MASBO Minute

Manitoba Association of School Business Officials

April 2026

Executive Director Message

MASBO President, Elise Downey and myself attended the MSBA President's Dinner on March 19th. I am always proud that our organization and our members are recognized and included as partners in the service of education. Elise was able to bring greetings on behalf of MASBO and its members prior to the dinner. The Presidents from MASS and MTS also provided greetings to the attendees. Many Trustees, Superintendents, Secretary-Treasurers, MLAs, and other guests were in attendance and it was great to be represented at this event.

At a recent Education Partner meeting, the topic of advocating for positive messaging about public education was discussed. The discussion was focused on trying to shift the narrative to a view through a more positive lens rather than an easy and frequent negative one. The conversation at the table also considered the impact of the negative narrative on staffing recruitment and retention. I took away from this conversation that we need to acknowledge the good work that is done in public education – in the classroom and in all the support services that are necessary to make the system work. In other words, all MASBO members should be proud of the strong support you provide every day to the service to students and staff of within your school communities.

I attended the Manitoba Excellence in Education Awards at the Legislative building on April 17th. It was heart warming to hear of the caring and commitment of several educators and leaders from across the province that were recognized for their work in education. During their acceptance comments, the theme of team and everyone pulling together in support of students and community was evident. There were mentions of bus drivers, custodians and division office staff all being part of the service. Confirmation again that what we do makes a difference!

The Executive will be holding its final meeting of the year virtually on May 7. This meeting will be focused on finalizing plans for the AGM and Conference and regular business of the association.

Professional Learning

The two MASBO Books Groups are currently reading *Leaders Eat Last – Why Some Teams Pull Together and Others Don't*, by Simon Sinek and *Emotional Intelligence – Why it can Matter More Than IQ*, by Daniel Goleman. If you are interested in participating in future book groups, contact me at edmasbo@mymts.net.

"Let us all be the leaders we wish we had."

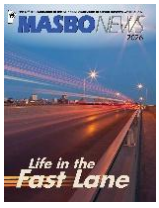
Simon Sinek, Leaders Eat Last

2026 MASBO News – 'Life in the Fast Lane'.

The publication is complete and has been sent to members. A digital version is available here. . Thanks to the publications committee for their work in planning and reviewing content ideas - Zena van Rooyen, River East Transcona SD; Kevin Zabowski, Southwest Horizon SD; Robert Warkentin, Hanover SD; Michelle Munford, MASBO and guest Robyn Collette, President-elect.

This publication is an opportunity to showcase the important work of our members and our association. Please share the print or digital versions with any interested individuals.

We are looking for member's input for ideas and content for the 2027 issue. Please contact myself or any of the committee members if you are interested in contributing.



MASBO 2026 AGM & Convention – May 27-29, 2026 - Life in the Fast Lane

Registration is open. https://www.masbo.ca/calendar_list.asp

Plan to attend this event to learn, network and connect with colleagues from across the province.

A recent book read by one of the book groups was *The Power of Positive Leadership* by Jon Gordon. Gordon argues that optimistic, purpose-driven leaders drive superior team performance and organizational success, not through naive positivity, but by fostering resilience and tackling negativity.

Key Principles and Takeaways

- Optimism is Key: Positive leaders are "dreamers and doers" who believe in a better future, which motivates them to work harder to make that vision a reality.
- Confront Negativity: Leaders must actively combat "energy vampires" and stop complaining, which can sabotage organizational morale.
- Build Positive Culture: A positive culture is the primary "root" that produces high-performing fruit, requiring intentional, daily positive actions.
- Unite and Connect Teams: Connecting people through shared values and strong relationships creates a team that outperforms more talented, but disconnected, competitors.
- Lead with Purpose: A shared, inspiring vision acts as a "North Star" for the organization, guiding actions and fostering commitment.
- Apply Love and Accountability: Positive leaders care for their people, which encourages higher performance, but also maintain high standards and accountability.