

**Saskatchewan School Boards Association
Executive Meeting Minutes
October 19 & 20, 2023**

Executive Members:

Present – Ms. Smith-Windsor, Mr. Bachmann, Ms. Banks, Dr. Davidson, Mr. Favel (Oct 19), Ms. Gradin, Ms. Greyeyes, Mr. Niezgodna, Ms. Perreault.

Association Staff: Mr. McKee, Dr. Amendt, Ms. Lenius, Mr. McNaughton, Ms. Vu, Ms. Welke.
Regrets: Ms. Horejda

1. Call to Order

President Smith-Windsor called the meeting to order on Thursday October 19, 2023, at 9:02 a.m.

2. Treaty Land Acknowledgement and Moment of Reflection

3. Additions/Changes/Approval of Agenda

23.10.01 That the Executive approved the agenda as circulated. CD

4. Review/Discuss Delegation(s) Preparation –

The Executive prepared for their discussions with the Saskatchewan High School Athletics Association.

4.1 Saskatchewan High School Athletics Association (SHSAA)

The Executive met with the SHSAA Executive Director, Dave Sandomirsky. He provided the Executive an update on SHSAA Board, staff, their strategic plan, and operations. Topics of shared interest that were raised or discussed included: sport affordability, coaching, volunteers and teacher involvement in high school sport, potential sanctions, sport specialization, Ministry of Education Physical Education Safety Guidelines renewal, coach development, Remembrance Day and partnership with the Legion, and rural sport.

5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest – no conflicts declared

6. In-Camera Session

(October 19, 2023 – 3:38 – 4:21 p.m.)

23.10.02 That the Executive move into closed session. CD

23.10.03 That the Executive move into open session. CD

(October 20, 2023 – 10:00 – 11:41 a.m.) Closed session with George Rathwell

23.10.04 That the Executive move into closed session. CD

23.10.05 That the Executive move into open session. CD

(October 20, 2023 1:16 – 3:05 p.m.)

23.10.06 That the Executive move into closed session. CD

23.10.07 That the Executive move into open session. CD

7. Adoption of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

7.1 September 14 & 15, 2023

23.10.08 That the minutes of September 14 & 15, 2023 be approved as amended. CD

8. Business Arising from Minutes – Feedback was provided by the Executive on the new format of the minutes. The Executive agreed to the minor edits to the Executive policy regarding the changes to the minutes.

9. Discussion Items

9.1 Board Chairs Council Terms of Reference Renewal

The Executive discussed the briefing note with respect to the Board Chairs Council Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference will be discussed with the Board Chairs and then will be brought back to the Executive for approval.

9.2 Safe Access Zones

The Executive discussed Safe Access Zones the memo from President Smith-Windsor and the scan of the situations in other province regarding safe zones for schools.

10. Decision Items

10.1 Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility Policy Advisory

The Executive reviewed and discussed the briefing note with respect to the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility Policy Advisory.

- 23.10.09 That the Executive approve the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility Policy Advisory and share with member boards. CD**

10.2 External Audit Appointment

The Executive reviewed and discussed the briefing note with respect to the External Auditor appointment for the 2023 fiscal year.

- 23.10.10 That the Executive appoint Virtus Group as the SSBA External auditors for the 2023 fiscal year. CD**

10.3. External Legal Counsel

The Executive reviewed and discussed the briefing note with respect to external Legal Counsel for the Court Application.

- 23.10.11 That the Executive approve SSBA Legal Services to continue representing and supporting the 27 school divisions on the Charter challenge to the Government of Saskatchewan’s Preferred Name and Pronoun Policy (the “Court Application”) CD**

- 23.10.12 That the Executive approve up to \$100,000 from operational reserves to fund external legal counsel and other expenses related to the Court application. CD**

- 23.10.13 That the Executive approve the use of McKercher LLP as the external legal counsel related to the Court Application. CD**

10.4 Employee Benefits Plan (EBP) Advisory Committee Terms of Reference approval

The Executive reviewed and discussed the briefing note with respect to the Terms of Reference for the EBP Advisory Committee.

23.10.14 That the Executive approve the EBP Advisory Committee Terms of Reference. CD

10.5 SSBA Employee Benefits Plan (EBP) Annual Report 2022

The Executive reviewed and discussed the briefing note with respect to the EBP Annual Report.

23.10.15 That the Executive approve the EBP Annual Report and present it at the 2023 Annual General Meeting. CD

10.6 General Insurance Plan (GIP) Committee Terms of Reference

The Executive reviewed and discussed the briefing note with respect to the GIP Committee Terms of Reference.

