



Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting ASBA Boardroom

April 10-11, 2008

ATTENDANCE

Board Members

Mrs. Heather Welwood, President
 Mrs. Jacquie Hansen, Vice-President
 Mrs. Bev Esslinger, Edmonton Public
 Mrs. Debbie Engel, Edmonton Catholic (alternate) - Friday
 Ms. Carol Bazinet, Calgary Public
 Mr. Serafino Scarpino, Calgary Catholic
 Mr. John Lehnert, Zone 1
 Mrs. Lynda Akers, Zone 2/3
 Mr. Clayton Jespersen, Zone 2/3
 Mrs. Jackie Swainson, Zone 4
 Mr. Doug Gardner, Zone 5
 Mr. Arnold Frank, Zone 6 (alternate)
 Mrs. Alice Brick, ACSTA
 Mr. Martin Blanchet, FCSFA

Regrets

PSBAA Observer

Guests

Mr. Sig Schmold, ASBA Consultant (A.6)
 Mr. Raj Panwar, Acting Executive Director, Resource Sector, Program Development and Standards, Alberta Education (A.7)
 Ms. Helene Fourier, Project Director, Distributed Learning Strategy, Alberta Education (A.7)

Staff/Consultants

Mr. David Anderson, Executive Director
 Mrs. Donna Engel, Director, Corporate Services
 Mr. Scott McCormack, Manager, Special Initiatives
 Ms. Heather Tkachuk, Policy and Research Analyst (A.3, A.4)
 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 Welwood called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Jackie Swainson led the Board in the singing of O'Canada.

A. RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

A.1 Agenda

(a) Additions/Changes

Additions:

- A.9(a)** Principal Quality Practice Standard
- A.9(b)** Directors' Requests for Information

(b) Approval

MOTION #1
L. Akers

That the revised agenda, as amended, be approved.

CARRIED

A.2 Approval of Minutes – March 13-14, 2008

(a) Errors/Omissions

A.8 (Proposed Budget), pg. 4: the effective date for the proposed increase in kilometre rate should have been indicated as April 1, 2008.

(b) Approval

MOTION #2
C. Jespersen

That the minutes of the March 13-14, 2008 ASBA Board of Directors meeting be approved as corrected.

CARRIED

(c) Business Arising

There was no business arising from the March meeting.

A.3 Accountability Report – Advocacy

MOTION #3
J. Swainson

That, based on the Board of Directors' review of the information provided, the board determines that the Executive Director has met the quality indicators as outlined in the Advocacy Accountability Report.

CARRIED

MOTION #4
J. Lehnert

That the Board of Directors request the Executive Director to include this accountability report in the ASBA Executive Director Evaluation Evidence Binder for the period September 1, 2007 – August 31, 2008.

CARRIED

A.4 Directive for Action 2.D.01 – Start Time and Day of ASBA Business Meetings

MOTION #5
B. Esslinger

That the ASBA Board of Directors adopt Option 3, recommending to the membership at SGM 2008 to delete 2.D.01 – Start Time and Day of ASBA Association Business Meetings, with the understanding that Administration is committed to responding to the membership's desire that the business session begin early in the day while still allowing for flexibility in scheduling program events such as keynote speakers, opening ceremonies, Minister's and Premier's addresses, presentations, etc.

DEFEATED

MOTION #6
L. Akers

That the ASBA Board of Directors adopt Option 1, recommending that the business session begin at 9:00 a.m. on the first full day of the general meeting and adding program events to the order paper, such as a keynote speaker, student entertainment, presentations, etc. as either order specific or time specific events.

CARRIED

A.5 In-Camera Session

An *in-camera* session was not required.

A.6 Transportation Study

Mr. Sig Schmold gave a presentation outlining the five top pressure points identified in his March 2008 report entitled "*At the Breaking Point: Alberta's Student Transportation System*". These were:

- Driver recruitment and retention
- 2.4 km walk limit standard
- School choice and its impact on transportation
- Concerns regarding the current allocation structures
- Transportation fees

The presentation included two options, each with several recommendations, to address the issue. The first option emphasized ASBA using a collaborative approach to problem solving while the second option emphasized ASBA putting forward solutions to identified student transportation pressure points.

