



**Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting  
ASBA Boardroom**

**September 10-11, 2009**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Board Members**

Mrs. Heather Welwood, President  
Mrs. Jacquie Hansen, Vice President  
Ms. Bev Esslinger, Edmonton Public  
Mrs. Marilyn Bergstra, Edmonton Catholic  
Ms. Karen Kryczka, 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  
Ms. Anne-Marie Boucher, Zone 5  
Ms. Kerry Milder Zone 6  
Ms. Sandra Bannard, ACSTA  
Mr. Roy Goulet, FCSFA  
Mr. Don Fleming, PSBAA

**Presenters**

Ms. Karen Sliwkanich, Alberta Education (Item D.1)  
Mr. Ron Taylor, Northern Lights School Division (Item D.1)  
Dr. John Rymer, Alberta Education (Item I.1)

**Staff/Consultants**

Mr. David Anderson, Executive Director  
Ms. Donna Engel, Director, Corporate Services  
Ms. Suzanne Lundrigan, Director, Communications  
Ms. Heather Rogers, Director, Finance  
Mr. Scott McCormack, Manager, Special Initiatives  
Mr. Terry Gunderson, ASBA Consultant  
Ms. Heather Tkachuk, Research and Policy Analyst  
Ms. Bobbie Garner, 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 7:12 p.m.

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

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

**A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

**A.1 Agenda**

**(a) Additions/Changes**

**Changes:**

**B.3: ASBA Strategic Plan Final Report (2008-2011)**  
was made time specific for 10:00 a.m. Friday.

**Additions:**

**B.4: Discussion on Bill 206** (Enhanced Protection of Students and Teachers) School Amendment Act, 2009.

**(b) Approval**

**MOTION #1**  
K. Milder

That the agenda be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

**A.2 Approval of Minutes – August 17, 2009**

**(a) Errors/Omissions**

**A.7 Update on Average Weekly Earnings Index Discussions** – Motion #8: “S. Serafino” should be changed to “S. Scarpino”.

**(b) Approval**

**MOTION #2**  
C. Jespersen

That the minutes of the August 17, 2009 ASBA Board of Directors meeting be approved as corrected.

**CARRIED**

**(c) Business Arising**

There was no business arising from the August 17, 2009 minutes.

**A.3 In-Camera Session**

**(a) Labour Relations**

**MOTION #3**  
L. Akers

That the meeting move *in-camera*.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION #4**  
J. Swainson

That the meeting move out of *camera*.

**CARRIED**

**B. ADVOCACY**

**B.1 Policy Development  
Advisory Committee (PDAC)**

J. Hansen, Chair of the PDAC, reported that she sent a letter on Sept. 4 to Zone Chairs asking them to make sure the intent of their proposed issue(s) was clear, due to the new wording required by the transition from the old policy format to the new policy format. The deadline for Zones to submit any final edits to their proposed issue(s) was Sep 29, 2009.

**B.2 ASBA Advocacy Priority  
Reports**

No reports were submitted.

**B.3 ASBA Strategic Plan Final Report (2008-2011)**

T. Gunderson presented the ASBA Strategic Plan Final Report (2008-2011).

**Research:**

**B1.1** – D. Anderson advised that Steve Cymbol's report on *Educational Choice* would be circulated in the next few months.

**B3.1** – D. Anderson advised that Sig Schmold was recently commissioned to do a background paper for ASBA regarding the research and documentation of trends and promising practices in "Education of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students".

**Services to Boards:**

**D1.1** – A question arose as to whether financial accountability training and assistance for boards/trustees was moving forward. D. Anderson responded that this was on hold pending final results from J. Sarich's government committee before ASBA proceeded in this area.

**MOTION #5**

L. Akers

That the Board of Directors receive the ASBA Strategic Plan Final Report (2008-2011) for information.

**CARRIED**

**B.4 Bill 206 (Enhanced Protection of Students and Teachers) School Amendment Act, 2009**

Discussion took place regarding the issues this private member's bill raised, including:

- Reporting incidents could result in schools being graded/rated
- It would take away from teaching and learning
- Set-up costs would be detrimental

D. Anderson advised the Board that ASBA had registered concerns numerous times and in numerous ways regarding this Bill and the administrative nightmare it would create with MLA Heather Forsyth, the Department, and the Minister, along with flagging it in a Board Chairs' email. The Minister said his MLAs were not fully cognizant of the programs already in place. A private member's bill could pass but it was up to the Minister to enact it.

It was suggested that the President, in a Board Chairs' email, outline the actions already taken so boards could speak to the issue with their MLAs.

**C. RESEARCH****C.1 TIES Report**

There was nothing to report.

