



Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting ASBA Boardroom

April 6-7, 2006

ATTENDANCE

Board Members

Mrs. Maureen Kubinec, President (Thursday)
Mrs. Maureen Emond, Vice-President
Mr. Gerry Gibeault, Edmonton Public
Mrs. Debbie Cavaliere, Edmonton Catholic (Thursday)
Mrs. Judy Buddle, Edmonton Catholic (alternate) (Friday)
Mrs. Nancy Close, Calgary Public
Mrs. Lois Burke-Gaffney, Calgary Catholic
Mrs. Alice Brick, Zone 1
Mrs. Heather Welwood, Zone 23
Mrs. Karen Holloway, Zone 4
Mrs. Maureen Munro, Zone 5
Mrs. Patricia Aitchison, Zone 6
Mr. Ted Paszek, ACSTA
Mr. Martin Blanchet, FCSFA
Mrs. Judy Muir, PSBAA

Staff/Consultants

Mr. David Anderson, Executive Director (Thursday)
Ms. Donna Engel, Manager, Corporate Services (Thursday)
Ms. Suzanne Lundrigan, Manager, Communications
Ms. Marian Johnson, Administrative Assistant

Note: Any enclosure, report or other document to which a motion relates in whole or in part becomes an integral and official part of these minutes.

CALL TO ORDER

President Kubinec called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Mr. Ted Paszek led in the singing of O'Canada.

A. RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

A.1 Agenda

(a) Additions/Changes

Changes to Order:

As M. Kubinec and D. Anderson needed to leave the meeting by 8:45 p.m. the Board agreed to discuss the issues on the Thursday evening in the following order:

- A.1 Approval of Agenda
- A.2 Approval of Minutes
- C.1 President's Report
- C.3 Executive Director's Report
- A.4 Identification of ASBA Advocacy Priorities
- B.1 Follow-up on Rejected ACOL Recommendations

(b) **Approval**

MOTION #1
D. Cavaliere

That the agenda, as amended, be approved.

CARRIED

A.2 **Approval of Minutes – March 9-10, 2006**

(a) **Errors/Omissions**

Attendance: The minutes were corrected to reflect that Martin Blanchet attended both days of the meeting.

(b) **Approval**

MOTION #2
K. Holloway

That the minutes of the March 9-10, 2006 ASBA Board of Directors meeting be approved as amended.

CARRIED

(c) **Business Arising**

K. Holloway confirmed that she would be providing Zone Directors with a copy of the finalized budget presentation prior to its presentation at Zone meetings.

A.3 **ASBA Strategic Plan
(Revised) 2006-2009**

M. Emond highlighted the changes that were incorporated into the revised plan as requested by the Board. The Board also requested the following revisions:

Pg. 8, second paragraph, second line: Replace “kids” with “children and students”

Third line: replace “adjusted” with “modified”

Pg. 9, third paragraph, third line: Replace “PPP” with “Public-Private Partnerships”

Pg. 10, “Specific Priorities” - first line: Change first sentence to read “At a meeting of the Board of Directors in January 2006 ...”

Pg. 20, “Strategies – Strategic Key Results” – E-1.1, last point: Amend to read “How the association’s policy is set.”

MOTION #3
M. Munro

That the ASBA Board of Directors approve the revised ASBA Strategic Plan September 2006 – August 2009 as amended.

CARRIED

**A.4 Identification of ASBA
Advocacy Priorities (2006-
2007)**

S. Lundrigan reviewed the four criteria required for an issue to be considered as an advocacy priority and proposed that the Board test the submitted advocacy issues against the criteria to assist them in identifying two advocacy priorities. Each board member expressed what they felt were the top priority issues:

K. Holloway – transportation (in particular the service level required) and adequate/equitable programs.

N. Close – transportation, capital funding (all infrastructure issues), consolidation of ASBA Facilities policies, high school completion, property tax.

D. Cavaliere – transportation, capital funding, high school completion (including an aspect of CEU funding).

G. Gibeault – capital funding and high school completion.

H. Welwood – infrastructure (and developing better ways to plan)

M. Munro – declining or rapidly growing populations, and transportation.

L. Burke-Gaffney – capital funding, infrastructure (shifting the process), transportation, and revisiting the funding formula and/or creating a new one.

P. Aitchison – high school completion rates and CEU funding, capital funding, and transportation.

A. Brick – capital funding

The Board was reminded that ASBA would advocate on all issues of concern, but would focus on the two issues selected. Following a vote on the proposed issues, the following two received the highest rankings:

1. Capital Funding (new schools and upgrades)
2. Transportation

It was noted that the issue of High School Completion ranked just below Transportation.

The Board agreed that the next step in the process would be to participate in a workshop to develop advocacy strategies.

A.5 In-Camera Session

An *in-camera* session was not necessary.

A.6 Authority to Develop and Amend ASBA Policy and Directives for Action Development Process

M. Emond advised that the Policy Committee had realized there was a need to develop a clear process for policies and directives for action to be approved by the membership and, thus, drafted Board Policy GP-16.

