



Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting ASBA Boardroom

May 8-9, 2008

ATTENDANCE

Board Members

Mrs. Heather Welwood, President
Mrs. Jacquie Hansen, Vice President
Ms. Bev Esslinger, Edmonton Public (Friday)
Mrs. Marilyn Bergstra, Edmonton Catholic
Ms. Carol Bazinet, Calgary Public
Mrs. Lois Burke-Gaffney, Calgary Catholic (alternate)
Mr. John Lehnert, 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
Mrs. Alice Brick, ACSTA
Mr. Martin Blanchet, FCSFA (Friday)
Mr. Don Fleming, PSBAA (Thursday)

Guests

Mr. Gene Williams, Alberta Education (A.3)

Staff/Consultants

Mr. David Anderson, Executive Director
Ms. Donna Engel, Director, Corporate Services
Mr. Scott McCormack, Manager, Special Initiatives
Ms. Heather Tkachuk, Policy and Research Analyst
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 7:02 p.m.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Marilyn Bergstra led the Board in the singing of O'Canada.

A. RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

A.1 Agenda

(a) Additions/Changes

Additions:

B.2 Board Leadership Session

Order:

A.4/A.5 The In-Camera Session would occur prior to the Accountability Report.

(b) Approval

MOTION #1

J. Swainson

That the agenda, as amended, be approved.

CARRIED

A.2 Approval of Minutes – April 10-11, 2008

(a) Errors/Omissions

C.3 Executive Director's Report (last line on page 6). Change the word "these" to "Zone Chair".

(b) Approval

MOTION #2

J. Swainson

That the minutes of the April 10-11, 2008 ASBA Board of Directors meeting be approved as corrected.

CARRIED

(c) Business Arising

A.9(b) Expanded PDAC: J. Hansen advised that she had not received the name of a representative from Zones 1 and 6. She added that Metro boards were welcome to name representatives as well. The first meeting of the expanded PDAC would take place on June 1 in the afternoon at the Spring General meeting and would be facilitated by Dr. Leroy Sloan. This meeting would determine the depth and breadth of the policy review.

A.3 Provincial Budget Debriefing

Mr. Gene Williams, Executive Director of Strategic Financial Services, Alberta Education, gave a summary of the 2008-09 provincial budget as it affects Education. School boards will receive a 4.53 percent increase in operational grant rates, with no new money for capital projects. Government will also provide additional funds for the Class Size Initiative and CTS. More detailed information was provided in the background package provided by Mr. Williams.

A.4 Accountability Report – Communications and Public Relations

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 Communications and Public Relations Accountability Report; and

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

MOTION #4
J. Swainson

That the ASBA Board of Directors commend the Executive Director for his efforts in strengthening partnerships to enhance the work of the Association.

CARRIED

MOTION #5
L. Akers

That the ASBA Board of Directors commend the Executive Director on balancing the outside forces with internal duties.

CARRIED

A.5 In-Camera Session

MOTION #6
K. Milder

That the meeting move *in-camera* with only Directors and Executive Director present.

CARRIED

MOTION #7
C. Jespersen

That the meeting move out of *camera*.

CARRIED

Observers and staff returned to the meeting.

A.6 Centennial Scholarship Program

D. Anderson presented the proposed scholarship program, which was one of two centennial activities approved for consideration by the Board at their December 2007 meeting.

Key points of the program were:

1. It was structured to reflect the ASBA's commitment and belief in the necessity for continued growth and excellence in education.
2. It was intended to support the efforts and achievements of deserving candidates who have a capacity to contribute to teaching and to the education development of young Albertans.
3. It provided six scholarships of \$2,000 each to be awarded annually per Zone, with Zone 2/3 awarding two.
4. Although under the direction and guidance of ASBA, discretion rested at the Zone level, based on the Zone's particular needs, to determine the allocation of the award based on one of three categories:

- May be granted to a student graduating from Grade 12 whose registration has been accepted in the first year program of studies intended to lead to the B.Ed. degree at any degree granting institution in Alberta;
- May be granted to a student entering the final year of a B.Ed. degree at any degree granting institution in Alberta;
- May be granted to a student upon graduating with the B.Ed. degree (either to be granted as cash or paid directly against a student loan). Unless waived by the ASBA and the Zone(s), these scholarships will be subject to the candidate providing evidence of his/her acceptance of a confirmed offer of employment to teach in Alberta at a school within the Zone's geographic area.

Board members made the following comments:

- Program was restricted to only those students entering post-secondary institutions
- The third criteria allowed for the recipient to put money towards a student loan
- Zone participation was not mandatory
-

D. Anderson clarified that each Zone would be responsible for establishing their own selection committee and on which category they would base their selection, applications would be directed to the Zone in which the student graduated high school, and a student's residence would be based on his/her home address.

MOTION #8
C. Jespersen

That the ASBA Board of Directors approve the proposed Centennial Scholarship Program as part of ASBA's 100th anniversary activities.

CARRIED

Board members were directed to provide and promote the scholarship program to their Zone/Board.

A.7 Directors' Requests for Information

Board members were encouraged to submit questions to ASBA in advance of the Board meetings for response. Answers to previous questions were included in the Board agenda package. New questions posed were:

Transportation Fees: S. McCormack informed the Board that any surplus from transportation fees must be used within two years, as per Section 5 of the Transportation Regulations.

Zone Chairs' Attendance at May Board Meetings:

D. Anderson advised that Zone Chairs usually attended the May Board meeting, but this year only two could attend, however, they would attend a portion of the Board Leadership Session in August.

