

## RTAM 2024 Annual General Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2024, 9:00 AM

Hilton Express, 1800 Wellington Avenue, Winnipeg

Quorum established with 63 members in attendance, either in person or by Zoom.

Meeting was called to order at 9:10 am

Chairperson of Meeting: Linda Blair

1. RTAM Choir opened the meeting with O Canada
2. Land Acknowledgement and Blessing by Elder Linda St. Cyr-Saric
3. Greetings from Nello Altomare, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning
4. John Sushelnitsky honoured teachers that have passed followed by In Memoriam power point.
5. Approval of the AGM Agenda  
**MOTION:** AGM Agenda be approved as presented. Moved by Jocelyne Fraser, 2nded by Gabe Mercier, CARRIED.
6. Approval of Meetings of Members
  - a. Approval of the AGM Minutes from May 3, 2023
    - i. Dorothy Young - Page 7 #15 – List Policy Changes
    - ii. Pat Bowslaugh = #20 – Pat B was left off the names listed**MOTION:** Approval of AGM Minutes from May 3, 2023, as corrected. Moved by Kelvon Smith, 2nded by Linda Scott CARRIED.
  - b. Approval of Special Meeting of Members of September 25, 2023  
**MOTION:** Approval of Special Meeting Minutes be approved as presented. Moved by Dorothy Young, 2nded by Bob Davies CARRIED.
7. New Business – Forms for new business available from Secretary; no submission received
8. By-laws Discussion and Amendments

Motion and Changes to By-laws – Allison Kilgour and Jamie Jurczak from Taylor McCaffrey LLP reviewed amendments to the recommended changes to our By-Laws.

Dorothy Young: Recommended that By-Law Committee be reinstated.

Bill Cann: Asking for clarification – 4.01b - can associate members vote in a committee? No. They re non-voting members.

7:06 Removal of Directors and Officers – add members at large as well as Board members.

8:03 – Duties of Officers – add Past President

12.03 – Are minutes taken for In Camera meetings?

Kelvon Smith – No minutes are kept when In Camera. If there is a motion, the Board comes leaves In Camera and records the motion in the minutes.

Allison Logan – In-Camera – no minutes taken, rise from in-camera to pass a motion.

Marilyn Wiebe – In Camera clause – If we don't take minutes, why is there a taking of minutes clause in the new By-laws?

Linda Scott – Terms of Officers - 5 years changed to 6 years to accommodate 2-year terms at each position.

Peggy Prendergast – Are gender neutral language used within the By-laws proposed? By-laws will be reviewed to use gender neutral language by the EDI Committee.

**MOTION:** Remove 12.03b from recommended amendments to the By-laws, on taking of Minutes for In Camera Meeting. Moved by Allison Logan, 2nded by Joanne Hoyak, CARRIED

**MOTION:** Legal team can edit and make changes to By-laws as-long-as it doesn't change the intent of the By-law. Moved by Doug Adams, 2nded by Dorothy Young, CARRIED

John Sushelnitsky – We are recommending the acceptance of the report from the lawyers and the By-laws Committee.

Pat Bowslaugh – Historically, only retired members were allowed to join RTAM. Do By-laws have anything that designate how we would protect our insurance when we open membership to non RTAM members?

Sean Seymore – applicants must provide proof of 5-year employment at an education facility, must be retired, and they will be Community Member and can not vote on RTAM Meeting or Committees so teachers determine the course and future of RTAM. This membership will be open to community but they will be non-voting members. This way retired teachers determine the running of, our vision of and the future of RTAM

Corinne Barrett Dewile – Worried that we will have a max number of 6 years (term limits) and we are shrinking the size of Board because there aren't enough members that want to come on the Board. It is contradictory to limit the number of years on the Board to limit people who are really invested to the service of retired teachers. I am recommending that the number be a maximum of 8 years and Mission and Vision should be in the By-laws.

**MOTION:** Section 2 of the Policy into the By-laws as the new #3 and move Mission and Vision as the new #2 from Policies. Motion by Corinne Barrett Dewile, 2nded by Linda Scott, CARRIED

Julienne Hoyak – Lawyers are involved in our process rather than retired teachers.  
Term limits of five- or six-year term limits does not do anything for continuity. We need a director in each committee. If we keep dropping number of directors, the work of committees will be diminished.

