

## Bill 205 passes third reading

Bill 205, the School Trustee Statutes Amendment Act, received third reading May 6, 2002. It was supported by 23 of the 38 MLAs in the legislature at the time. MLA Mary O'Neill introduced the private members Bill. She says her intent in introducing Bill 205 was "to create the circumstances under which the optimum number of trustees on a school board would be able to discuss and vote on the optimum number of items that come before the board. Second I want the roles to be clear and unambiguous to all."

Bill 205 will not become law until it is proclaimed. O'Neill has indicated she would like to see Bill 205 proclaimed at the call of the next school board election.

While Bill 205's original wording would have resulted in employees of any school district/division, charter or private school being ineligible to present themselves as candidates for school boards, the Bill was subsequently amended to allow employees who want to run for school board to apply for a leave of absence in order to run. The Bill specifies that applications made under this provision must be granted.

### *What happens in municipalities?*

On the municipal side, employees are constrained in this manner (i.e. need to take a leave, need to resign if they run successfully) only if they run for office with their own employer municipality--he or she can run unconstrained in another municipality. A school division employee must seek leave from any school board in order to run in any school board.

### *Pecuniary interest redefined*

Bill 205 also amends the School Act so that only the pecuniary interests of the trustee and the trustee's spouse place a trustee in a conflict-of-interest position. Under current legislation, the pecuniary interests of the trustee, the trustee's spouse, children, parents and parents-in-law place the trustee conflict-of-interest.

### *Much debate about Bill 205*

There was a lot of debate about the merits of Bill 205. If nothing else, the discussion raised the profile of the role of the school trustee. MLA Brent Rathgeber summed it up saying, "Mr. Speaker, one aspect I'm very happy about in all of this is that I believe that the debate on Bill 205 has increased awareness of school trustees and the great job that they do in this province. Everyone in this Chamber believes that their trustees are the best and most committed people to have in charge of our education system."

### **MLAs who supported third reading:**

Ady, Hlady, Rathgeber, Amery, Horner, Renner, Cenaiko, Jablonski, Snelgrove, Danyluk, Lord, Stelmach, Dunford, Lougheed, Strang, Forsyth, Masyk, Taylor, Goudreau, McClelland, VanderBurg, Graham and O'Neill.

### **MLAs who did not support third reading:**

Bonner, Jacobs, Nicol, Boutilier, Knight, Pannu, Ducharme, Lund, Stevens, Friedel, Massey, Taft, Haley, Melchin and Vandermeer.

## Graduation speeches available at ASBA

'Tis the season for speeches. The ASBA has a collection of speeches which may serve as a starting point for trustees who are called to make remarks at upcoming graduations. Contact Aimee at 1.780.482.7311 or [afarris@asba.ab.ca](mailto:afarris@asba.ab.ca)

## Register online for Spring General Meeting

Online registration is available for the Spring General Meeting. Go to the ASBA website at [www.asba.ab.ca](http://www.asba.ab.ca). The registration deadline is May 27. For more information contact Noreen Pownall at 1.780.451.7102 or [npownall@asba.ab.ca](mailto:npownall@asba.ab.ca).

### *Feature presentations...*

Good governance and having the courage to govern will be the focus of Barry Bashutski's presentation. Bashutski works for the Saskatchewan School Trustees Association. Hank Goertzen will provide an intensive session dealing with the elements of powerful presentations: vocals, visuals and verbals. Lawyer Kevin Feehan will review the essentials of parliamentary procedure as a tool to running effective meetings. Other sessions will include: coping with stress, a look at the Calgary Catholic/Rocky View School Division partnership and an update on the insurance front.

## Board submissions for ASBA annual report

More than half the province's school boards have submitted their highlight for inclusion in the ASBA annual report. Boards have until May 24 to make sure they are included as part of this popular feature in the annual report. For more information contact Aimee Farris at [afarris@asba.ab.ca](mailto:afarris@asba.ab.ca).