MASBO Minute

Manitoba Association of School Business Officials

June 2026

2026 AGM & Convention

The MASBO annual conference with the theme of *Life in the Fast Lane* was held May 27-29 in Winnipeg with close to 110 members and guests attending to connect and learn.

The event started with a morning of golf for several attendees. The formal program started in the afternoon with our first session – Managing the Unexpected, led by David Jung.

The evening included the tradeshow where 36 vendors were present to showcase their products and services. Members and guests were able to network with colleagues and vendors and enjoy a food station during the evening.

The AGM portion of the event went through the business of the association, approving the financial statements and budget as well as welcoming the new executive members.

There were several breakout session options for participants to choose from on varying topics and content:

- *Circle and the Box*
- *Leadership Ethics*
- *School Bus/Vehicle Insurance*
- *Essential Services Agreements*
- *Trust, Judgement, and AI – Using Intelligent Tools without Losing Control*
- *Return to Work and Workplace Accommodations*
- *School Safety*
- *Retirement and Pension Plan*

The popular functional round table discussions occurred after the breakout sessions.

At the Thursday President's Banquet, several past presidents and life members were able to join us: Gord Arbuckle, Ken Bergen, George Coupland, Cliff Meder, Tom Henry, Paul Ilchena, Ed Johns, Anne Malyon, Vince Mariani, Jody Stevens, Roy Seidler and Wayne Shimizu.

MASBO guests attending were; Mona Pandey and Jeff Kehler (EECL), Cheryl Smukowich and Josh Watt (MSBA), Lillian Klausen and Arlyn Filewich (MTS), Dan Ward and Barb Isaak (MASS) as well as MSBA staff; Morgan Whiteway, Chris Huppe, Alison Bourier, Tripat Pachu, Jodie Taylor, and Robyn Winters.

We were proud to acknowledge our newest Life Member, Brian Spurrill for his commitment and service to the education community and to our association.



The closing speaker on Friday was Mark Black, sharing his experiences and messaging on being resilient. We were pleased to have Mark join us as he recently had a kidney transplant and up until a couple weeks before the event, we weren't sure he was going to be able to make the trip from New Brunswick!

Some comments from the event feedback:

- *First one - really enjoyed - will be back every year.*
- *This event was well worth attending. Great speakers.*
- *Fantastic conference - enjoyed the networking, sessions and keynote speakers.*

MASBO 2026/27 Executive

President	Robyn Collette, Red River Valley
President Elect	Jamie Rudnicki, Louis Riel
Past President	Elise Downey, River East Transcona
Provincial Directors:	
Finance Urban	Scott Carleton, Pembina Trails
Finance Rural	Shannon Bayes, Beautiful Plains
Transportation	Cam Woodcock, Rolling River
Maintenance	Rene Lambert, DSFM
Regional Directors:	
Northwestern	Shannon Desjardins, Turtle River
South Interlake	Jonathan Hyman, Portage la Prairie
Winnipeg	Trina Cimino, St James Assiniboia
Executive Director	Paul Ilchena
Executive Assistant	Michelle Munford

The 2026-27 MASBO Executive Planning will take place August 26-27. This session will provide an opportunity for the new executive to explore ideas and actions for the upcoming year.

Thanks to our members leaving the executive: Robert Warketin and Kevin Zabowski.



Have a great summer and take some time to rest and appreciate the things that you enjoy!