



Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting ASBA Boardroom

February 12-13, 2009

ATTENDANCE

Board Members

Mrs. Heather Welwood, President
Mrs. Jacquie Hansen, Vice President
Ms. Bev Esslinger, Edmonton Public
Mrs. Marilyn Bergstra, Edmonton Catholic
Ms. Carol Bazinet, Calgary Public
Mr. Serafino Scarpino, Calgary Catholic
Mrs. Dianne Lavoie, Zone 1
Mrs. Lynda Akers, Zone 2/3
Mr. Clayton Jespersen, Zone 2/3
Ms. Jackie Swainson, Zone 4
Mr. Doug Gardner, Zone 5
Ms. Kerry Milder Zone 6
Mr. Ted Paszek, ACSTA (alternate)
Mr. Roy Goulet, FCSFA
Mr. Don Fleming, PSBAA

Guests

Mr. Kim Bater, Chair, Canadian Rockies RD #12 (A.6)
Dr. Henno Theisens, Analyst, Centre for Educational
Research and Innovation (A.6)
Mr. Brian Callaghan, Superintendent, Canadian Rockies RD
#12 (A.6)
Dr. Jim Dueck, ADM, Alberta Education (A.9)

Staff/Consultants

Mr. David Anderson, Executive Director
Ms. Donna Engel, Director, Corporate Services
Ms. Heather Rogers, Director, Finance & Administration (A.9b)
Ms. Suzanne Lundrigan, Director, Communications (Friday)
Mr. Scott McCormack, Manager, Special Initiatives
Ms. Bobbie Garner, Administrative Assistant
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 7:09 p.m.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Music was provided for the national anthem as well as video clips of Canadian scenes.

**INSTALLATION OF NEW
OBSERVER**

As the new ACSTA observer, Ms. Sandra Bannard, was unable to attend the meeting, the installation ceremony was postponed until the March meeting.

A. RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

A.1 Agenda

(a) Additions/Changes

A.8 Partnership with ATA: Discussion was moved into the "*in-camera*" session (A.3).

C.7 Budget Assumptions: This item was moved into the Action Items as A.11(a) and would include A.11(a) – Subsidizing Service Costs.

C.9(d) ASBA Opinion Poll Online: This information item was added.

(b) Approval

MOTION #1
J. Swainson

That the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

A.2 Approval of Minutes – January 17, 2009

(a) Errors/Omissions

No errors or omissions were noted.

(b) Approval

MOTION #2
C. Jespersen

That the minutes of the January 17, 2009 ASBA Board of Directors meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

(c) Business Arising

There was no business arising from the January 2009 minutes.

A.3 In-Camera Session

The *in-camera* session was held on Friday at 9:00 a.m.

MOTION #3
D. Lavoie

That the meeting move *in-camera* with the staff present.

CARRIED

MOTION #4
D. Gardner

That the meeting move out of *camera*.

CARRIED

Observers joined the meeting.

**A.4 ASBA Response to
Workforce Planning
Framework for Action**

D. Anderson advised that, based on input from the Directors, economic changes would be incorporated in the ASBA response.

MOTION #5
S. Scarpino

That the ASBA response to Alberta Education's Workforce Planning Framework for Action incorporate the points included in the list of comments provided.

CARRIED

- A.5 ASBALE/ASBA Protocol Agreement** D. Anderson provided the board with the following information on ASBALE:
- There were 36 school board members in ASBALE
 - ASBALE is an independent organization
 - ASBA provides administrative support to ASBALE
- MOTION #6**
D. Gardner That the ASBA Board of Directors direct administration to draft a proposed protocol agreement for their consideration at a future meeting.
- CARRIED**
- A.6 “Schooling for Tomorrow” Presentation** H. Welwood introduced Mr. Kim Bater, Chair of Canadian Rockies RD #12, who spoke on that board’s “Futures Planning” public engagement project which was based on the program developed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Dr. Henno Theisens provided an overview of the OECD program and its successful implementation at Canadian Rockies.
- A.7 Policy Development Advisory Committee (PDAC) Report** J. Hansen, Chair of PDAC, provided an update on the work of the committee and a list of key messages from their December 5, 2008 meeting.
- A.8 Partnership with ATA – Obstacles** This issue was discussed during the *In-Camera* session (see A.3).
- A.9 Declining PAT/Diploma Exam Results Presentation** Dr. Jim Dueck of Alberta Education reported on the downward trend of provincial achievement tests. He presented statistics which indicated some provinces and countries have overtaken Alberta in terms of performance on standardized tests in some subjects.
- A.10 Directors’ Requests for Information** J. Hansen informed the Board about the “Success in School for Children and Youth in Care” initiative jointly undertaken by Alberta Education and Alberta Children and Youth Services. The Board requested that a presentation be scheduled for a future board meeting.
- The Board was also receptive to scheduling an Early Development Initiative (EDI) video presentation at a future meeting which B. Esslinger suggested.
- D. Gardner requested Board members to advise him of these types of initiatives for TIES.
- A.11 Agenda Items – Future Board Meetings** The following items were identified:
- Presentation re Discrepancy of School vs. Diploma Awarded Marks by Dr. J. Rymer
 - ASBA Strategic Plan (2009-2012)

