



Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

CONFERENCE CALL

Wednesday, May 3, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

- Attendance:** Ms. Maureen Kubinec, President
Ms. Nancy Close, Calgary Board of Education
Mrs. Lois Burke-Gaffney, Calgary Catholic
Mr. Gerry Gibeault, Edmonton Public
Mrs. Alice Brick, Zone 1
Ms. Heather Welwood, Zone 23
Mrs. Karen Holloway, Zone 4
Mrs. Patricia Aitchison, Zone 6
- Guests:** Mr. John Lehnrs, ASBA rep on Minister's Advisory Committee
Mrs. Kelly Hall, ASBA rep on Minister's Advisory Committee
Mr. Svend Hansen, ASBA rep on Minister's Advisory Committee
Dr. Russ Wiebe, ASBA Consultant
Dr. Steve Cymbol, ASBA Consultant
- Regrets:** Mrs. Maureen Emond, Vice-President
Ms. Debbie Cavaliere, Edmonton Catholic
Mrs. Maureen Munro, Zone 5
- Staff:** Mr. David Anderson, Executive Director
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 The President called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

A. ACTION ITEMS

A.1 Agenda

The purpose of this special meeting was to provide direction to the ASBA representatives on the Minister's Advisory Committee on the Funding Framework regarding the preliminary recommendations arising from sub-committee work which would be considered by the advisory committee on May 5, 2006.

M. Kubinec called upon D. Anderson to outline the process that the Board would use to determine its position regarding the preliminary recommendations. It was agreed that each recommendation would be discussed and voted upon separately.

It was noted that the sub-committees involved were restricted in making only recommendations that would not affect dollars being spent on education.

- A.2 Preliminary Recommendations** The preliminary recommendations and suggested ASBA directions were included in the briefing note.

I. JURISDICTIONAL/ENVIRONMENTAL/OTHER FACTORS

- (a) **Home Education** The Board discussed the recommendations in this section and agreed that they were not funding framework issues.

MOTION # 1
M. Kubinec That the Home Education preliminary recommendations to the Minister's Advisory Committee on the Funding Framework be referred to Alberta Education for follow-up in a general review of home education.

CARRIED

- (b) **Learning Resource Credit Allocation (LRCA)** The Board discussed the recommendation to increase the percentage of LRCA that could be applied to an order.

MOTION #2
M. Kubinec That the ASBA Board of Directors supports the recommendation to increase the percentage of LRCA that can be applied to an order from 25% to 50%.

CARRIED

- (c) **System Administration** The Board discussed the recommendation to eliminate the 4-6% cap on system administration expenses and maintain the current requirement for boards to report their administration expenses. It was noted that this recommendation was consistent with current ASBA policy.

MOTION #3
M. Kubinec That the ASBA Board of Directors supports the recommendation to eliminate the 4% to 6% cap on system administration expenses and maintain the current requirement for boards to report their administration expenses.

CARRIED

- (d) **Small Schools by Necessity (SSN)** Several comments were made concerning the recommendation to rename the "Small Schools By Necessity" (SSN) allocation to the "Small School Assistance Grant" to accurately reflect that other small schools, not just those designated SSN, qualified for this grant. These comments included:

- There is a perception that the SSN designation meant that a school could not be closed
- The original SSN criteria should be adhered to
- The small school allocation was an automatic grant to a district
- Connotation was quite different between "SSN" and just "Small School"

MOTION #4
M. Kubinec

That, although the ASBA Board of Directors supports the purpose of the grant, the “Small Schools by Necessity” recommendation be referred back to the sub-committee to define the intent and to determine how many schools would qualify for the allocation.

CARRIED

II. SOCIAL FACTORS

(a) **English as a Second Language (ESL)/Enhanced ESL**

The Board discussed the recommendation to eliminate the five-year cap for both ESL and Enhanced ESL funding. It was noted that ASBA policy supported this and it was one of the Metro Boards Study recommendations.