B. Esslinger, Chair of the ASBA Transportation Advocacy Task Force, advised that the committee had reviewed the options and recommended the second option.

MOTION #7
L. Akers

That the ASBA Transportation Advocacy Task Force recommends ASBA putting forward "solutions" to identified student transportation pressure points and commencing a consultation and advocacy plan through sharing the Transportation Report with school boards and engaging partners like the Alberta Student Transportation Advisory Council (ASTAC).

CARRIED

Further discussion provided the following comments:

- Option 2 did not address the recruitment problem
- Other partner groups were insurance companies and taxi drivers
- Advocacy effort could consider behaviour and medically fragile students, as well as aspects to low driver, recruitment/retention

A.7 Distributed Learning

Mr. Raja Panwar and Ms. Helene Fournier gave an

overview of Alberta Education's strategy and implementation plan for distributed learning. They highlighted that the strategy ensured equitable access to learning for all students, enhanced opportunities for students as well as collaboration between school jurisdictions. Directors identified the following concerns:

- Where would a student be resident?
- Who would take responsibility for a child's academic success?
- Standards to connect would need to be interconnected
- What changes would school boards and schools need to make?

A.8 PREVNet Conference on Bullying

D. Anderson advised that CSBA had received an invitation to send two delegates to the PREVNet Conference titled "Creating a World Without Bullying" being held May 27-29, 2008 in Toronto. At his request, ASBA had been granted one of the invitations. Kerry Milder was chosen to attend on behalf of ASBA.

A.9 Directors' Requests for Information

(a) Principal Quality Practice Standard (PQPS)

D. Anderson requested direction from the board regarding the PQPS draft document and provided the following background information:

- The report was originally drafted by a committee of stakeholders, following focus group input in the fall of 2006, in response to ACOL recommendation #76 to develop a quality practice standard for principals under the general heading "*Recognize and support the leadership role of principals*". Two other related recommendations, which were not adopted, were:

#77 Establish a new program to prepare and certify principals; and

#78 Establish a Council of Education Executives

- On April 7, 2008, Alberta Education hosted a symposium on school leadership, where no reference was made to the original PQPS document. It appeared as if the government had ignored the work previously done by stakeholders, although it did provide it as background information.

- In checking with other education stakeholders (ASBOA, ATA, CASS, ASCA), they indicated they preferred the document be used as a standard, not as a guideline.

Following discussion, the board directed D. Anderson to move forward with the document, incorporate any input provided at the April symposium, and seek membership adoption/endorsement of the report.

(b) Directors Requests for Information

Expanded PDAC: J. Hansen reminded Zone Directors to advise her of their Zone representative on the expanded task force established to streamline policies and the policy process.

Diploma Exam Writing: L. Akers asked if ASBA and/or Alberta Education would be making Alberta Education's policies better known to school boards on available options for writing diploma exams during inclement weather.

CASS/AB Ed Special Education Symposium: ASBA had not received any information on this symposium.

Board Meeting Dates: At the Board's request, meeting dates for January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2010 would be provided at the May meeting.

Fiscal Accountability Training Sessions: Alberta Education provided a total of \$250,000 in grants to ASBA for the development of material and the provision of training sessions by Mat Hanrahan.

General Meeting Speakers: D. Engel advised that if Directors had any ideas or suggestions for speakers to let her know.

Fall General Meeting Evaluations: Copies of the FGM evaluation summary were made available to the Board.

Health Symposium (March 19-20, 2008): D. Anderson advised that once he had reviewed the responses to the evaluation questions related to the symposium and had consulted with those boards who did not attend, he would consider if any next steps would be taken.

Provincial Budget - ASBA Response: H. Welwood advised that she would provide key messages and an ASBA response, based on policies and priority areas, on the provincial budget.

Instructional Time: J. Lehnert requested a definition of "instructional time" and whether the definition was found in the *School Act*, or in collective agreements, or defined by Alberta Education.

A.10 Agenda Items – Future Board Meetings

The following items were identified:

- ASBA 100th Anniversary Celebration Costing
- Subsidizing Service Costs

- Adequacy of Funding (Discussion)

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no discussion items.

