

**Saskatchewan Community Schools Association**

**Executive Meeting**

Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008

1:00 am – 4:30 pm

IPSCO Place – Queensbury Convention Center

1700 Elphinstone Street - Regina

(306) 791-8570

**Minutes**

**In Attendance:**

1. Delphine Melchert, Coord., Riverside Comm. School, SRSD#119, PA, SK
2. Darlene Furber, Coord., Turgeon Comm. School, PA Catholic SD, PA, SK
3. Tanya Price-Wright, Coord., VMCS, PA, SK
4. Wendy Dice, Coord. CCHS, NLSD #113, La Ronge, SK
5. Jane Robillard, Coord, Creighton Comm. School, Creighton, SK
6. Alison Bruneau, Coord. Father Gorman Comm. School, Lloyd, SK
7. Krystal Fehrenbach, Coord. Carlyle Elementary, Carlyle, SK
8. Maureen Strawson, Bedford Community School, Saskatoon, SK
9. Greg Harding, principal, Coronation Park Community School, SK
10. Maureen Johns Simpson, Exec Director, Saskatchewan Ministry of Education

Regrets: Margaret Marsollier, and Shelley Sargent

**1. Welcome & Introductions:**

SCSA President, Delphine Melchert, thanked everyone for attending at this busy time in the school year. Delphine also extended our thanks to Greg Harding for arranging this meeting. Delphine welcomed and introduced Maureen Johns Simpson, Executive Director of First Nations and Métis Unit of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Education. Delphine thanked her for the opportunity to meet with the Ministry and for the opportunity of those in attendance to ask questions.

**2. Additions/adoption to the Agenda:**

**Motion:** by Wendy Dice, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jane Robillard

\*add regional reports to the end of the agenda #13.

**3. Minutes from last meeting - January 23, 2007:**

**Motion:** by Darlene Furber, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Krystal Fehrenbach

To adopt the minutes as presented with no errors or omissions

**4. Business arising from the minutes:**

none

**5. Report on meeting with Minister Krawetz and Deputy Minister Roadhouse (Attached – History of Community Schools, Overview of CS, CS today & partnerships, Day in the life in a CS, Closing recommendations – Early**

**learning, homelessness, prosperity, First Nations and reform the working committee)** (Attached) Community Schools – Putting the “Plus” in Education **Briefing Package included** - a historical overview of community schools, landscape of community schools today, partnerships, a day in the life in community schools and closing comments.

6. **Updates from Ministry of Education: (Community Schools have been moved from the Children’s Services Unit to the First Nations and Métis Unit of the Minister of Education)**

Maureen Johns Simpson, Executive Director, First Nations and Métis Unit & Ted Amendt, Director, First Nations and Métis Unit who sends his regrets.

Maureen was looking forward to the new partnerships and a smooth transition that would be somewhat unnoticed. She has some new ideas that will be included within this transition and indicated that the Community of Hope document has not changed. The philosophy of the First Nations and Métis Unit is holistic in that it needs to meet the whole child and youth population. Maslow’s hierarchy of needs is essential to the whole child philosophy, food, shelter, and belonging allows for learning to take place. All of these needs are a very critical part of the whole child. The First Nations and Métis Unit is guided by culturally affirming and responsive approaches to education. The vision of partnership is inclusive of the home, school, community and government, where the classroom is the world and the curriculum is life that must meet the diverse needs of all students.

Department up-date and goals: Student achievement for all students at different levels. An education system that is comprehensive, holistic and culturally affirming. Staff up-date Edith Nagy has been hired to resume Gillian’s role for supports for learning. The regions have been reorganized into three field service offices – Northern - La Ronge, Central – Saskatoon, and South – Regina.

**Maureen Johns Simpson (Handout)**

The principals and goals dovetail on the principals of community education.

Highlight from her handout:

**Nēhiyawēwin 10/20/30** (The people – Language & Culture) common curriculum framework for Aboriginal Language and Culture Programs.

**First Nations and Métis Education Policy Framework** – This policy will provide the vision, goals, and outcomes to provide the strategic direction for the provincial education system in relation to FNME.

**A time for significant leadership** – is a comprehensive, flexible and responsive capacity building strategy that focuses on supporting schools and school divisions as they develop local school plans for FNME.

