



Government  
— of —  
Saskatchewan

Minister of Education

Legislative Building  
Regina, Canada S4S 0B3

MAR 01 2021

Dr. Shawn Davidson, President  
Saskatchewan School Boards Association  
400-2222 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
REGINA SK S4P 3M7

Dear Dr. Shawn Davidson:

Thank you for your letter regarding the resolutions that were adopted by the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA) membership at the 2020 Annual General Meeting. It was a pleasure to bring greetings to the virtual Assembly and on behalf of the Premier, and to announce the recipients of the Premier's Board of Education Award for Innovation and Excellence.

Please find below the Ministry of Education's responses to the four adopted resolutions:

**Resolution 20-01 – Drafting a position statement on Indigenous Education.**

The Ministry of Education supports this resolution as it aligns with the vision of *Inspiring Success: First Nations and Métis PreK-12 Education Policy Framework*, which fosters the development of a provincial Prekindergarten to Grade 12 education system that foundationally places Indigenous knowledge systems, cultures and languages within the structures, policies and curricula to ensure an equitable and inclusive system that benefits all learners.

**Resolution 20-02 – Creation of guidelines concerning trustees' pursuit of political office.**

The ministry supports this resolution as it will ensure trustees, Boards and the SSBA Executive will continue to fulfill their responsibilities and duties without interruption, should trustees seek new political opportunities to serve their community.

**Resolution 20-03 – Legislative amendments to increase the election and participation of Indigenous school board trustees.**

*The Education Act, 1995* requires that each school division must have an elected board of education. Members of each board of education are elected in accordance with the procedures outlined in *The Local Government Election Act, 2015* for a four-year term. *The School Division Administration Regulations* prescribes that no fewer than five and no more than ten members may be elected for a board of education for each division.

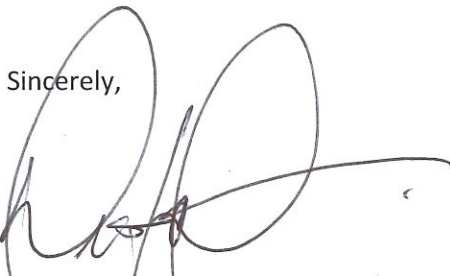
*The Education Act, 1995* states that school divisions may choose to add board members who are representatives from a First Nation with which they have an agreement. The ministry is open to discussions with the SSBA and other stakeholders regarding innovative solutions to maximize opportunities for the election and participation of Indigenous school board trustees. A representative from the ministry will reach out to arrange a meeting to discuss this issue.

**Resolution 20-04 – Creation of a common definition of ‘diversity’.**

While the ministry has not formalized a definition of ‘diversity’, it recognizes the importance of diversity as it aligns with one of the four pillars of the Provincial Education Plan: *Inclusive, Safe and Welcoming Learning Environments*.

Please contact the Deputy Minister’s office to confirm a convenient time for a virtual meeting to further discuss these resolutions and school board priorities for 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dustin Duncan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dustin Duncan  
Minister of Education

cc: Donna Johnson, Deputy Minister, Education