



October 2025

President's Message

Welcome to October. The month where you never know what the weather will bring. As we enter the second month of the new school year, a few things have come up that should be clarified.

There has been some discussion as to when you should contact the MANTE President. The answer is, you can contact me whenever you'd like. I work for you. If there is something going on at your school that you want clarification on, you have the right to ask me. Can some issues be solved by speaking with your admin, of course, but that does not mean you have to go to them first. Do not ever feel that you cannot contact me and if you are being made to feel otherwise, please let me know immediately. As per the Collective Agreement, article 2.03 - *No employee shall be subject to intimidation by the Division or any of its administrators for reason of the employee consulting with the Association on any matter or requesting to have an Association Representative attend a meeting pursuant to Article 26.01*

By now, everyone should have received a letter from me regarding payroll concerns. If you have not received this letter, please let me know and I will get one out for you. I appreciate everyone that has reached out to inform me of concerns. A common concern I am getting is regarding the hours worked on our paystubs. All MANTE employees, other than the 12-month employees, have their pay pro-rated to cover either 10 or 12 months. This means that hours worked in total are stretched over a longer period. This is why the number of hours worked on your paystub does not match the actual number of hours you worked during that two-week period; it will be slightly less. If you have any further questions or concerns, please let me know.

On October 10th there was a mandatory inservice day. The division expressed that schools wanted a guaranteed day where all EA's would be in their buildings to participate in professional development. This day was mandate for PD that would be beneficial to all staff, including EA's. If you are willing, I would appreciate some feedback on how your school treated this day. Was PD provided? Was it meaningful to your position? Do you feel this day was beneficial? Please email me with any observations you would like to share. I will use this information when looking at professional development for next year. The next mandatory PD day is October 24th. This PD is for all MANTE staff. More information can be found at the end of this newsletter.

We are still looking for volunteers that wish to be liaisons within their school buildings. So far, we only have a handful of schools being represented. More information about this position can be found on the next page.

As always, if you have any suggestions for future newsletter topics, let me know. Also, any questions you have or concerns, I am here to support you.

Jennifer Monaster

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Wanda Prychitko who has recently retired. Wanda had been a secretary representative on the MANTE Executive for a past number of years. Her dedication to the Association was always evident and she was willing to help wherever she could. Thanks again Wanda, your voice at the table will be missed. This also means that we have another open position on the Executive. Please email me if you are interested in this position or any of the other open roles.



Keep in Touch

If a member at your work location is off for an extended illness or bereavement, or if a member has a reason to celebrate, please advise Maggi Sawchuk at maggi.sawchuk@siasd.ca. MANTE will send out an appropriate card. Be advised we will continue to send out cards during the rotating postal strike.

Executive Members

President – Jennifer Monaster
Vice President – **Open**
Treasurer and Pension rep – Cerys Hooper
Secretary – Kerry Fraser
Board Office Rep – Rosemary Koltalo
EA Rep, Health and Welfare and PD Rep – Maggi Sawchuk
EA Rep – Sheri Aussant
Library Tech Rep and PD Rep – Jocelyn Oliver
Secretary Rep – **Open**
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Professional Development

Reminder. When applying for PD funding, fill out the PD application form available through the portal and scan the application to Connie Lowe at Crestview School.

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

October Retirees

Scott B. 24 years
Wanda P. 20 years
Darlene J. 26 years



MANTE Executive Committee: Engaging Members for a Stronger Future

The MANTE Executive Committee is actively working to increase member engagement and involvement within the Association. Recently, we've noticed a decline in interest from members in joining the Executive, and we are concerned about the future of the Association. As current members approach retirement and key positions remain unfilled, we need new individuals to step forward and contribute to shaping the future of MANTE.

The Executive Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the MANTE office from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. During these meetings, we discuss concerns raised by members and ensure that all classifications within the membership are represented. The Executive is crucial to MANTE's operation—without it, there would be no one to hold the division accountable or ensure adherence to our Collective Agreement.

In response to the need for increased member participation, we are excited to announce the return of Liaisons to the division buildings for the 2025/26 school year. These Liaisons will help bridge the gap between members and the Executive, encouraging more members to become involved and consider running for open Executive positions.

We are looking for one MANTE member from each building (who is not currently part of the Executive) to serve as the Liaison for that building. The Liaison's responsibilities include:

- Meeting once or twice a year with the Executive and other Liaisons to discuss issues and concerns from the division buildings.
- Maintain a list of all MANTE members within their building in order to distribute MANTE correspondence, both through email and paper copies.
- Posting newsletters and flyers on staff bulletin boards.
- Acting as a point of contact for MANTE members, helping direct their inquiries to the appropriate person on the Executive committee.

Being part of MANTE means being part of a community. We encourage you to get involved, contribute your voice, and consider a future role on the Executive Committee. Together, we can strengthen our Association and ensure its continued success.

If you're interested in learning more or would like to get involved, please contact the MANTE President at mante@mante.ca. We look forward to hearing from you.

Swimming Program Participation for Educational Assistants

Our division is proud to offer enriching swim programs for our students, and Educational Assistants (EAs) play a valuable role in supporting these activities. As part of their duties:

- **Educational Assistant – A (EAA)** staff may be asked to assist with the Grade 3 swim program.
- **Educational Assistant – C (EAC)** staff may be involved in supporting all swim programs across various grades.

To support our EAs in these roles, the division provides a swimwear allowance every two years for those participating in swim programs.

If you have a medical condition that prevents you from entering the water, please provide a doctor's note so the division can make the appropriate accommodations. We understand that staffing needs can vary across schools. In cases where there are not enough EAs available to support swim programs at a particular location, the division may need to **reassign staff** to ensure adequate coverage. This would be considered a **last resort**, and we appreciate your flexibility and commitment to student safety and success.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support in making our swim programs a positive experience for all students!



MANTE PD DAY



CONVERSATIONS AND STORIES OF MATTERING AND MEANING PRESENTATION

DATE & LOCATION:

OCTOBER 24, 2025
THE DAY STARTS AT STURGEON
HEIGHTS COLLEGIATE

SPEAKERS:

ELAINE COOK
CATHY PETTA

WHAT TO BRING?

- Notebook /writing tools/notetaking tech
- Water bottles



Sturgeon Heights has a large parking lot on the west side of the school, but Carpooling is always a great idea!

AGENDA:

- 8:30am - Snacks & Coffee
- 9:00am - Am Session
- 11:30-1:00pm - Lunch (not provided)
- 1:00-3:30 - PM Session - Middle & Senior Years and Divisional Support Staff at Sturgeon Heights Collegiate
- 1:00-3:30 - PM Session - Early Years and ESS Staff at Sansome School (181 Sansome Ave)