**D. PARTNERSHIPS**

**D.1 Presentation of “Success in School for Children and Youth in Care Protocol”**

A presentation was given on the “Success in School for Children and Youth in Care Protocol” by Karen Sliwkanich, Project Leader, Alberta Education and Ron Taylor, Associate Superintendent, Northern Lights School Division.

This was a cross-ministry initiative by the ministries of Education and Children and Youth Services. Northern Lights School Division was running one of four demonstration projects in the province designed to ensure children and youth in care felt valued, welcomed, accepted and supported at school, to give these students hope for a better future. Full provincial implementation of this protocol was scheduled for September 2010.

**E. SERVICES TO BOARDS**

**E.1 ASBIE Appointment**

Both applicants for this position submitted résumés, as requested by the Board in June. D. Anderson recommended that Lenny Richer be appointed, since members of the Foothills School Board had had representation on insurance boards for a number of years.

Board members expressed the importance of balancing appointments among the Zones.

**MOTION #6**  
K. Milder

That Lenny Richer be appointed to serve on the ASBIE Board for a three year term September 1, 2009 – August 31, 2012.

**CARRIED**

**E.2 ASBIE New Appointment Policy**

The Board of Directors agreed that geographic distribution needed to be considered when appointing representatives to this committee.

D. Anderson stated that ASBA had a broad appointment policy for its insurance boards, so the representatives on them had an opportunity to develop their expertise.

**MOTION #7**  
L. Akers

That point 1 of the current policy be eliminated and replaced with: *“in making all of its appointments, the Board of Directors will consider geographic representation as one of the factors.”*

**CARRIED**

**E.3 ASBA Office Space**

The Board was appreciative of the large amount of time and effort that D. Anderson, D. Engel and H. Rogers had put into researching various options.

H. Rogers reported that the AUMA purchase option would mean a 12% increase for school boards at a time of financial constraint.

**MOTION #8**  
J. Swainson

Given the considerations outlined in the briefing note, the rate negotiated at our current location, and the financial constraints facing school boards in the coming years, that the Board of Directors authorize the Executive Director to conclude option 1 and a lease at our current location for a ten-year period.

**CARRIED**

**F. BOARD POLICIES**

**F.1 ASBA Executive Director's Evaluation Report**

**(a) Executive Director's Response to Evaluation Report (September 1, 2008 – July 31, 2009)**

D. Anderson thanked the Board for their vote of confidence. He stated that he was honoured to lead a fine group of staff, and that this evaluation report was a credit to their dedication and hard work.

**F.2 ASBA Board of Directors' Self-Evaluation (July 2007- June 2009)**

H. Tkachuk informed the Board that the changes suggested at the August Board meeting had been incorporated into the final document.

The President informed the Board that the schedule for the Board of Directors' self-evaluations would be revisited in the Fall, when the Board of Directors' policies were reviewed.

**MOTION #9**  
K. Milder

That the ASBA Board of Directors accept the Self-Evaluation Report for July 2007 – June 2009 as information.

**CARRIED**

**F.3 ASBA Board of Directors' Annual Work Plan (Sept. 2009-Aug. 2010)**

The board requested that the following changes be made to the Annual Work Plan:

- October 2009, second bullet to be changed to: *"Approve the placement of proposed policies"*
- June 2010, second bullet to be changed to: *"Provide input into the ASBA Annual Report"* and moved to April 2009.

D. Anderson advised that this document would come up for review at the February Board meeting.

- MOTION #10**  
S. Scarpino
- That the Board of Directors approve the Board Annual Work Plan with the above changes incorporated, for the period September 2009 - August 2010.
- CARRIED**
- F.4 Appointment of External Auditor**
- H. Rogers provided a comparison of the proposed fees of seven different audit firms, including staff level and hourly rates from each.
- MOTION #11**  
M. Bergstra
- That Collins Barrow be appointed as the auditors for the year ending August 31, 2009.
- CARRIED**
- G. BOARD MEMBER REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES**
- G.1 President's Report**
- In addition to her written report, H. Welwood reported the following:
- She would be meeting with the Minister and Carol Henderson, President of ATA, at 3:30 p.m. this afternoon.
  - **CTF Assessment** – This was the first conference where education stakeholders were brought together to discuss standardized assessment.
  - A notice would be sent in about a month to boards to obtain information regarding who their Chair and Vice-Chair were and their e-mail address.
  - Video-conferencing would be tried for Zone meetings
  - **ASBA Committees:** H. Welwood asked Board members to advise her and/or D. Anderson of what areas they would be interested in for the upcoming review.
- (a) CSBA Update**
- There was nothing to report.
- G.2 Vice-President's Report**
- Please refer to the written report.
- G.3 Executive Director's Report**
- In addition to his written report, D. Anderson commented on the following:
- **August Leadership Retreat:** The evaluations were outstanding. Comments received indicated the desire to have Zone representatives attend in the future; however they would need to build that into their budget for next year. Donna Engel reported that \$2,000 per person would be sufficient for Zone Chairs for per diem, travel, and accommodation for this event.