MOTION #5
M. Kubinec

That the ASBA Board of Directors supports the recommendation to eliminate the five-year cap for both ESL and Enhanced ESL funding.

CARRIED

(b) **Outreach Schools**

The Board discussed the recommendation that outreach base funding should receive regular annual increases.

MOTION #6
M. Kubinec

That the ASBA Board of Directors supports the recommendation that outreach base funding should receive regular annual increases.

CARRIED

(c) **Severe Disabilities**

The Board discussed the two recommendations presented regarding severe disabilities.

MOTION #7
M. Kubinec

That the ASBA Board of Directors supports the recommendation to expand the severe categories to encompass the high end of the moderate disabilities spectrum.

CARRIED

Several comments were made regarding the second recommendation that Alberta Education should undertake a review of the severe disability student numbers through jurisdictional audits over the next two years, and following that they should begin a rotational schedule to audit each jurisdiction’s severe student profile once every five years.

MOTION #8
M. Kubinec

That, while the ASBA Board of Directors supports the intention of such a review, they prefer that the “audit” be called a “verification” or an “update”.

CARRIED

(d) **Socio-Economic Status (SES):**

The Board discussed the recommendation that updated information affecting the SES calculation be incorporated into the formulation of the next budget cycle, not part-way through a fiscal year and possibly decreasing a jurisdiction’s funding half way through the fiscal year.

MOTION #9
M. Kubinec

That the ASBA Board of Directors support the recommendation that updated information affecting the SES calculation be incorporated into the formulation of the next budget cycle, not part-way through a fiscal year so that a jurisdiction's funding would not drop half way through the fiscal year.

CARRIED

III. PLANT OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (PO&M)

a) **Utility Rates**

D. Anderson advised the Board that the recommendation that the province negotiate utility rates for school boards was contrary to current ASBA policy on electricity and natural gas costs (4.D.07 and 4.D.08) and, as such, the Board should disagree with the recommendation.

MOTION #10
M. Kubinec

That the ASBA Board of Directors urge the Minister's Advisory Committee on the Funding Framework to discuss this issue further and take into consideration the current ASBA policies regarding utility rates.

CARRIED

(b) **Per-Pupil Formula**

Board members concurred with D. Anderson's belief that they had no choice but to agree to the recommendation regarding the current per-pupil formula.

MOTION #11
M. Kubinec

That the ASBA Board of Directors accept the recommendation that the current per-pupil formula and the amounts communicated to school boards by Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation be continued for the remainder of the 2005-2006 school year.

CARRIED

(c) **Travel Time Allowance**

Board members considered the recommendation that the current PO&M formula should be replaced beginning the 2006-07 school year but that the current travel time allowance component should continue. J. Lehnert commented that it was important to keep the development of a new formula separate from the work of the advisory sub-committee.

MOTION #12
M. Kubinec

That school boards be consulted prior to any change to the current PO&M formula.

CARRIED

d) **Enveloping of PO&M and IMR Funds**

D. Anderson advised that the new funding framework was designed so that school boards would make decisions regarding how funds provided by the province were spent. However, the recommendation to the advisory committee deviated from that philosophy. Board members commented that it was important to strongly remind the government that these areas were notoriously under-funded and should be identified as provincial priority funding.

MOTION #13
M. Kubinec

That the ASBA Board of Directors does not support the recommendation that PO&M and IMR funding be enveloped.

CARRIED

IV. OTHER

- (a) **Credit Enrolment Unit (CEU) Funding** Svend Hansen commented that although a recommendation to move CEU funding into a per-pupil funding formula had not been submitted by the Jurisdictional/Environmental/Other Factors sub-committee, Edmonton Public was in favour of such a reallocation.

B. ADJOURNMENT

The ASBA representatives on the Minister's Advisory Committee on the Funding Framework indicated that they had received satisfactory direction from the Board for their May 5th meeting, and, there being no further business, President Kubinec declared the meeting adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

President

Executive Director