



Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting Teleconference Call

June 12, 2008

ATTENDANCE

Board Members

Mrs. Heather Welwood, President
Mrs. Jacquie Hansen, Vice-President
Mrs. Bev Esslinger, Edmonton Public
Ms. Carol Bazinet, Calgary Public
Mr. Serafino Scarpino, Calgary Catholic
Mrs. Lynda Akers, Zone 2/3
Mr. Clayton Jespersen, Zone 2/3
Mrs. Jackie Swainson, Zone 4
Mr. Doug Gardner, Zone 5
Ms. Kerry Milder, Zone 6
Mrs. Alice Brick, ACSTA
Ms. Barb Johnson, PSBAA

Absent:

Mrs. Marilyn Bergstra, Edmonton Catholic
Ms. Dianne Lavoie, Zone 1 alternate)
FCSFA Representative

Staff/Consultants

Mr. David Anderson, Executive Director
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

Vice-President Hansen called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. as President Welwood could not attend the entire meeting.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Chair dispensed with the singing of O' Canada due to the meeting being conducted via telephone.

A. RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

A.1 Agenda

(a) Additions/Changes

Additions:

A.4 Addition of Zone 6 Policy Amendment
A.5 Strategic Plan Third Quarter Report
C.6(a) Report by High School Completion Task Force

The PDAC made the following recommendations regarding the proposed positions received by the deadline date:

#4. Funding for Full-Day, Full-Time Kindergarten:
Recommendation: That the proposal go forward.

#5. Province-Wide Use of the Early Developmental Instrument and Community Mapping:
Recommendation: That the PDAC work with the sponsoring board, Edmonton Public, to summarize the background information for this proposal.

#6. Proposal Funding:
Recommendation: That the PDAC consult with St. Albert PSSD and Red Deer Public to request that they consider amalgamating proposals #6 and #9 (see #9 below).

#7. School Support Therapists:
Recommendation: That the PDAC contact St. Albert PSSD to see if they would consider amending current ASBA policy to incorporate the intent of the submitted issue.

#8. Universal Assessment – At Risk Children:
Recommendation: That the proposal go forward.

#9. Provincial Funding for Instructional Technology Initiatives:
Recommendation: That the PDAC consult with Red Deer Public and St. Albert PSSD to request that they consider amalgamating proposals #9 and #6 (see #6 above).

#10. Increasing Class Size Initiative Funding for Increased Enrolment:
Recommendation: That the proposal go forward, as, after consultation with the sponsoring board, it was determined that amending current ASBA policy would not capture the intent of the new proposal.

#11. Information Sharing Protocols during Formal Risk and Threat Assessment Processes:
Recommendation: That the PDAC contact the sponsoring board, Golden Hills, and ask that it consider amending current directive 4.D.15 to incorporate the intent of their proposal.

MOTION #6
J. Swainson

That the ASBA Board of Directors receive the zone submissions of proposed issues for the ASBA 2008 Fall General Meeting that were received by the May 28th deadline and reviewed by the PDAC on June 1st as attached for circulation to zones and boards, and that

the PDAC continue to work with sponsoring boards to request additional background or clarification when warranted, ensure consistent format, and amalgamate overlapping proposals.

CARRIED

D. Anderson informed the directors that they would be provided with speaking notes to assist them in meeting with Zones to discuss their proposed policy positions.

As per GP-12.2(g), the proposals, in their final form, would be presented to the Board in October to approve for presentation to the membership for consideration at the 2008 Fall General Meeting.

Submissions received after the deadline were:

Zone 1 Submissions *(received May 31):*

- #1. Accommodations for Assistive Technology
- #2. School Act Amendment re Board Meeting Attendance via Videoconference
- #3. Amendment to 4.D.03 (Review of Funding for Special Needs Students); and Safe Communities and Safe Schools

Zone 6 Submission *(approved by Zone at their May 14 meeting):*

- #12. Amendment to 7.P.9: Superintendent Appointments

MOTION #7
S. Scarpino

That the ASBA Board of Directors receive the zone submissions of proposed issues for the ASBA 2008 Fall General Meeting that were received after the May 28th deadline and that these be reviewed by the PDAC for circulation to zones and boards, and that the PDAC continue to work with sponsoring boards to request additional background or clarification when warranted, ensure consistent format, and amalgamate overlapping proposals.

CARRIED

Emergent Issue 4EM/SGM08: Distribution of Unanticipated Quarterly Provincial Surpluses (sponsored by Black Gold Regional Schools – Zone 2/3): It was noted that Zone 2/3 had only submitted five proposals, even though they were entitled to six.

It was noted that there were three options available to Black Gold to submit their emergent issue which they withdrew at the Spring General Meeting:

1. Submit it for Zone 2/3 consideration for the 2009 Fall General Meeting;
2. Request the PDAC to consider it for the 2008 Fall General Meeting; or

3. Submit it to the ASBA Board of Directors through their Zone Director for board consideration which, if passed, would require ratification by the general assembly at the 2008 Fall General Meeting.

D. Anderson advised that administration would inform Black Gold of their options.

A.5 ASBA Strategic Plan Third Quarter Report

The Board agreed to defer acceptance of the report to their September 2008 meeting to allow sufficient time to review it. In the interim, directors were encouraged to direct any questions they had on the report to D. Anderson.

MOTION #8
H. Welwood

That the ASBA Strategic Plan Implementation Third Quarter Report dated June 2008 be received as information.

