



April 2024

President's Message

With the end of another school year in sight, it is time to start thinking about our annual AGM and the potential for joining an Association that is working to make a difference.

Membership in MANTE has steadily been growing year after year. Our Association has a diverse community membership from the IBPOC community, the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, the newcomers' community just to name a few. As such, I highly encourage that members of all communities take interest and take part in the Association so that MANTE can be inclusive of all our membership.

The 2023/2024 AGM is booked for May 22nd at ANAVETS located at 3584 Portage Avenue. <http://anaf283.com/> The meeting will start promptly at 5pm. Refreshments will be provided starting at 4:45pm so that everyone has an opportunity to grab some food before the meeting starts. At every AGM, in addition to other business that may be transacted, the report of the officers and the financial statement shall be presented, and the officers elected. The following positions that are available for nomination plus a brief description of duties are listed below:

Vice President – Assume duties and powers of the President in their Absence, signing authority, Chair the Grievance Committee

Secretary – Record all facts and minutes of all proceedings in the books kept for that purpose, have charge of the minutes' books, give immediate notice in writing to any member against whom a charge has been placed.

Educational Assistant, Library and Secretary Representatives – Attend all Executive and general meetings, Advocate for the rights of the membership as outlined in the Collective Agreement by informing the President of any situations that arise.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please let me know. We will not be accepting any nominations from the floor, so if you are interested in a position you must email me before May 13th. If you would like a full description of duties or have any questions, please reach out and I will gladly answer all your questions. At least ten days prior to the AGM, I will send out, through email, any motions or proposals that pertain to the entire membership and that require a vote. The Association looks forward to seeing everyone on May 22nd.

Jennifer Monaster

Negotiations

I know that everyone is eagerly awaiting news of a new contract, but unfortunately there is still nothing that I can report. Negotiations can be a long process and can be very frustrating to those waiting for news.

Throughout the negotiation process, it is crucial that we adhere to strict confidentiality guidelines. By maintaining confidentiality, we protect the integrity of the discussions and safeguard sensitive information that could impact our bargaining position.

I can tell you that we are continuing to meet with the division and are focused on the items you as a collective had indicated were important.



Bits and Bites

Questions?

If you have any questions or need clarification, please reach out. You can call the office at 204-831-2397 or email at mante@mante.ca or at Jennifer.monaster@sjasd.ca

Keep in Touch

If a member at your work location is off for an extended illness or has had a bereavement in the family, or if a member has a reason to celebrate, please advise Maggi Sawchuk at maggi.sawchuk@sjasd.ca She will continue to send out cards of sympathy and congratulations throughout the year.

April Retirees

Gloria A. 6 years

Professional Development

There are still funds available for PD. The Crisis and Trauma Resource Institute is out with its Spring-Summer workshops and resources. Visit <https://ctrinstitute.com/> for a full list of available opportunities.

A recommendation from a fellow member came in regarding PD opportunities through Jack Hirose & Associates Inc. Take a look at the website below to see what is available. <http://www.jackhirose.com/#>

Did you Know

If you are requested for Jury Duty, you will be paid for those absences. You request the day(s) through Atrieve and will need to submit a copy of your Jury Summons. If you are selected to be a juror, the Division will pay the difference between your jury pay and your salary so there is no loss to you.

Meet your Executive Members

Secretary Representative – Kerry Fraser

I was a stay-at-home mom for 15 years before I became a secretary in the St. James Assiniboia School Division in the fall of 2006. I spent my first 8 years working at John Taylor Collegiate as an Attendance/EA secretary and eventually ended up at the PowerSchool desk. From there I went to the PSDC and worked as the PS Admin Head Secretary under the direction of Rob C., and Al S. I also did a short stint at the Maintenance Department, and I have now been at Stevenson School as the Head Admin since May of 2018.

I joined the Mante Board in 2022 as the Secretary Rep and I thoroughly enjoy learning and talking to the MANTE members.



If you have any concerns, please email me at kerry.fraser@sjasd.ca

Board Office Representative – Rosemary Koltalo

I started with the St. James-Assiniboia School Division in the summer of 1985. I have spent my career with the school division at the Board Office in the finance department. I spent my first 5 years in the purchasing department and then moved over to the accounts payable department, where I am today. I have been on the MANTE Executive as the Board Office/PSDC rep for almost as long as I've been with the school division. I have made many friendships and memories over the years, and I look forward to more in the future.

Executive Members

President – Jennifer Monaster
Interim Vice President – Noah Reimer
Treasurer – Robyn King
Secretary and Pension Rep – Cerys Hooper
Board Office Rep – Rosemary Koltalo
EA Rep, Health and Welfare and PD Rep – Maggi Sawchuk
EA Rep – Jenn Plesh
Library Rep and PD Rep – Jocelyn Oliver
Secretary Rep – Kerry Fraser
Secretary Rep – Wanda Prychitko

Question from a member.

Can I or Should I be driving students in my vehicle?

The simple answer, yes you can, but it is 100% your choice. Anyone in the division can volunteer to drive students for school related activities within their own vehicle. Proper paperwork must be filled out (review policy and form IJOA-E-6) and proof of the correct insurance coverage is required. You cannot be forced to transport students in your vehicle. And there are things to consider when making the choice to volunteer to drive. Many of you may have heard of the rule of two. (see below for the Rule of Two) If you are transporting students, it is advised that there are at least two adults or students in the vehicle with you. If you are dropping off a student, you need to drop both students off at the same time and location so that you are never alone in the vehicle with one student.

In the Manitoba Teachers Society Handbook from 2023-2024, in Part X - Workplace Safety and Health Committee, 10.01 Statement of Beliefs, it states that: *(j) Members should not drive either their own vehicles or divisionally owned or leased vehicles to transport students for school-related activities.* Just something to consider when making your decision.

The biggest reminder I can give you here is that it is your choice. If you feel comfortable driving students in your own vehicle, you absolutely can. But you also have the right to say no. You should never be made to feel that you must agree to drive students. And don't forget that if you are using your vehicle for Division work are entitled to claim mileage. Please complete the Division Car Mileage Allowance form (DKC-E-2)



“RULE OF TWO” Staff are also strongly encouraged and recommended to use the “Rule of Two”: having two adults present during the course of any interaction with a pupil(s), in planning for individualized or small group interactions with any pupil(s) during and outside of the school day, to protect pupils and themselves. The “Rule of Two” serves to protect staff and pupils in potentially vulnerable situations by ensuring that more than one adult is present when staff are meeting with a pupil both during and outside of the school day. Staff should ensure there is at least one other person, preferably another adult, with them and the pupil at all times. If this is not possible, staff will consider alternative measures, such as having another pupil or staff member present, meeting in a public area within the school (outside of the school would fall under recommendations 1 or 2 above), and/or leaving their classroom or office door open.
– From <https://www.mbschoolboards.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Staff-Pupil-Interactions-Trafficking-and-Exploitation-Materials-2022-ENG-Final.pdf>