- ASBALE/ASBA Protocol Agreement proposal
- Presentation on "Success in School for Children and Youth in Care"
- Video presentation on Early Development Initiative (EDI)

(a) Budget Assumptions
(formerly item C.7)

The Board reviewed the list of 11 budget assumptions on which the 2009-2010 budget would be based and indicated their support of them. A correction was made to the note on lease costs on the current market rate which should have read \$23/sq ft which translated to an increased cost of \$92,459.

The Board discussed the possibility of including direct recovery of staff travel expenses from school boards when providing services to boards on a fee for service basis.

Several budget scenarios would be provided for the Board's consideration at their March meeting, including one with increases to fee for service rates and one with travel cost recovery expenses.

L. Akers and C. Bazinet agreed to continue serving on the ASBA Budget Committee.

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

B.1 Trends (TIES) Report

D. Gardner highlighted the three trends that the TIES group would focus on:

- High School Completion
- Grade Level of Achievement
- Infrastructure

He added that a fourth trend on Community Engagement was recently added to the list.

S. McCormack advised that the TIES group was striving to provide website linkages to relevant materials available online and providing a 'sharepoint' for resources and materials not currently available online.

MOTION #7
K. Milder

That the ASBA Board of Directors accept the TIES report of January 14, 2009.

CARRIED

B.2 School Board Governance for the 21st Century

D. Anderson expressed his belief that the future of school boards in Alberta was in the school boards' hands and that the Minister of Education did not have a predetermined solution to the future of school boards.

With this in mind, D. Anderson proposed that the 2009 Spring General meeting be devoted entirely to plenary discussions on the future of school boards to provide input into the “Inspiring Dialogue” response by ASBA. To assist with these discussions, he asked the Board’s opinion on commissioning background papers on what education governance should look like in the 21st century.

Board members provided the following comments on the request:

- This was a serious problem – boards needed to behave democratically
- School boards needed to be relevant and needed to frame how they would govern
- There was a possibility that the Minister would open the *School Act*
- This must not be self-serving; it must be done in the best interests of children
- The discussions must be open, even if they were outside school board comfort zones.

After hearing the Board’s comments, D. Anderson advised that he would pursue commissioning the background papers to enhance education governance conversations at the 2009 Spring General Meeting.

B.3 ASBA Board Agenda Structure

In an effort to reduce the number of administrative items on Board agendas and to focus more on advocacy issues, D. Anderson asked the Directors to indicate which items on the last four meeting agendas they felt were administrative in nature. Future Board agendas would be restructured based on their responses.

B.4 Fiduciary Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

Following the Thursday portion of the meeting, Karen Munro, ASBA lawyer, provided a presentation on fiduciary responsibilities of the Board of Directors to those who had not previously heard it.

C. INFORMATION ITEMS

C.1 President’s Report

In addition to her written report, H. Welwood received a positive response from the Board on her suggestion to hold the June meeting in Cold Lake on Friday, June 12th, with travel from Edmonton on June 11th. This meeting would include new Directors as well as observers. As a result, logistics would be investigated.

It was noted that Zone Chairs would be invited to attend either the April or May Board meeting.

H. Welwood reported that she would be meeting with the Minister on February 27th, just prior to the Zone 2/3 MLA luncheon.