Dave Najduch – If we approve the By-laws, we approve the six-year model.  
If we approve the By-laws, will non-teaching members from education institutions become members of RTAM. Yes, as a non-voting Community Member.

**MOTION:** Amend the By-law to serve 8-year service instead of 6-year service, Motion by Dave Najduch, 2nded by Corinne Barrett Dewile, CARRIED

John Sushelnitsky – Merit to change to 8 years but Directors are not staying for more than one year.

Peggy Prendergast – To put this in perspective, members can join as early as 55 and can go to as long as an age of over a hundred years on RTAM board. There are many different issues that would limit the number years members can serve on the Board.

Bob Davies – Robert's Rules are mentioned in the By-Laws.

Dave Najduch – It is a good idea to allow Community Members to RTAM. It allows RTAM to grow.  
Recommends that By-laws be approved with the changes and review the application of By-laws.

Catherine McClaren – Opposed to the idea of every member of the education community joining RTAM.

Bill Cann –

**MOTION:** Add the 'and independent' followed by appropriate to be made to 4.05. Motion by Bill Cann, 2nded by Dorothy Young, CARRIED.

**MOTION:** RTAM By-laws amendments be voted on as discussed. Moved by Gabe Mercier, 2nded by Lucy Mitchell, CARRIED.

**MOTION:** By-laws be adopted as amended subject to minor changes that do not change the intent. Moved by Dave Najduch, 2nded by Kelvin Smith, for: 27, against: 28 (need 2/3rds of voters to pass), DEFEATED.

**MOTION:** The agenda continue after lunch. Moved by Betty-Jean Checkley, 2nded by Marilyn Wiebe, CARRIED.

**MOTION:** Amend Agenda to move items from AM Coffee Break to Lunch before the Consent Agenda. Moved by Marilyn Wiebe, 2nded by Phyllis Hunter, 30 for, opposed 2, CARRIED.

9. Presentations by:

MTS, Nathan Martindale, Cynthia Taylor

TRAF, Jeff Norton, Brad Prokop

RTAM Representative on TRAF Board, Dave Najduch

Hearing Life, Cheryl

**MOTION:** Updates and Amendments of the By-laws presented be sent to the By-law Committee before the legal advisors review it. Motion made by Joanne Hoyak, 2nded by Allison Logan, CARRIED

**MOTION:** Reconsider the Motion on Amendments of the By-laws that was defeated; Motion by Joan Zaretsky, 2nded by Betty-Jean Checkley, for: 31, opposed: 19, CARRIED.

Bob Davies – Proposed that we remove the section on Community Members and pass the By-laws.

Peggy Prendergast - Remove the section on Community Involvement and approve the By-laws.

**MOTION:** Remove the section on Community Member component (4.01d) from the By-laws. Moved by Bob Davies, 2nded by Audrey Siemens, for: 39, opposed: 10, CARRIED.

Dave Najduch – Community Members will be non-voting members, so teachers will still have controlling power and set the direction for RTAM. Keep the Community Membership category. The Board and the lawyers were the By-laws committee in 2023-34.

Bill Cann – Keep the community group in the current By-laws. Community Members have no control over RTAM operation and direction. It is beneficial for RTAM to grow.

Corrine Barrett Dewile – Take out the Community Members section. We would have to change our mission statement as it says now, 'to advocate for retired teachers.'

Sean Seywright – Full authority to review the plan, either to continue or discontinue, rests solely on the RTAM Board.

Joan Zaretsky – Are we a professional organization or are we here to make money from the insurance plans.

Henry – Support this motion and clarify the Community Membership during the next year.

**MOTION:** Approve the By-laws as amended. Moved by Bob Davies, 2nded by Dianne Snider, for: 47, opposed: 0 CARRIED.

The new By-laws state that members can serve a total of 8 years on RTAM Board. Members who have already served five years to date can now serve 3 more years.