23.10.16 That the Executive approve the Terms of Reference for the GIP Committee for 2024. CD

10.7 General Insurance Plan (GIP) Annual Report

The Executive reviewed and discussed the briefing note with respect to the GIP Annual Report.

23.10.17 That the Executive approve the GIP Annual Report and present it at the 2023 Annual General meeting. CD

10.8 Executive 2024 Work Plan and Calendar

The Executive reviewed and discussed the briefing note with respect to the Executive 2024 Work Plan and Calendar.

23.10.18 That the Executive approve the 2024 Calendar and Work Plan. CD

11.1 Executive Work Plan

The Executive reviewed the Executive work plan for 2023.

11.2 SSBA Strategic Plan Report – no report

12. Reports from President and Administration

12.1 President's Report

The President provided updates related to recent correspondence, media relations, recent research reports, committees, and advocacy. She also provided updates from the Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA) Executive meeting and advocacy events in Ottawa, Curriculum Advisory Committee, Canadian School Mental Health Leadership Network meeting, the Provincial Bargaining - Government Trustee Bargaining Committee, feedback from boards/chairs, meeting with the Public Section, observing some of the Legislative debate pertaining to Bill 137 and meetings with the new Minister of Education, Jeremy Cockrill. The report was received and filed.

12.2 Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director's report highlighted recent activity related to the SSBA Strategic Plan, Saskatchewan Broadband Action Committee (SBAC), litigation and Bill 137, CSBA Anti-Racism Modules, Indigenous Education and languages, Bargaining and the Conciliation process. Regular meetings continue with the Deputy Minister of Education as well as with the Executive Directors of SASBO, STF and LEADS. The report was received and filed.

12.3 Communications and Strategic Services

The Executive reviewed the briefing note from Communications and Strategic Services with an update with respect to recent activity, communications, and media requests. The report was received and filed.

12.4 Board Development – no report

12.5 Corporate Services – no report

12.6 Legal Services and Labour and Employee Relations

The Executive reviewed the briefing note with respect to the Legal Services and Employee and Labour Relations. The report was received and filed.

12.6 Employee Benefits Plan and General Insurance Plan

The Executive reviewed the briefing notes with respect to Enterprise Risk Management final update and the General Insurance Plan 2022 Loss status. The report was received and filed.

13. Executive Members' Reports

- 13.1 Vice-President**
- 13.2 Catholic Constituency**
- 13.3 Central Constituency**
- 13.4 Conseil scolaire fransaskois Constituency**
- 13.5 Indigenous Constituency**
- 13.6 Northern Constituency**
- 13.7 Southern Constituency**
- 13.8 Urban Public Constituency**

Each Executive member provided a brief update to the Executive regarding their constituency and committees with which they have been involved and other meetings. The Executive member reports were received and filed.

14. Committee Reports

14.1 Resolutions and Policy Development Committee

An update was provided from the Resolutions and Policy Development Committee regarding their meeting of September 13, 2023. The committee report was received and filed.

14.2 Executive Human Resources (HR) Committee Report

An update was provided from the Executive HR Committee regarding their meeting of September 27, 2023. The committee report was received and filed.

14.3 Board Development Committee Report

An update was provided from Board Development Committee regarding the scholarship review, Cyber Risk presentation and the Annual General meeting. The committee report was received and filed.

14.4 Audit and Investment Committee Report

An update was provided from the Audit and Investment Committee on the SSBA new office renovations, presentation from investment advisor, Investment policy, update on legal matter and cost of legal counsel, Audit planning with Auditor and review of financial results. The committee report was received and filed.

14.5 General Insurance Plan Committee Report – no report

14.5.1 Cyber Insurance Working Advisory Group – no report

14.6 Executive Policy Review Committee Report

An update was provided regarding the new template that was approved for Executive financial and HR policies. All policies will be posted on the website. The committee report was received and filed.

14.7 EBP Advisory Committee – no report

14.8 Provincial Bargaining Committee – no report

15. Presentations/Activity – no presentations

16. Information Items

- 16.1 2023 Association Event Calendar
- 16.2 Committee List
- 16.3 Inspiring Success Priority Action October 2023
- 16.4 SSBA Indigenous Council
- 16.5 Resolutions Workplan updates - October

17. Identification of future agenda items

The Executive reviewed and discussed the future agenda items.

18. Meeting Evaluation

The Executive reviewed the Evaluation results from the September meeting. The link for the October Evaluation form was provided to the Executive.

Adjournment

President Smith-Windsor adjourned the meeting on October 20, 2023 at 3:05 p.m.



Executive Director



President