- (a) **CSBA Update** In addition to her written report, the Board was informed that the performance evaluation for the CSBA Executive Director would be considered at the March CSBA Board meeting and that the CSBA President, Mr. Rick Johnson, had taken a leave of absence to campaign for the position of MPP in Ontario.
- C.2 **Vice-President's Report** Please refer to the written report.
- C.3 **Board of Directors Listing** Board members were provided with an updated contact list and asked to advise of any errors.
- C.4 **Executive Director's Report** D. Anderson added the following to his written report:
- Summit:** To date 160 delegates had registered to attend the Summit. Zone Directors would be asked to contact those Boards who had not yet registered or who were not sending their full quota of delegates. Speaking notes would be provided. D. Anderson advised that ASBA would sponsor 40 public delegates selected at random from those who attended focus group meetings and respondents to the online survey.
- Meeting Representatives:** ASBA representatives were required for the following meetings/conferences:
- ATA Practice Review Meeting (February 25):*
- ATA Dinner with Dr. Pasi Sahlberg (March 3):*
Lynda Akers
- Education Research Seminar (March 5):*
Carol Bazinet
Clayton Jespersen
Scott McCormack
- Distributed Learning Symposium (March 11-13):*
Marilyn Bergstra (*dependent on her alternate being able to attend the ASBA Board meeting March 12-13*)
- Healthy Schools Symposium:** D. Anderson advised that ASBA and the Alberta Coalition for Healthy School Communities (ACHSC) were co-sponsoring a symposium March 23-24 in Nisku.
- Zone Consultation and Information Sessions:** D. Anderson informed the Board that Alberta Education, in response to ASBA concerns that they were monopolizing Zone meetings, had organized regional Consultation and Information Sessions for each Zone. The topics to be covered were High School Completion, School Infrastructure Review, Accountability Pillar Reports (New Feathers), Provincial Approach to Student Information (PASI), Laptop Research, Early Learning and Early Child Development Mapping project and Setting the Direction for Special Education.

Dates for these sessions were:

Zone 1	March 18	Grande Prairie
Zone 2/3	March 26	Edmonton
Zone 4	March 24	Red Deer
Zone 5	March 5	Calgary
Zone 6	March 30	Lethbridge

Board members were encouraged to emphasize these sessions at Zone meetings and to attend their Zone's session.

C.5 Member Reports

Edmonton Public (*B. Esslinger*): Please refer to the written report.

Edmonton Catholic (*M. Bergstra*): Please refer to the report distributed at the meeting.

Calgary Public (*C. Bazinet*): Please refer to the written report and the CBE Report to the Community 2009 which was handed out at the meeting.

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

Zone 1 (*D. Lavoie*): Please refer to the written report.

Zone 2/3 (*L. Akers & C. Jespersen*): Please refer to the written report.

Zone 4 (*J. Swainson*): Please refer to the written report.

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

Zone 6 (*K. Milder*): Please refer to the written report.

ACSTA (*T. Paszek*): A report was not available.

FCSFA (*R. Goulet*): A report was not available.

PSBAA (*D. Fleming*): Please refer to the report and the workbook entitled "Straight Talk" which were distributed at the meeting

C.6 ASBA Advocacy Priority Reports

- (a) **High School Completion** J. Swainson provided the Board with a copy of the survey sent to trustees to assist in identifying students at risk and current efforts used to improve school completion rates. Feedback was requested by the end of March.

(b) **Infrastructure** S. McCormack provided the Board with a copy of the survey sent to boards to gather information to develop a provincial overview of school infrastructure and its key pressure points. Feedback was requested by the end of February.

(c) **Transportation** S. McCormack reported that the Transportation discussion guide had been distributed to help facilitate discussions at the school board level on the issues identified in the "At the Breaking Point" report.

It was noted that the advocacy task forces should all have action plans in place by the end of June.

C.7 **ASBA Budget Assumptions (2009 – 2010)** This was discussed under item A.11(a).

C.8 **Q1 Financial Report (2008-2009)** The first quarter financial report was provided to the Board as an information item.

C.9 **Reports**

(a) **Annual Reports – External Committees** **Alberta Schools Athletic Association (ASAA):** S. Scarpino highlighted the committee's concern regarding liabilities Boards could incur if they did not ensure that their coaches were qualified.

D. **MEETING EVALUATION** Directors were encouraged to complete and return their meeting evaluation form.

E. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION #8
B. Esslinger That the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

President

Executive Director