10. Updates to RTAM Policies – Defer conversations about Policies to another Meeting of Members or the next AGM.

11. Treasurer's Report

**MOTION:** AGM Financial Budget and the Audited Report be approved as presented. Moved by Brent Corrigan, 2nded by Dorothy Wiebe, CARRIED

**MOTION:** Membership Fees remain at \$3 per month/\$36 per year. Moved by Brent Corrigan, 2nded by Joan Zaretsky, CARRIED

**MOTION:** Reimbursement rates for 2024-25 remain the same as 2023-24. Moved by Brent Corrigan, 2nded by Dianne Snider, CARRIED

- Meals: breakfast \$16.00, lunch \$24.00, supper \$30.00
- Travel: private vehicle \$0.60 per kilometer
- Air/bus: by receipt
- Hotel: \$180.00 per night (max), Private: \$90.00 per night (max)
- Computer consumables: by receipt to a maximum of \$120.00

**MOTION:** Reid and Miller Chartered Accounts Inc. be appointed as RTAM 's Auditor for 2024-25 year. Moved by Brent Corrigan, 2nded by Betty-Jean Checkley, CARRIED

12. Consent Agenda: Administrative and Chapter Reports (were posted on RTAM's website).

- a. President's Report
- b. Vice President / ACER-CART Report
- c. Executive Directors Report
- d. Annual Committee Reports
  - i. ACER CART, Gabe Mercier, Chair
  - ii. Equity Diversion and Inclusion (EDI), Betty-Jean Checkley, Chair
  - iii. Emeriti, Bill Cann, Chair
  - iv. Keep In Touch (KIT), Gisèle Grégoire, Chair
  - v. Membership, Dianne Casar, Member Services Coordinator
  - vi. Pension, Brent Corrigan, Chair
  - vii. Political Advocacy, Linda Blair, Chair
  - viii. Student Awards, Jayesh Maniar, Chair
  - ix. Wellness Advocacy, Gabe Mercier, Chair
  - x. Membership and Chapters, Dianne Casar, Member Services Coordinator
  - xi. Substitute Concerns Committee, Gabe Mercier, Chair
- e. Annual Chapter Reports
  - i. BARTA (Brandon and Area Retired Teachers)
  - ii. Calgary

- iii. DARTA (Dauphin and Area Retired Teachers)
- iv. St. James-Assiniboia
- v. TARE (Thompson Association of Retired Teachers)
- vi. EMR (Educateurs Manitobaine en Retraite)
- vii. SWAC (Southwest Assiniboine Chapter)

**MOTION:** The Consent Agenda be approved as presented. Moved by Doug Adams, 2nded by Marilyn Wiebe, CARRIED

**MOTION:** Approve Chapters and Special Interest Groups as listed in the 2024-25 Budget. Moved by Doug Adams, 2nded by Marilyn Wiebe, CARRIED.

13. Introduction of 2024-2025 RTAM Board:

- i. Past President – Linda Blair
- ii. President: Gabe Mercier
- iii. Vice-President:
- iv. Secretary: Jayesh Maniar
- v. Treasurer:
- vi. Board Member: Betty-Jean Checkley
- vii. Board Member: Peter Narth
- viii. Board Member: Audrey Siemens
- ix. Board Member: Marilyn Wiebe
- x. Board Member: Vicky Hutchinson
- xi. Board Member: Jocelyn Fraser

**There was no longer a quorum.**

14. New Business

- a. These motions will be presented to the members at the next AGM.

Member Proposal of Amendment to By-Law Term Limits to Directors

MOTION: After being off the Board for one (1) year, Board Members may be nominated for re-election to the Board at the next AGM. Moved by Joan Dawson, 2nded by Bob Davies

MOTION: If more than four (4) Board members have reached the term limit of five (5) years then a maximum of four (4) members, based on seniority, will be asked to step down for a minimum of one year before resubmitting their names for election to the Board.

Moved by Joan Dawson, 2nded by Bob Davies

- b. The Board should review the cap of \$500 for travel to AGM. Chapter leaders should not be out of pocket when attending AGM or any Meeting of Members.

15. Vote of Thanks to the outgoing Board of Directors

With gratitude and good wishes, farewell to the following Directors:

Brent Corrigan  
Gisèle Grégoire  
Kelvon Smith  
Dianne Snider

16. Adjournment at 4:53 pm