soon as a proposed resolution has been moved and seconded, the Chair will call upon the seconder to explain the proposed resolution.
11. The Chair will then ask if any delegate wishes to speak against the proposed resolution. If no delegate so indicates, the seconder will be invited to close debate and the question will be called.
12. Once any delegate speaks in opposition to the proposed resolution, debate shall begin and continue until the question is called in the usual manner. The seconder will have the right to be the final speaker in the debate.
13. Each delegate wishing to speak to a resolution must first be formally recognized by the Chair and shall announce their name and school division/district before speaking to the resolution to be debated.
14. No delegate shall speak to a resolution more than once, except the seconder of the resolution, and debate shall be limited to three (3) minutes unless permission for an additional three (3) minutes is granted by general consent of the assembly.
15. Associate members may, at the discretion of the Chair, speak on a point of information but may not enter into the debate, nor may they move, second, or vote on a resolution.

Voting:

16. Member school boards who have at least one trustee in attendance at the Annual Convention shall be eligible to vote, via board ballots, on by-laws and by-law amendments, and the appointment of the auditors. Trustees from member boards who are registered Convention delegates are voting delegates eligible to vote on all resolutions other than those requiring board ballots, as described above.
17. A quorum shall consist of not less than 100 voting delegates present virtually and/or in person at the time the vote is called on any motion before the assembly.
18. The Resolutions and Policy Committee [By-Law #5, (10)] shall be responsible to know the voting strength at all times on the convention floor, and shall be responsible for ruling on any disputes over the issuance of voting cards and ballot books.
19. All voting shall be by show of hands (using the authorized voting cards) unless:
 - (a) the Chair, in their discretion, calls for a standing vote before announcing the results of a vote by show of hands, or
 - (b) immediately after the result has been announced by the Chair, one delegate calls for a standing vote.

Voting at virtual meetings shall be by a roll-call vote of each school board (for board ballot votes) or by an electronic voting platform approved by the Executive for regular resolutions.

2022 Rules of Procedure, cont'd....

20. A favourable vote of not less than two thirds of the board ballots cast shall be required to approve any amendments/changes to the By-Laws or MSBA Act. All other questions shall be decided by majority vote of those delegates present and voting unless otherwise specified in these rules of procedure.

Amendments:

21. A delegate may, at any time during the debate on a resolution, move an amendment, providing it is relevant to and deals with the same subject matter as the original resolution. Amendments must be seconded.
22. The Chair has the prerogative to divide a question into two or more questions so as to allow for a separate vote on any particular point or points, if the Chair deems that the division of the question will facilitate debate.
23. No more than one amendment and one amendment to the amendment (sub-amendment) will be accepted by the Chair at any one time.
24. The Chair may, in their discretion, require that any amendment to a resolution be submitted in writing.

Reconsideration:

25. A written notice of motion to reconsider a vote on the resolution shall be presented to the Chair, and may only be submitted by a delegate who originally supported the vote on that particular resolution. Upon validation of the request for reconsideration, the Chair shall immediately announce that a motion to reconsider will be presented after all other convention resolutions have been considered in accordance with [Section 4 (c)] above.

BY-LAWS

BY-LAW #5: ANNUAL CONVENTION: SECTION 5 – BOARD BALLOTS B-01-22
(MSBA Executive)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following amendment to By-Law #5 5(b) be adopted.

- b) boards will be eligible to receive one additional board ballot for each 1000 students enrolled in their division or district. For the purpose of determining the number of board ballots a board will receive, student numbers will be rounded up or down to the nearest 1000. The student number used to determine the number of ballots per board will be the immediately previous September 30 K-12 full-time equivalent count used by the Provincial Government.

WIEBE, P. (Resolutions and Policy Committee)/NEMETH (MSBA Executive).....CARRIED
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BY-LAW #5: ANNUAL CONVENTION: SECTION 9 – ELECTIONS B-02-22
(MSBA Executive)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following amendment to By-Law #5 9(d) be adopted.

- d) Prior to the elections at Convention, the President shall appoint scrutineers, none of whom shall be voting delegates or staff, and in the event that a vote is required on any election, the scrutineers shall collect and count the ballots and declare the names of the successful candidates for each office.

WIEBE, P. (Resolutions and Policy Committee)/SKEAVINGTON (MSBA Executive)CARRIED
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AUDITOR AND FINANCIALS

RECEIPT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS A-01-22
(MSBA Executive)

BE IT RESOLVED that the audited financial statements for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2021 be received.

SMUKOWICH (Resolutions and Policy Committee)/LETHBRIDGE (MSBA Executive).....CARRIED

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR A-02-22
(MSBA Executive)

BE IT RESOLVED that KPMG Chartered Accountants be re-appointed as the Manitoba School Boards Association auditors for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2022.

SMUKOWICH (Resolutions and Policy Committee)/KLASSEN (MSBA Executive).....CARRIED