



April 2025



### *Presidents Message*

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be held on **May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, 5pm at STURGEON HEIGHTS COLLEGIATE**. Please note the change in location from past years.

The following positions will be open for election this year. For more information on any of these positions or to put your name forward, please email me at [Jennifer.monaster@sjasd.ca](mailto:Jennifer.monaster@sjasd.ca) prior to **May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**President** (*must already be on the Executive committee to fill this position*) - Preside at all meetings of the members of the Association and of the Executive Committee, be charged with all press releases and the general management and supervision of the affairs and operations of the Association, signing authority, sign collective agreements negotiated by the collective bargaining committee after ratification of membership, co-Chair the Grievance Committee, chair the Negotiations Committee, attend to the necessary arrangements regarding retirement gifts, be charged with the upkeep of all books, papers, records, correspondence, contracts and other documents belonging to the Association, see that the constitution and by-laws are kept up-to-date, distribute information/notices from the Executive to the membership, arrange the annual general meeting of the Association and any other meetings, maintain the website, updating as necessary,

**Vice President** - Assume duties and powers of the President in their absence, signing authority, Chair the Grievance Committee

**Treasurer** - Keep full and accurate records of account, control the deposit of money and the disbursement of the funds of the Association, signing authority, be able to provide an up-to-date financial account representing all transactions and current financial position when required, prepare an annual budget to be presented to the membership at the Annual General Meeting and perform such other duties as assigned.

**Board Office, Educational Assistant and Secretary Representative** – 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.

As I had stated in last months newsletter, MANTE relies on the engagement of its membership to continue representing the Non-Teaching Employees of the St. James Assiniboia School Division. Without your involvement, the Association cannot continue to function. Fewer people are showing an interest in being involved in the MANTE Executive. The reality is, if we cannot fill the open positions, we will have to start considering different representations. None of us want that. None of us want to see a large increase in dues with a less personal approach to representation. That is what switching to MGEU or CUPE would bring. I implore you, if you are considering putting your name forth, please do. If you are on the fence, reach out to me or any of the present Executive members and ask any questions you have. Please consider putting your name forward and joining an executive that is committed to fairness, teamwork, and making a difference!

### **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](mailto:maggi.sawchuk@sjasd.ca) so that MANTE can send out an appropriate card.

### **Professional Development**

Reminder. When applying for PD funding, fill out the PD application form available through the portal and scan the application or send through division mail to Connie Lowe at Lincoln Middle School. There are still PD funds available for the 24/25 school year.

### **MANTE Professional Development Committee**

EA Rep – Maggi Sawchuk  
Admin Asst. Rep – Rachel Novakowski  
Library Tech Rep – Jocelyn Oliver  
MANTE President – Jennifer Monaster  
Human Resources – Joanne Johnston  
Administrator – Connie Lowe  
Financial – Monika Kananowicz

### **April Retirees**

Shauna R. 17 years



## Meet the Executive

### Treasurer – Robyn King

I began my career with SJASD in August 2010 and I have worked in multiple locations in the division over the years (Board Office, Brooklands, Sansome, St. James Collegiate). I started as MANTE Treasurer in November of 2019. Please know that as a MANTE member you have the right to look at the accounting books. If you would like to see our financials, contact me at St. James Collegiate and we can connect.

In my spare time, I volunteer with the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program. My dog Daisy and I volunteer twice a week at the airport and every Saturday morning at Sturgeon Creek One Retirement Residence. Daisy is also one of two therapy dogs in residence here at my current home of St. James Collegiate.

### Library Rep – Jocelyn Oliver

Get comfortable! Born on a strip-lot, along the Red River. Hmm not the Family Bio.

I joined the executive as a Library Representative many years ago. So many that I don't recall the exact year, either 2007 or 2008.

I was hired as a Library Technician (Certificate) in 1990. My first place of work was at Phoenix School (Year 1: 50% Year 2: 48% Year 3: 46% full time). My starting wage was \$11.49/hour. I travelled every other day, from Selkirk, MB to Headingley. Note that during this time until 2006 – a full-time library spot was 1/3 of a teaching unit and each School was given so many teaching units to Staff their school.

I worked at Phoenix until June of 1993. This is the year that SJASD Schools were automated – all the books had to be barcoded, and the barcodes had to be recorded on the catalogue cards. I had to finish Phoenix School Library before the end of June. Fall 1993, I started at Athlone (50%). There I was given the privilege of barcoding and recording all the books in that library. \*sigh\* I worked at Athlone from 1993 – 1996. Fall of 1995: I \*graduated\* up to Bruce Middle School with my former grade 5's and 6's from Athlone, I was working 30% at Athlone & 50% at Bruce. I was \*twinning\* along with the Custodian.

Oh! This is getting too long, lets fast forward a bit - Currently heading into 29<sup>th</sup> year at Bruce, Jan 1997 – June 1997 was at Bannatyne, Sept 1997 – June 2006 was at Heritage School 30%, Brooklands 20%, except for 2000-2001 Bruce was cut to 25%, so added was Phoenix at 25%. Another short intermission: a term between Athlone & Bruce Feb 2003-June 2004.

May 2006, finally MANTE jobs were not dependent on using teaching units anymore, but population was the determination of Full Time/ Part Time status. I was offered Full time at Bruce Middle School – Oh boy!! No more bouncing around! 12 years later, 2018, I chose to stay at Bruce 50% and attained Heritage. Bruce's population had dropped and so did my time. I chose to stay at Bruce 50% and gained 50% at Heritage.

Anecdotes:

Second year at Phoenix, I got stuck in the ditch. There was no tow truck in sight, but the water truck ambled along and pulled me out!

Trying to think of safe stories. No, I cannot think of any!

### 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

Vice President – Open

Treasurer – Robyn King

Secretary and Pension Rep – Cerys Hooper

Board Office Rep – Rosemary Koltalo

EA Rep – Jenn Plesh

EA Rep and Health and Welfare Rep – Maggi Sawchuk

Library Tech Rep – Jocelyn Oliver

Secretary Rep – Kerry Fraser

Secretary Rep – Wanda Prychitko

