

2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The following Bylaw Amendment and Resolutions were passed at the Association's annual general meeting on November 17, 2014.

BYLAW AMENDMENT

(98.4% Support) **Bylaw
14-01**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Bylaw No. 4.1 Section 5(a) be amended by deleting “before noon of the first day” and substituting “within the first three hours of the opening” so the Bylaw will read as follows:

- 5. Nominations shall be called for during the annual general meeting as follows:
 - (a) for President and Vice-president, within the first three hours of the opening of the annual general meeting, and the election to occur no earlier than 24 hours following the call for nominations.****

AND THAT Bylaw No. 10: General Assemblies be amended by deleting clause (i).

BUDGET RESOLUTION

(89.4% Support) **Budget
2015**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Association's 2015 annual operating budget of \$2,526,240, funded by membership fees, be approved.

RESOLUTIONS

(98.9% Support) **14-01**

BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed Position Statement on “Local Governance of Education” be adopted to replace the current “Position Statement 1.2 Local Governance of Education”;

**PROPOSED “Position Statement 1.2
LOCAL GOVERNANCE OF EDUCATION”
Locally elected boards of education/ Conseil scolaire fransaskois (CSF)
act to reflect the interests and educational needs of the communities
they serve.**

1. School governance decisions are guided by what is in the best interest of student learning for all students in the school division within the board of education's financial resources.
2. Boards of education/CSF operate with autonomy and authority within a legislated framework and act to fulfill their responsibilities. In addition, the CSF operates within the framework of section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* to fulfill its constitutional responsibilities and its triple mandate of academic success, cultural identity and community involvement.
3. Board of education/CSF meetings are open to the public and board information is accessible to the public within the context of the law.
4. Boards of education/CSF communicate information about the operation of the school system and establish procedures for public consultation.
5. Boards of education/CSF support parental, family and community engagement in the education of each child for success in school.
6. Boards of education/CSF engage and support School Community Councils/Conseils d'écoles as partners in improving student learning.
7. Board members engage in networking and learning opportunities to fulfill their responsibilities as stewards of public education.
8. Boards of education/CSF are the voice of publicly funded education in Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan's education system is best served by a partnership of provincial and local level of governance with shared responsibility for K-12 education.

(98.2% Support) 14-03

BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed Position Statement on "Education Finance" be adopted to replace the current "Position Statement 3.1 Education Finance";

**PROPOSED "POSITION STATEMENT 3.1"
EDUCATION FINANCE"**

Saskatchewan's elected boards of education/ Conseil scolaire fransaskois (CSF) require funding for education to maximize student achievement, develop the potential of all students, affirm the worth of each individual, and lay the foundation for learning throughout life.

Education funding is best provided unconditionally to boards of education/CSF in order to meet local needs. A balance between the following fundamental principles guides all decisions for education finance:

- 1. Sufficiency:** The amount of funding provided to boards of education/CSF by the provincial government must be sufficient to respond to the actual costs of provincial goals and priorities, to provide a high quality program to all students, and to accommodate local programming, innovation and initiatives.
- 2. Autonomy:** Boards of education/CSF derive their authority from *The Education Act, 1995* which gives them the authority to manage the school division in a way that reflects local needs and priorities. In addition, the CSF derives its authority from section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.
- 3. Equity:** Funding is allocated so that all elected boards of education/CSF have the resources they need to provide opportunities for each student to achieve at the highest levels regardless of where they live in the province and their personal circumstances.
- 4. Engagement:** Boards of education/CSF are equal partners, along with the provincial government, in meaningful decision making regarding funding formulas, accountability processes and resolving issues.
- 5. Predictability:** Clearly defined, predictable, and unconditional funding formulas are needed to enable long-term and sustainable program planning by boards of education/CSF.
- 6. Reciprocal Accountability:** Elected boards of education/CSF are responsible for achieving educational goals and objectives and the provincial government is responsible for providing the resources needed to achieve those goals and objectives. The funding model is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it is functioning as intended.
- 7. Sustainability:** Reliable, factual data is used to establish funding.
- 8. Transparency:** Straightforward information about education funding is monitored, available to the public, and the process is entirely transparent.

(97.8% Support) 14-05

BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association advocate to the Government of Saskatchewan to amend municipal legislation to:

- a. Clarify that boards of education are exempt from Local Improvements Assessments (taxes), subject only to inter-governmental agreements between individual boards and municipalities;
- b. Clarify that boards of education are “government” and are subject to municipal services at “government” rates and not at “corporate” rates; and
- c. Require that municipalities consult with boards of education in order to minimize the negative impact and cost of new and deteriorating municipal infrastructure on board of education lands and budgets.