CARRIED

A.6 Directors' Requests for Information

(a) High School Completion Task Force Report

J. Swainson, Chair of the task force, advised that they had developed four recommendations for the Board's approval at their September 2008 meeting. These recommendations would be provided to the Board via email.

S. McCormack summarized the recommendations as follows:

1. That ASBA facilitate a survey of Alberta school boards to assist in identifying students at risk and boards' current efforts to improve high school completion rates.

2. That ASBA assist Alberta school boards in strategic planning and policy development efforts in support of improving high school completion rates.

3. That ASBA support the efforts of Alberta school boards in contributing to improving high school completion rates by showcasing their success stories.

4. That ASBA help in collating information pertaining to the efforts of Alberta's school boards in contributing to improving high school completion rates.

The Board agreed to hold a short formal meeting at the August Leadership Retreat to consider these recommendations so that the task force could move forward in developing actions prior to September.

- MOTION #9**
H. Welwood
- That the Board of Directors accept the verbal report by the High School Completion Task Force so they could continue their work until the Board discusses the recommendations in August.
- CARRIED**
- (b) **Drug Awareness Committee – Terms of Reference**
- K. Milder, Chair of the Drug Awareness Committee, advised that they had met on June 3rd and developed Terms of Reference. She requested that the Board consider them at their August meeting during the Leadership Retreat, as the task force would like to begin their projects in September.
- MOTION #10**
K. Milder
- That the Board of Directors accept the verbal report by the Drug Awareness Committee and that the Board consider the terms of reference at their August meeting.
- CARRIED**
- (c) **Other Requests for Information**
- Status of Legal Costs of ATA Court Challenge re Teacher Contracts of Employment:** D. Anderson advised that he was awaiting further advice from Legal staff before making a decision on cost sharing. Pending that advice he would meet with the Superintendents of the four boards involved in the challenge – these being Pembina Hills RD #7, Golden Hills S. Div. #75, Prairie Land RD #25, and Grande Prairie Catholic.
- ASBA Office Lease:** D. Anderson advised that he would provide a report to the board on lease options once a recommendation was determined.
- A.7 **Agenda Items – Future Board Meetings**
- The following items were identified:
- ASBA 100th Anniversary Celebration Costing
 - Subsidizing Service Costs
 - Adequacy of Funding (Discussion)
 - “Getting to Know the Minister” presentation
 - “Addressing/Handling Accountability” (Discussion)
 - High School Completion Recommendations (August)
 - Drug Awareness Committee – Terms of Reference (August)
 - Health Initiatives – Future Directions
- B. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
- There were no discussion items.
- C. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

- C.1 President's Report** In addition to her written report, H. Welwood advised that she had met with ATA President Frank Bruseker and that, while they had a good conversation, there were still differences of opinion on some issues, particularly on splitting the ATA into two separate entities – one professional and the other union. It was agreed, however, that both associations would collaborate on early childhood intervention.
- (a) CSBA Update** Please refer to the “*CSBA InfoPicks*” report included in the agenda package.
- C.2 Vice-President's Report** J. Hansen reported that she had attended the recent PSBAA meetings and had been busy with the PDAC to prepare and Chair the business meeting at the Spring General Meeting.
- C.3 Executive Director's Report** In addition to his written report, D. Anderson advised the board that the Toronto Catholic school board was now partially run by an investigator due to financial improprieties of the former board related to the provision of health benefits to trustees.
- He encouraged Directors to caution school boards not to make any changes to their health benefits until such time as ASBA Legal could determine if Alberta boards were in compliance with both provincial and federal regulations in this regard.
- C.4 Member Reports**
- Edmonton Public** (*B. Esslinger*): Please refer to the written report.
- Edmonton Catholic** (*M. Bergstra*): A report was not available.
- Calgary Public** (*C. Bazinet*): It was reported that although there had recently been two support staff walk-outs, all but two schools were still functioning.
- Calgary Catholic** (*S. Scarpino*): Please refer to the written report.
- Zone 1** (*J. Lehnrs*): Please refer to the written report.
- Zone 2/3** (*L. Akers/C. Jespersen*): Please refer to the written report.
- Zone 4** (*J. Swainson*): A report was not available.
- Zone 5** (*D. Gardner*): Please refer to the written report.

Zone 6 (K. Milder): Although a report was not available as the Zone had only recently met, K. Milder advised that the MELRA presentation would occur in November.

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

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

PSBAA: A report was not available.

C.5 Management Compensation Report Board members were directed to the new Management Compensation report which provided rates as of January 1, 2008.

C.6 Trends, Innovations, and Educational Scenarios (TIES) Report D. Gardner reported on the Minister of Health and Wellness' pilot project entitled "The Way In Project" that offered support for students with mental illness. He asked for Board input as to whether ASBA should or could get involved.

Upon advising that he would meet with the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister to discuss whether this was a trend, a discussion ensued as to following proper protocol when meeting with any Minister. D. Anderson advised that he would develop for discussion at the Leadership Retreat a draft protocol for directors and for zones related to ASBA's advocacy work and Trends (TIES) research.

Information Highlights

C.7 Replacement Page for ASBA Governance Handbook: Directors were provided with a replacement page for their handbook (pages 13-19 and 13-20) to correct items 3(b) and 4(b)i to reflect voting by "full member boards" (not "voting delegates").

D. MEETING EVALUATION Directors were encouraged to complete and return their meeting evaluation form either by mail or e-mail.

E. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #11
L. Akers

That the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

The teleconference meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

President

Executive Director