

Success stories best read in annual report

According to the 33 "reviewers" who evaluated the ASBA annual report the board success stories were the best read feature. This year, 64 of 66 member boards provided items for this section -- up from 53 the previous year. We are aiming for 100 per cent participation next year.

Thanks to everybody who completed the feedback form -- people were generous with their praise and suggestions. Here are the comments we've received:

Evaluation comments:

- o More zone highlights
- o More pictures of trustees involved in ASBA work
- o Include a map showing where all the boards are
- o Keep the reports even briefer
- o Include the winners and nominees for Edwin Parr
- o One piece of humor
- o More pictures of students in action
- o Give school trustees an idea of what to look for during school visits
- o Articulate upcoming challenges more specifically
- o Great - leave as is
- o Colour photos might enhance
- o I appreciated the information
- o I thoroughly enjoyed it
- o It was very important to focus on the successes after last year
- o Continue good news -- reduce text in beginning section
- o Stay with a winner
- o Excellent report
- o It was very good

Copies were given to all trustees, superintendents, MLAs and partner organizations. Next week, the report will be mailed to Alberta's Chambers of Commerce and the media. For extra copies please contact Aimee Farris at afarris@asba.ab.ca.

ASBA moves on citizenship report recommendations

The ASBA will establish a stakeholders advisory group as the first step toward implementing the seven recommendations in the *Shaping Young People into Good Citizens* report. The ASBA Board of Directors approved an action plan at its September 13 meeting.

The report was the result of a province-wide consultation with Albertans that asked questions about how well schools were doing in preparing young people to be good citizens. The recommendations included:

- o introducing mandatory citizenship activities at the local/provincial level
- o engaging school councils/community in efforts to identify efforts to deal with bullying and aggressive behavior

Zone 4 Director **Gerald Kujala** will lead the initiative. A copy of the report is on the ASBA website at http://www.asba.ab.ca/pdf/ASBA_Public_Consult_full.pdf.

Lawyer to review response to last year's labour strife

Judith Anderson, a well-respected British Columbia labour lawyer and former head of the ASBA's legal department, will conduct an independent review of the 2001-2003 round of collective bargaining to identify lessons learned. The results of her review should be available in January 2003.

Positive results on annual member survey

Every year the ASBA asks an independent firm to survey school boards about their satisfaction with the services and support the association provides. One hundred and twenty-eight surveys were sent to superintendents and board chairs -- 66 surveys were returned. The overall survey results are listed below. An executive summary will be provided to all school boards shortly.

Percentage positive ratings:

Labour relations 98 %

Legal services 85 %

Provincial level advocacy 86 %

Member communications 95 %

Association affairs: The six clients surveyed were very positive.

The ASBA uses the feedback and information gathered through this survey to refine and improve the services it provides to school boards.

Especially for government watchers What Alberta's cabinet ministers are reading

Keen government watchers will want to pick up a copy of *The Five Temptations of a CEO* by Patrick Lencioni. According to Jim Armet of the Armet report, Premier Ralph Klein gave every cabinet minister a copy of the 134 page book, making it a must read for those who keep their fingers on the political pulse.

Update -- FGM Nov. 17 to 19

Nov. 18 will focus on Learning Commission work. Association business will run from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Nov. 19. Keep this in mind as you make travel arrangements.