It was noted that a lettering correction was required to change #4(c) to 4(b) on the draft policy. As well, clarification to #5 would be beneficial to provide trustees with a better understanding that, while the Board of Directors may adopt an interim policy, the general assembly ultimately must vote on it.

The Board also requested that cross-reference information be included after the policy and that the policy be included in the 'Board Meeting Highlights' and a Board Chairs E-mail message.

MOTION #4

P. Aitchison

That the ASBA Board of Directors approve the draft policy GP-15: ASBA Policy and Directives for Action Development Process, subject to the above changes and clarification of point #5.

CARRIED

A.7 ASBA Board of Directors Policies – Housekeeping Changes

M. Emond described the proposed changes as purely housekeeping in nature which were a result of the recent amalgamation of the ASBA Policy Handbook and the ASBA Board of Directors' Policy Handbook into the ASBA Governance Handbook.

MOTION #5

G. Gibeault

That the ASBA Board of Directors approve the recommended changes to GP-4 (7), GP-9 (2) (a), GP-10 (5), and GP-14 (cross-reference).

CARRIED

M. Emond extended her thanks, on behalf of the Board, to Karen Holloway and Nancy Close for their diligent work on the ASBA Policy Committee.

A.8 Directors' Requests for Information

There were no requests for information.

A.9 Agenda Items – Future Board Meetings

The following items were identified:

- Renewed Funding Framework – Comparisons
- Plant Operations and Maintenance Issues – Discussion with Ministers of Infrastructure and Education (May)
- ASBA Governance Review Proposal (May)
- Report on gaps in aboriginal academic results (Kelowna Accord)
- Discussion re relationships with other education associations with similar memberships (ACSTA, PSBAA, FCSFA, ASBALE)

- Discussion re Metro Board Study Recommendations (May)
- Terms of Reference for Small Urban Boards Study (May)
- Date of Board Transition Meeting (May)
- Executive Director Evaluation Committee (May)
- CEU Funding

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

B.1 Follow-up on Rejected Learning Commission Recommendations

M. Kubinec commented on the diligent work of the Board and school boards in responding to the recommendations of the Alberta Commission on Learning report and achieving an association policy position on bargaining.

Employer Bargaining Model (81.a & c): M. Kubinec advised that she would seek the Minister's clarification of what the government would do next.

Junior Kindergarten (2) and Full-day Kindergarten (3): M. Kubinec advised that she had invited CASS, AHSCA, and ATA to attend a meeting to develop a joint position on these recommendations. Board members expressed several comments regarding the recommendations:

- The government just did not want to pay for these programs – ASBA should pursue them aggressively
- Trustees need to show leadership in advocating for these programs
- Resistance was due to the programs being mandatory
- There were two sides to the issue of the value of full-day kindergarten programs
- These programs were most valuable for “at risk” children
- Boards should not have to take funds from one program to pay for kindergarten
- Need a key message to which all stakeholders agree
- All five boards within FSCFA offer full-time kindergarten as they believe that all students are at risk of losing their culture
- The four partners agreed to show leadership and cooperate on issues such as kindergarten.

The meeting recessed at 8:35 p.m. and reconvened on Friday at 8:55 a.m.

B.2 Provision and Distribution of Board Chairs E-mails and Information

K. Holloway provided background information that a board in her Zone had requested the ASBA Board Chairs E-mail address list.

The Board of Directors was informed that ASBA considers such address lists as confidential and refers boards to the ASBA website for individual e-mail addresses.

It was suggested that this issue could be raised as a governance issue on how ASBA networks.

C. INFORMATION ITEMS

C.1 President's Report

In addition to her written report, M. Kubinec advised that the Metro Board Study Task Force had met in Calgary on April 3^d and that recommendations from this study would be discussed at the May Board meeting.

(a) CSBA Update

Board members were provided with the March 31 and April 7, 2006 CSBA "InfoPicks".

C.2 Vice-President's Report

In addition to her written report, M. Emond reported on the CEU funding discussion that took place at the Partners Retreat held March 19-21. Included in that discussion was the disclosure that CASS was developing a policy on CEU funding that was contrary to ASBA's policy 4.P.07.

C.3 Executive Director's Report

In addition to his written report D. Anderson advised the Board of the following:

Joint Property Tax: AUMA had agreed to establish a joint Property Tax position with ASBA and Board members were encouraged to provide their thoughts on this issue to any of the ASBA representatives prior to the meeting planned for May 4. The ASBA representatives are Maureen Kubinec, Lois Burke-Gaffney, and David Anderson.

In response to an enquiry as to whether the government was considering returning to school boards a portion of their ability to requisition money through property taxes, D. Anderson cautioned that there needed to be provincial agreement first.

Policy Advisories With financial assistance from Alberta Education, two policy advisory committees were being established to look at updating ASBA's Fees and Fundraising policy advisory and developing an ASBA Anaphylaxis policy advisory.