**Curriculum Renewal** – The many First Nations and Métis peoples involved throughout the province are ensuring that First Nation and Métis content, perspectives, and ways of knowing are foundationally placed in the curriculum.

**Circles of Science** – Circles of Science is an opportunity for teachers to be supported in understanding what Indigenous science is. “Knowledge Sharing Fair”

**Community Education Transition** – Transfer of responsibility of Community Education to First Nations and Métis Education Branch. The FNME Branch will be working diligently to ensure community education philosophy, practices, and holistic responses occur in all schools for the benefits of all learners.

**Partnerships** – Partnerships between school divisions and First Nations and Métis organizations are continuing to develop across the province.

**Representative Workforce** – The Saskatchewan School Boards Association continues to work on the Aboriginal Employment Development program with supports from the Ministry of Education.

**Personal Note from Maureen:** I have been in community schools and community education is part of our hearts that has shaped and woven who we are. We are striving to have this transition as smooth and seamless as possible. A community education position will be developed in the near future.

**Discussions:** FOG (Foundational Operational Grant), Continued Improvement Framework, strategic plans, and issues and needs in community schools such as how to involve elders in a meaningful and respectful way. Partnerships, stability of positions, recognition of C.S. staff, important role of community education, and changes in our communities. Connecting coordinators in the north to others across the province and how vital our past joint meetings were for that very issue. Regional meetings versus the new three field service offices.

**Ted Amendt: First Nations and Métis Education - Director**

The ministry was putting plans in place around community education, re-profile community education, renewal and evaluations, looking at what's next (5-10 years), staffing – hiring community education consultant Victoria Jerome, there are no changes to the guidelines for the continuous framework and the CIF (Community Initiative Funds) will be led by student achievement and outcomes.

**As an association** - the importance of advocacy work for SCSA. The role in research for what really works is important work for the association.

**7. Community School Pamphlet:**

Attached – to be distributed through local Chamber of Commerce, Ministry of First Nations Métis Education wants to endorse the pamphlet and the final pamphlet will be released after that is complete. The goal is to have the pamphlets available at the fall conference in Regina

Other Comments: Ministry logo and endorsement, President – retiring need to change, expand knowledge about CS. Delphine thanked Nina for all her work and to extend a thank you to her school division who printed the pamphlets.

**8. Financial Report: (attached)**

Motion by Jane Robillard to accept the reports as presented: (Attached)

General Account: 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alison Bruneau, all in favor, Carried

Weyerhaeuser Planting Dreams Account: 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alison Bruneau, all in favor, Carried

**9. Newsletter:**

The newsletter has been postponed till the fall. Please get your submissions in.  
Add FNME to the email list

**10. Website:**

The website is a great resource, the newsletters will be up-dated and the conference 2008 information will be up-dated as well.

**11. Membership:**

In the fall a mail out will be done to get the memberships in. Fees are at \$50 year

**12. Conference 2008:**

October 22-24, 2008

IPSCO Place (Exhibition Grounds) Regina, Saskatchewan

The Key note speaker: Dr. Stephen Lewis

Theme: Exploring Unity in CommUnity

Registrations will be sent out in September 2008

Gifts: Cards by Richard Dubois, these cards are specific to the conference and will not be sold to others.

Registration will be processed through the SCSA treasurer, Margaret Marsollier

Conference presentations will be valuable for every staff member, parents, partners and community members

Both days will include a continental breakfast and lunch

**Regrets:** Agreement to partnership the conference with School Plus Congress is at an impasse and has withdrawn their partnership for this conference.

**Regional Reports**

A summary of new initiatives in each region were reported on  
(Reports Attached)

**13. Adjournment & Next Meeting**

Adjournment 4:30

- In Camera session (attached) re: SCSA Executive Director Position – further discussions needed, final decision to be made at a later date.
- Mtg with Dave Hutchinson, Public School Division, Superintendent – instruction & school services. Regina public school division has 13 schools, 11 elementary schools and 2 high schools. Meeting was to give an overview of the up-coming community school conference and seek support and release time (PD day) for school staff to attend the conference.

Next meeting: TBA

**Comment [MSOffice1]:** What was the proper name of this organization?