



Government
— of —
Saskatchewan

Ministry of Education
Deputy Minister
5th Floor, 2220 College Ave.
Regina, Canada S4P 4V9

JAN 10 2018

January 5, 2018

Dr. Shawn Davidson, President
Mr. Darren McKee, Executive Director
Saskatchewan School Boards Association
400 – 2222 13th Avenue
REGINA SK S4P 3M7

Dear Dr. Davidson and Mr. McKee:

Thank for your recent letters to the Honourable Bronwyn Eyre, Minister of Education and me, regarding bylaw amendments and resolutions that were adopted at the recent Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association (SSBA). The Minister has asked that I respond on her behalf. We are pleased to provide information in response to those resolutions that directly impact the Ministry of Education and we will forward the other resolutions to the appropriate ministries. I trust these brief responses will inform our ongoing dialogue with the SSBA and its membership.

AGM 17-04 regarding a satisfactory vulnerable sector check requirement to be nominated as a candidate for and hold office as a board member for a school division:

- As responsibility for *The Local Government Elections Act, 2015* is with the Ministry of Government Relations, the Ministry of Education will forward your resolution for their consideration.

AGM 17-05 regarding repeal of the amendments pertaining to the disqualification of member clause in *The School Division Administration Regulations*:

- Legislative amendments that were proclaimed September 1, 2017, were in response to the Perrins' Report and the consultation by the Advisory Panel that followed. The ministry has heard the concerns relating to the disqualification period. The ministry will continue to monitor, review and make amendments to the education regulations as part of the ongoing review process.

AGM 17-07 regarding education governance funding:

- The 2017-18 provincial budget was designed on the principle of *Meeting the Challenge* of our province by continuing to make students a top priority while also taking steps to control spending. The funding adjustments to governance in this year's budget help to ensure that in these times of financial restraint, spending remains targeted to the classroom.

AGM 17-08 regarding curriculum development:

- The Secondary Practical and Applied Arts (PAA) Reference Committee was established and has met three times since September 2017. Several education partners and other organizations have been invited to participate on this committee including: Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation; post-secondary institutions; Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce; and Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission. The committee has recommended that a provincial secondary PAA financial literacy course be developed. Internal processes to address this recommendation are currently underway within the Ministry of Education.

AGM 17-09 regarding cannabis legalization:

- The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to ensuring that school environments remain safe and healthy for all staff and students. The Ministry of Education is working with the ministries of Justice and Health, along with other agencies and partners to ensure that Saskatchewan is ready when cannabis is legalized in July 2018. The minimum age to purchase cannabis will be determined by the province in spring 2018 after full consideration of the issue.
- The Ministry of Education is also focused on ensuring that the appropriate supports and education tools are in place for students, parents, teachers and administrators. We will continue to work with school divisions to ensure that the education sector is prepared for legislative changes prior to the 2018-19 school year.

AGM 17-10 regarding encouragement to display the Treaty symbol in all Saskatchewan schools:

- The ministry looks forward to hearing more about this idea from the SSBA and how your organization sees it being implemented. Boards of education have authority for school displays in accordance with legislation.

AGM 17-11 regarding a mandatory Indigenous studies course required for graduation:

- A Secondary Social Sciences Reference Committee has been established and has met twice since September 2017. The reference committee is reviewing current curricula and working towards making recommendations. Various possibilities are being considered by the committee; however, no recommendations have been brought forth at this time.

AGM 17-12 regarding removing conditionality parameters from governance funding:

- The conditionality parameters were applied to governance funding as a provisional measure in 2017-18. The ministry has heard the concerns relating to the conditionality and the cap on governance funding. The ministry will re-evaluate the way that governance funding is allocated as part of the 2018-19 budget process.

AGM 17-13 regarding school boards paying PST on insurance premiums and construction services:

- As responsibility for *The Provincial Sales Tax Act* is with the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Education will forward your resolution for their consideration.

Congratulations on a successful AGM and thank you for sharing the resolutions of your members. I look forward to regular, productive dialogue and collaboration with board trustees and school division officials as our ministry works to achieve its mandate and effectively adjust to the changing needs of the students and citizens whom we serve.

Sincerely,



J. Robert Currie
Deputy Minister of Education

cc: Honourable Bronwyn Eyre, Minister of Education