

Online registration www.asba.ab.ca

PD focus of ASBA SGM

Professional development is the focus of the ASBA's Spring General Meeting. Keynote speaker **Stacey Holloway** will offer practical insights and strategies for those who want to be part of developing strong, trusting collaborative cultures. Holloway will share the knowledge she has gained from 20 years of working with people in organizations responding to and creating change through collaboration.

The SGM will also see the launch of the first of four modules aimed at helping school boards start, sustain and enhance their local relationship building. The *Making school boards a neighbor of choice* series will feature **Dan VanKeeken**, Director of Communications with the Alberta Motor Association and a longtime Grant MacEwan instructor.

VanKeeken has developed a curriculum, especially for school boards, based on the textbook, *Corporate Community Relations: The Principle of the Neighbour of Choice*. While this workshop is open to all, trustee/ administrator teams are encouraged.

Other sessions include: Practical governance tools with **Leroy Sloan**; Striking a balance -- keeping our schools safe while respecting student privacy with the ASBA legal department; meet the new deputy minister featuring **Keray Hanke**, who will provide an overview of education issues from the department's perspective and Media relations 101.

For the 2005 SGM all registration will be completed online at www.asba.ab.ca

Report contains 30 recommendations

School boards to consider metro boards study at SGM

School boards will be asked at the SGM to adopt as ASBA policy, 30 recommendations and a report that emerged from the ASBA's metro study. The recommendations are the result of an ASBA-lead study that looked at issues affecting the province's four largest school boards.

A review of the Renewed Funding Framework made up the lion's share of the study because the metro boards felt their expectations, needs and circumstances were not recognized in the new funding framework. The study also looked at facilities and transportation because the metro boards identified these as priorities.

Steering committee

A steering committee including trustee **Lois Burke-Gaffney**, trustee **Carol Bazinet**, trustee **Svend Hansen** and board-designated representative **Ron Zapisocki** represented Calgary Catholic, Calgary Public, Edmonton Public and Edmonton Catholic respectively in this study.

30 recommendations

Of the 30 recommendations -- six are very specific to metro issues -- and the other 24 address issues common to all school boards. Some of the recommendations included:

- ◆ including a metro factor in the funding framework to address the complexities and issues facing the four metro boards.
- ◆ increasing funding for First Nations, Metis and Inuit education

- ◆ reviewing the funding allocated to each of the factors in the Renewed Funding Framework to ensure it is sufficient to address the cost variances between jurisdictions in an equitable manner.

- ◆ providing additional money to school boards who serve refugee students

- ◆ increasing funding for ESL programs by increasing the current weighting level.

The report, *Metro School Boards Study -- An Analysis of the Impact of the Renewed Funding Framework* is posted on the ASBA website.

Next steps:

The ASBA Board of Directors will recommend school boards adopt the report and its 30 recommendations as ASBA policy at the Spring General Meeting. The second phase of the metro study will be an exploration of the relationship between the ASBA and the four metro boards, in response to the metro boards' view that they do not have sufficient voice in the actions taken by ASBA.

Context for this project:

The ASBA conducted a rural study in 2001. At the request of metro boards, the ASBA launched a study of metro issues. Strategy E.22 in the ASBA's 2005-2008 strategic plan speaks to an urban boards study.

What's new @www.asba.ab.ca

- ◆ The ratified minutes of ASBA Board of Directors meetings are now posted on the ASBA website at www.asba.ab.ca/people/board_of_directors.html. This is in keeping with a recommendation of the ASBA Organizational Review.