Executive Director's Evaluation: The Executive Director's Evaluation Committee had agreed to report to the Board at their May meeting as D. Anderson was not able to attend the Friday portion of the April meeting.

Political Environment: The Board discussed the current “red zone” situation of the government. D. Anderson expressed his view that until the leadership was decided there would be no major action/decisions made by the government. G. Gibeault suggested that ASBA organize a Premier Candidates Forum to raise provincial education issues and allow dialogue between candidates and school boards.

ASBA Governance: M. Kubinec announced that she would seek election for a second term as President. M. Emond advised that she would not seek election for a second term as Vice-President.

MOTION #6
M. Welwood

That the ASBA Board of Directors thank Maureen Emond for her hard work as Vice-President.

CARRIED

Note: The meeting reconvened on Friday at 8:55 p.m. with Vice-President Emond as Chair. She welcomed Judy Buddle to the meeting as the Edmonton Catholic alternate.

C.4 Member Reports

Edmonton Public (G. Gibeault): In addition to the written report, G. Gibeault advised that the new Superintendent would be announced at the board’s April 18th meeting and that the board was hosting a conference on April 19th to showcase how Edmonton Public operated.

Edmonton Catholic (J. Buddle): A copy of “Focus on the Future” was provided to the Board. In addition, J. Buddle advised that a Superintendent search would soon be undertaken.

Calgary Public (N. Close): In addition to her written report, N. Close commented on her board’s recent experience with a Lethbridge student who moved to Calgary.

Calgary Catholic (L. Burke-Gaffney): Please refer to the written report.

Zone 1 (A. Brick): Please refer to the written report.

Zone 23 (H. Welwood): A letter from Zone 23 would be sent to all school boards advising them that their DVD on Trusteeship would be available for \$250 which included permission to duplicate. H. Welwood also advised that the Zone’s decision regarding a non-voting representative on the ASBA Board of Directors was deferred to the Zone’s April 28th meeting.

Zone 4 (K. Holloway): Please refer to the written report.

Zone 5 (M. Munro): As the Zone meeting was being held the same day as the Board of Directors meeting, a report was not available. However, M. Munro informed the Board that T. Gunderson had conducted a board self-evaluation for Rocky View S. Div. and that three Rocky View students had achieved 100% on their first semester diploma exams.

Zone 6 (P. Aitchison): Please refer to the written report.

ACSTA (T. Paszek): Please refer to the written report and the brochure on education property tax.

PSBAA (J. Muir): Please refer to the written report.

FCSFA (M. Blanchet): No report was available.

C.5 Lead Role Reports

CASS Self Governance (G. Gibeault) – G. Gibeault referred the Board to Information Item C.8(c) - a letter from CASS to ASBA summarizing their March 6, 2006 meeting; and advised that ASBA Legal staff had been asked to comment on the letter.

Insurance – ASEBP (G. Gibeault) – G. Gibeault commented on the information contained in the ASEBP Trustees' Report (Information Item C.7e). H. Welwood added that Health Spending Accounts were still being considered.

C.7 Reports

C.7(b) – Math Program Revisions. Board members requested that Keith Wagner be invited to a future meeting to clarify how vertical and horizontal enrichment was connected to Grade Level of Achievement (GLA) and how GLA reporting would favour vertical enrichment and whether this would be an impediment to high school completion rates.

C.7(c) – Funding Sufficiency Report. The Board was advised that the draft report, written by Sig Schmold, would be provided to the Funding Framework Committee as a reference document and that a companion study would also be done related to Infrastructure. Due to the draft nature of the report, Board members were asked not to distribute it.

Board members expressed the following concerns regarding the report:

- **Pg. 1: Purpose** – *first bullet* – Francophone school boards should be included in the statement
- **Pg. 6: Funding Sufficiency Measures** – *point A.4* – concept of % students and % funding ratio being included in the document.

- **Pg. 37:** What did the statement at the end of the report mean and what does it refer to?

Board members were requested to e-mail any additional concerns to David Anderson.

C.7(i) – Renewed Funding Framework Committee – General Subcommittee Recommendations: D. Anderson would send out an e-mail to follow-up on the questions included.

C.7(d) – Composite Learning Index: Board members were advised that the report was not for general distribution, but the issue could be discussed.

C.8 Correspondence

C.8(e) – New Cabinet List: The new cabinet position of Associate Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation (Barry McFarland) was noted.

Additional Reports

Moving Forward with the Employer Bargaining Association: S. Lundrigan advised that two copies of this document would be sent to each jurisdiction.

Announcements

Board of Directors photos would be taken at the Spring General Meeting, probably on the Monday.

M. Emond thanked the Board for their hard work and support during her term as Vice-President, and advised that she would not be at the May Board meeting.

D. MEETING EVALUATION

Directors were encouraged to complete and return their meeting evaluation form.

E. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #7
L. Burke-Gaffney

That the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

President

Executive Director