- **NSBA Membership:** ASBA recently changed their NSBA membership category from National Affiliate to International Partner which provided ASBA with the same status as full NSBA member boards (with the exception of participation in their governance structure). Alberta was the first jurisdiction to join as such. Although it involved more cost, it had proportionate benefits.
- **Board Meeting Evaluation Comments - Question No. 7** (suggestions made that should have been formalized in a motion): Directors were reminded that if they did not feel comfortable speaking up during a meeting, they were to flag it for D. Anderson or other staff after the meeting.
- **School Board Governance Survey for Boards:** There was overwhelming direction for ASBA to address the issue of school board governance à la Jamie Vollmer. It was important to take the time to do it right as opposed to rushing to create a draft policy on governance. S. Scarpino would begin defining principles regarding school board governance.
- **Media Campaign with the ATA:** ATA has offered this to the partners (ASBA, ASCA and maybe CASS and ASBOA) at no cost. The tenor of the ads would be “Education is an Investment” and would highlight how budget cuts would affect students.

Following lengthy discussion the Board agreed that ASBA would need to approve each ad individually prior to its release to ensure that ASBA’s message that this was a joint problem and ASBA wanted to minimize the extent of the cuts by rallying support was conveyed in the ad.

**MOTION #12**

D. Lavoie

That the Board of Directors approve of discretionary involvement of the ASBA in the ATA media campaign, at no cost to the ASBA.

**CARRIED****G.4 Member Reports**

**Edmonton Public** (*B. Esslinger*): A report was not available. B. Esslinger informed the Board that she had just received a \$50,000 cheque from J. Sarich – the technology award for a high school (CIP).

**Edmonton Catholic** (*M. Bergstra*): Please refer to the written report.

**Calgary Public** (*K. Kryczka*): Please refer to the written report.

**Calgary Catholic** (*S. Scarpino*): Please refer to the written report. S. Scarpino encouraged Board members to read the material from the Gang Crime Summit.

**Zone 1** (*D. Lavoie*): A report was not available as there had not been a Zone meeting since the last Board meeting.

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

**Zone 4** (*J. Swainson*): A report was not available.

**Zone 5** (*A-M. Boucher*): Please refer to the written report.

**Zone 6** (*K. Milder*): A report was not available as there had not been a Zone meeting since the last Board meeting.

**ACSTA** (*S. Bannard*): A report was not available.

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

**PSBAA** (*D. Fleming*): Please refer to the report distributed at the meeting.

**H. OTHER**

**Board Chairs/Superintendents' Meeting Sept. 12:** D. Anderson provided the Board with information on the September 12<sup>th</sup> Board Chairs/Superintendents meeting as well as an agenda.

**ASBA Fall General Meeting:** Information regarding the ASBA 2009 FGM was provided by Donna Engel.

**Provincial Education Budget Cutbacks:** D. Anderson advised that \$340 million translated into roughly 5.4% of board operating costs.

**H.1 Directors' Requests for Information**

B. Esslinger inquired whether ASBA had been invited to respond to the government's Committee on Community Services to provide information on accountability and transparency for school board finances as noted in Mark Lisac's *Insight into Government* article regarding private member's *Bill 202 – Municipal Government (Municipal Auditor General Amendment Act, 2009)* to create an office of the municipal auditor general under the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

**H.2 Agenda Items – Future Board Meetings**

The following items were identified:

- Presentation on “Balanced School Year” (research by Zone 1)
- Discussion re Charter School Membership – Information on ASBA Bylaws
- Review of External Committee and Task Force Representation (Oct)
- Review of Internal Committee and Task Force Representation (Oct)
- Board Self-Evaluation Schedule
- Board Annual Workplan (Feb 2010)

**I. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**I.1 Presentation of Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exam Results**

Dr. John Rymer, Executive Director, Learner Assessment, Alberta Education gave a presentation on the 2008-2009 Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exam Results.

The information provided to the Board was embargoed until October 1 at which time the Minister would release it and make it available on the Alberta Education website.

H. Welwood asked if there was consistency on how boards would handle this information. She suggested that professional development sessions were needed to assist trustees in understanding the information.

**J. INFORMATION ITEMS**

An ASBA Strategic Plan “cheat sheet” was provided to Board members.

**K. MEETING EVALUATION**

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

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION #13**  
J. Swainson

That the meeting adjourn.

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

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President

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Executive Director