



Manitoba Association of Parent Councils
Annual General Meeting and Conference – April 27 & 28, 2012
Networking Questions

1. The Provincial Grade 12 ELA exam is always scheduled for the 2nd day back to school following Christmas break. Do you feel the timing of this exam is acceptable? Do you feel the students' assessment would be reflected differently if the exam were on a different date?

- I think that after a long break that some students need more than a day to get back into the groove of school and giving them more time might give them a better chance at doing well. That being said, by grade 12 they should know their work and the time to study / prepare over the break might be a good thing. I am really on the fence with this question.
- I believe the timing is perfect for our school.
- I think the timing of the exam is acceptable. This is a valuable lesson for students called life. This should help with the transition to work, college, or university.
- No, we do not feel like the timing of this exam is acceptable. Yes, we feel the students would do better overall if allowed more time, for example two weeks, to prepare for this exam. We don't know too many (ok, we don't know any) students who study when they're on break. They go on vacation, they visit with family, they work and they unwind – which is the whole point of a BREAK! This is far too important an exam to put that on them so soon after that break.
- No, we think the timing should change. We feel Christmas break should be just that – a break, a time to spend with family. Many students will either take the time to study, defeating the purpose of the break with family, or else not study and have their marks reflect that. We do feel the students assessments would be reflected differently if it were not near a holiday.
- You can't study for it – so it doesn't matter when it's done.
- It needs to be timed better. Not an accurate account of student learning and progress
- I don't, they should do it before the break, so the student can enjoy their holiday or have it near the end of January or beginning of February.

2. Over the next five years, Manitoba Education is phasing in a cap on the size of classrooms (to 20 students) for Kindergarten to Grade 3. What do you think the pros and cons are, and why?

- I believe it is a good idea but think also adding resource support for teachers with slightly higher class sizes might be as effective and less expensive.
- Students will benefit from a controlled size classroom. This will allow teachers to plan the class program more effectively
- Pros and Cons:
 - **Pros:**
 - more one-on-one
 - intimate
 - **Cons:**
 - Space (classrooms); looking at the dynamics is more important
 - Cost of space and teachers
 - What happens when the class is 22? What happens to those 2?
 - E.A.'s?
- Pros and Cons:
 - **Pros:**
 - more attention to students
 - better ratio
 - **Cons:**
 - More financing required
 - More split classrooms
 - More taxes? Or less services?
- Even though we have more cons on the list, we think it is a positive move, although the make-up of the class might be a factor
- By capping a K class at 20, I believe that would mean that the classroom would not have an EA. I think that 20 – 5 year olds or 20 – 6 year olds would be a lot for any teacher to handle without assistance in the form of an EA.
- Pro: some kids at slower paces would benefit

- Con: I remember the 30 students in our class being very loud and obnoxious
- I think a cap of 20 students is a pro. More than 20 new learners would be a detriment to the learning of the new students. K is the foundation for their future learning.
 - Pros:
 - More one-on-one time
 - Less noisy, chaotic, distracting
 - Teacher has more control
 - Familiarity from teacher to student and student to student
 - Less stressful on teacher in general
 - Cons: none

3. What are your thoughts regarding Bill 28 (legislation that would ensure serious bullying incidents are reported)? Do you agree with this?

- We can't answer because we don't understand the question fully. We feel it's appropriate, but are there measures in place already for within the school? We already thought that there was a procedure in place. We agree with the document but if there isn't one already in place, we feel it should be implemented in, and if there is, why isn't this just an amendment rather than a new bill?
- We agree. We feel for a great deal of the time this already happens. However, we are concerned that a child's behaviour should not necessarily follow them from school to school.
- There are 3 amendments to this bill – ALL unacceptable behaviour should be reported immediately
- I agree with the proposed bill with ongoing education and support for educators, students and parents
- Yes, we agree with this
- As long as it is dealt with in the school, not as province wide. The administration should be given more authority to implement. Isn't this happening already? Isn't this common sense?
- I agree. Monitoring bullies will assist schools when confronting the issues. Will help when the bullies change schools