(97.6% Support) 14-02

BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed Position Statement on “Student Achievement” be adopted to replace the current “Position Statement 2.1 Student Achievement”;

**PROPOSED “POSITION STATEMENT 2.1”
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT”**

Strengthening student achievement is the primary mission of boards of education/ Conseil scolaire fransaskois (CSF).

1. Education should develop all aspects of a child, affirm their individuality, and engage them in community. Saskatchewan’s curriculum creates these opportunities and promotes lifelong learning. Student achievement is defined as the attainment of the developmentally appropriate educational outcomes of Saskatchewan’s curriculum.
2. Boards of education/CSF, school community councils, Conseils d’écoles, parents and educators must be engaged and have a voice in defining student achievement.
3. Boards of education/CSF are responsible for developing an accountability framework to establish standards, assess, monitor and report on student achievement.
4. The role of boards of education/CSF is to provide leadership and allocate resources to establish school cultures that maximize student achievement.
5. Student engagement, as well as parent and community support for education are important determinants of student success.

6. Boards of education/CSF work as advocates for education and promote partnerships to enhance student achievement.

(94.7% Support) 14-08

BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association work with the Ministry and other partners to review the processes of tax remittance and tax reporting with the intent of reducing duplication and simplifying the processes to make them more effective and efficient and; that a report on the findings be developed and implemented.

(88.6% Support) 14-04

BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed Position Statement on “Facilities Funding” be adopted to replace the current “Position Statement 3.2 Facilities Funding”;

**PROPOSED “POSITION STATEMENT 3.2”
FACILITIES FUNDING”**

Boards of education/Conseil scolaire fransaskois (CSF) work with the Ministry of Education to jointly develop and periodically review a transparent, sufficient, predictable and sustainable funding formula for the planning, building and maintenance of education facilities that maximize student learning. All decisions related to facilities funding should be transparent, equitable and informed by good data in support of a provincial comprehensive, multi-year capital plan.

- 1. The Minister of Education is responsible for providing required funding for the construction and maintenance of school facilities.**
- 2. Facilities funding in Saskatchewan should be determined according to the five categories set out below. In addition, facilities funding for CSF schools must meet the requirements of section 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*:**
 - a) Major Capital Projects: The Ministry of Education should continue to fund major capital projects including new schools, major renovations, roofing and portable classrooms. This applies in growth areas of the province, as well as in communities with existing schools requiring modernizing where enrolments are stable and the schools are viable.**
 - b) Infrastructure Renewal: Each year, the province should prudently allocate a sufficient budget to school divisions for the purpose of ongoing infrastructure renewal, including minor upgrades and renovations. Boards need to develop a 3 year PMR Maintenance Plan as well as a detailed annual report and reconciliation of PMR expenditures.**
 - c) Ongoing Operation and Maintenance: The Ministry of Education should prudently allocate a sufficient budget to school divisions for the operation and maintenance of facilities including general**

upkeep and repairs as well as expenses incurred to keep facilities operating such as monthly utility expenses.

d) **Non-school Facilities:** Sufficient funding must be provided for the construction and maintenance of non-school facilities including sheds, transportation and administrative facilities, and for the CSF community spaces.

e) **Provincially Protected Schools:** Funding must be provided for the operation and maintenance of schools that are protected from closure. This includes the cost of decommissioning space that is no longer required.

3. **Capital Funding Backlog:** A long-term, sustainable plan must be developed to address the current capital funding backlog. A prudent and sufficient budget should be allocated annually to address the backlog.

4. **Ministry Support:** The Ministry of Education must maintain sufficient qualified expertise to provide appropriate and adequate support for school divisions, according to their needs. This may include supports for school capital projects including project management, technical, site development and cost management.

(68.5% Support) 14-06

BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association request, on behalf of Boards of Education in the province, a Ministerial review of Section 95.8 of *The Education Regulations, 1986* as they relate to school review, enrolment thresholds and the proximity of other schools in school divisions, and that the SSBA work jointly with the Ministry of Education to renew Section 95.8 of *The Education Regulations, 1986*.

The following Resolutions were Defeated

(46.75% Support) 14-07

BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association study the current evaluation system for 30 level courses on the principles of equity and relevance for 21st century teaching and learning and make recommendations to the Ministry of Education for changes to the current evaluation system.

(33.2% Support) 14-09

BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association lobby the Government of Saskatchewan to provide transition funding to those school divisions who are significantly and negatively impacted by funding levels for Locally Determined Terms and Conditions of Employment of Teachers (LDTC) until all LDTC issues have been resolved in the budget process.