Minister's Advisory Committee on Small School Programming:

As she could not attend the May 16th meeting of the committee, J. Swainson requested Directors to let her know if they could attend on her behalf.

Distribution of Transportation Study: D. Anderson advised that the study was currently at the printers and would be available for distribution at the Spring General Meeting.

A.8 Agenda Items – Future Board Meetings

Board members requested the following items be added to the list:

- “Getting to Know the Minister” presentation
- “Community Mapping and Linkages to Schools” presentation
- “Addressing/Handling Accountability” discussion

The current items were:

- ASBA 100th Anniversary Celebration Costing
- Subsidizing Service Costs
- Adequacy of Funding (Discussion)

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

B.1 Spring General Meeting Responsibilities

Movers & Seconders: The following changes were made to the draft list:

1B/SGM08

L. Akers would second the motion

Appointment of
Balloting Committee:

C. Jespersen would second
the motion

Proposed ASBA Budget: H. Welwood advised that boards would be encouraged to submit any amendments they planned to make to the proposed budget in advance of the Spring General meeting to enable ASBA staff to be prepared. Directors were asked to convey to their Zones/Boards the rationale of the budget.

SGM Brochure: D. Engel advised that the SGM brochure was available online and the theme of the meeting was “Education Fitness”. Other meetings being held just prior to the SGM were:

Sunday, June 1

1:00 p.m. PDAC meeting followed by a meeting of the expanded PDAC Review committee

5:00 p.m. Golf Tournament

9:00 p.m. Board of Directors meeting to review the procedural guide

Directors would be asked to provide introductions and thank-you's to session speakers.

B.2 Board Leadership Session

D. Engel advised that an invitation to attend the Board Leadership Session August 20-22 would be sent out to Board of Directors alternates and observers as well as Zone Chairs. Directors would attend August 20-23.

C. INFORMATION ITEMS

C.1 President's Report

In addition to her written report, H. Welwood reported on her attendance at the ASBOA conference and the Reaching & Teaching conference.

She also advised that she had submitted guest editorials to both the *Edmonton Journal* and *Calgary Herald*.

With reference to Information Item C.11(e) regarding PSBAA's desire to amend the *School Act* and the *Local Authorities Election Act*, H. Welwood sought Board input as to how ASBA should handle the issue of committee representation. Based on the input, she advised that she would speak with Ministers Danyluk and Hancock.

(a) CSBA Update

Please refer to the written report.

C.2 Vice-President's Report

In addition to her written report, J. Hansen informed the Board that the Executive Director Contract Committee was working on the contract and compensation and, once finalized, would present them to the Board for approval.

(a) CFSA Reports

Two written reports were provided on early childhood development and linkages.

C.3 Executive Director's Report

D. Anderson added the following to his written report:

Discussion with Gordon Thomas (ATA): D. Anderson reported that he had met with Dr. Thomas to discuss common areas of agreement between the ASBA and ATA in an effort to "normalize" the relationship between the two associations.

Closing the Gaps Conference: An email would be sent to a broad audience for input into hosting a follow-up conference and common agenda items.

Local Taxation: In response to the Minister's recent comments to reinstate some measure of local school board taxation, D. Anderson advised that John Lehnert would take the lead on providing the Minister with ideas for equitable and flexible taxation.

Education Research Symposium: D. Anderson advised that ASBA had received an invitation to send five delegates to the Education Research Symposium being held June 5-6, 2008 in Calgary. Several directors indicated their desire to attend, with the following delegates chosen:

Heather Welwood
Doug Gardner
Lynda Akers
Serafino Scarpino (Kerry Milder – alternate)
David Anderson

CSBA Congress 2008: Those board members eligible to attend the Congress or who wanted to attend it as their Conference of Choice were asked to let ASBA know and to complete a registration form.

AISI Conference Planning Committee: D. Anderson announced that he had selected Karen Kryczka, a trustee with Calgary Public, as the ASBA representative on the AISI Conference Planning Committee. Her term would commence immediately and end March 31, 2010.

C.4 Member Reports

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

Edmonton Catholic (M. Bergstra): No report was available.

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

Calgary Catholic (S. Scarpino): No report was available.

Zone 1 (J. Lehnert): No report was available as the Zone had not met since the last Board meeting.

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): No report was available as the Zone had not met since the last Board meeting.

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

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

PSBAA (*D. Fleming*): Please refer to the written report.

FCSFA (*M. Blanchet*): No report was available. However, M. Blanchet advised that effective September 1, Fred Kreiner, President of FCSFA, would replace him as their observer.

C.5 Advocacy Task Force Reports

Transportation Advocacy Task Force

B. Esslinger, Chair of the Transportation Task Force, reported that they would like a representative from each Zone to attend a meeting with ASTAC (Alberta Student Transportation Advisory Committee) to facilitate the development of recommendations stemming from the report entitled "At the breaking point: Alberta's student transportation system". Zones would be requested to submit the name of their representative to Scott McCormack by June 30, 2008. The Task Force was considering whether or not to present the report around the province.

The report would be released at the Spring General Meeting.

C.6 Trends Report

D. Gardner provided an update report on recent meetings he and S. McCormack had with Alberta Education staff. He highlighted the department's request to maintain the acronym "TIES" – Trends, Innovations, and Educational Scenarios.

C.7 Reports

The following information items were highlighted:

C.8 Board Meeting Dates (2009-2010): Directors were asked to take note of Board meeting dates to the end of 2010.

C.9 Schedule for Report Submissions: Directors were asked to take note of report submission deadline dates.

D. MEETING EVALUATION

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

E. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #9
D. Gardner

That the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

President

Executive Director