C. INFORMATION ITEMS

C.1 President's Report

H. Welwood reported that she would be meeting with the Minister of Education on Monday, April 21.

(a) CSBA Update

Please refer to the "CSBA InfoPicks" report included in the agenda package.

C.2 Vice-President's Report

In addition to her written report, J. Hansen informed the Board that, as a member of the Child and Family Services Board (CFSA), she had been requested to bring appropriate CFSA information to the ASBA Board of Directors. She added that this was an opportunity to partner with this group, as per ASBA's strategic plan. She cautioned, however, that some definitions did not mean the same to both organizations. Board members agreed to CFSA's request.

C.3 Executive Director's Report

Please refer to the written report. Referencing the Meeting Evaluation form, D. Anderson stressed the need for Directors to include details if they answered "yes" to question #7: "*Were any suggestions made at the previous Board meeting that you feel should have been formalized in a motion?*"

D. Anderson also added the following:

Closing the Gap Conference – due to the low registration, board members were asked to make suggestions on how ASBA could better connect with school boards on the issue of aboriginal education.

Cost Analysis, 2008 Board Leadership Session – In response to the board's request, D. Anderson reported that if alternates and Zone Chairs were included in the session (excluding discussions regarding the board's self-evaluation and the Executive Director's evaluation), it would at least double the expenses budgeted for this session. He added that, for this year, the ASBA budget could accommodate this increase.

It was suggested that for the 2008 session, ASBA would pay expenses for the alternates and Zone Chairs, but that in subsequent years, Zones would be responsible for these expenses.

It was requested that a discussion on the length of term for Board of Directors members be held at the Leadership Session. D. Anderson advised that he would bring suggestions on this issue to the next Board meeting as well as information on the status of other governance review “parking lot” issues.

C.4 Member Reports

Edmonton Public (*B. Esslinger*): Edmonton Public signed another agreement with the Confucius Institute and had worked with Edmonton Catholic and the City of Edmonton regarding unrestricted bus passes.

Edmonton Catholic (*M. Bergstra*): A report was not available.

Calgary Public (*C. Bazinet*): Please refer to the written report.

Calgary Catholic (*S. Scarpino*): Please refer to the written report.

Zone 1 (*J. Lehnert*): Please refer to the written report. In addition, J. Lehnert clarified that Grande Prairie Public’s proposed alternate school year would be August 1 – May 31 (with exams in December and May) and that the board hoped this would be implemented for 2009-2010.

Zone 2/3 (*L. Akers/C. Jespersen*): In addition to their written report, C. Jespersen suggested that a trustee break-out session be included at the SGM or FGM to assist trustees in understanding the importance of AISI.

Zone 4 (*J. Swainson*): In addition to her written report, J. Swainson and C. Bazinet provided a brief overview of the recent Rural Education Congress they attended. It was noted that with the changes to size of Saskatchewan jurisdictions their governance had to be adjusted.

Zone 5 (*D. Gardner*): Please refer to the report distributed at the meeting.

Zone 6 (*K. Milder*): A report was not available.

ACSTA (*A. Brick*): A report was not available.

PSBAA: Please refer to the written report.

FCSFA (*M. Blanchet*): A report was not available.

Infrastructure Advocacy Task Force

J. Lehnert, Chair of the task force, provided an update of their recent deliberations and noted that three themes emerged from a review of ASBA policies:

1. sustainable funding model
2. ideal school/district
3. operations and maintenance

He advised that the task force would focus on a few of the main issues and suggested that the President meet jointly with the Ministers of Education and Infrastructure to discuss this priority issue.

High School Completion Task Force

J. Swainson, Chair of the task force, reported that the first meeting of the expanded committee was held April 10th and that the next meeting was scheduled for May 8th, in an effort to meet their June timeline to develop a plan to identify best practices and develop resources.

Trends, Innovations, and Educational Scenarios (TIES) Report

D. Gardner reported that he had met with John Burger and Dianna Millard of Alberta Education to develop an environmental plan and to coordinate trend issues. He and D. Anderson will meet to discuss an approach to move forward. It was agreed that the TIES report would be renamed the "Trends Report".

D. MEETING EVALUATION

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

E. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the President adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

President

Executive Director