

ASBA Board of Directors Meeting

Board Highlights are circulated to the Board of Directors and ASBA staff after each meeting. Board of Directors members are asked to share Board Highlights with their respective constituencies. **Note:** Draft and ratified minutes of the meetings are posted on the ASBA website at www.asba.ab.ca. For more information contact **Marian Johnson** at 1.780.451.7101.

BOARDS TO CONSIDER NEW POLICY HANDBOOK JUNE SGM

School boards will consider adopting a revised policy handbook at the upcoming Spring General Meeting. These trustees (members of the ASBA Policy Development Advisory Committee (PDAC) and representatives of each Zone and metro school board) reviewed and proposed revisions to the policy handbook: **Jacquie Hansen**, Vice-president *Chair*; **Lynda Akers**, Zone 2/3 Director; **Jackie Swainson**, Zone 4 Director; **Denise Valiquette**, Zone 1; **Jean Boisvert**, Zone 2/3; **Lisa Brower**, Zone 2/3; **Patty Ditricks**, Zone 4; **Anne-Marie Boucher**, Zone 5; **Lea Switzer/Peter Scott**, Zone 6; **Linda Wellman**, Calgary Catholic; **Carol Bazinet**, Calgary Public; **Marilyn Bergstra**, Edmonton Catholic; **Catherine Ripley**, Edmonton Public.

The review and revisions of the handbook was in response to the 2007 Governance Review which saw school boards call for a simpler, streamlined process for developing association policy.

In reworking the handbook, the committee:

- honoured historical policy positions
- eliminated redundant, outdated and conflicting positions
- developed fewer more comprehensive policies
- clarified language
- distinguished between directives to the ASBA through use of words *shall* and *will* in the policy statement and efforts to influence external bodies through use of word *should*

To provide school boards with information before they make a decision about the proposed handbook at the SGM:

- the draft package will be circulated to Zones/school boards by April 24
- a videoconference session will be provided to outline the changes (May)
- school boards, who want to propose amendments to the draft package will be asked to do so in advance of the meeting because of the complexity of making substantial changes to the document on the floor

For more information contact Vice-president **Jacquie Hansen** at jhansen@gsacrd.ab.ca 1.780.918.9752 or ASBA staff **Heather Tkachuk** at htkachuk@asba.ab.ca 1.780.451.7125.

SEVEN OUTCOMES IDENTIFIED FOR TRANSPORTATION ADVOCACY

Based on input gathered from school boards about potential solutions to the transportation challenges they face as identified in the *At the Breaking point, Alberta's student transportation system* report the ASBA Board of Directors identified these outcomes as the focus of the ASBA's transportation advocacy work:

1. Develop and share best practices within the student transportation system
2. Reduce the walk limit from 2.4 km to 1.6 km with additional, adequate and sustainable funding
3. Boards, Alberta Education and others engage in a process to develop a framework for action to ensure sufficient staffing to meet student transportation needs
4. Increase the threshold for funding a community as an urban centre from 10,000 to 50,000 because this is tied to the notion of an urban centre being able to support a mass transit system
5. Boards, Alberta Education and other stakeholders engage in a review of the transportation funding formula
6. While the government promotes programs of choice, and school boards maintain local autonomy in offering programs of choice and in defining attendance areas, there must be adequate funding to support the associated transportation costs of offering same
7. Boards, Alberta Education and other stakeholders review the special needs transportation funding formula to ensure adequate and sustainable funding for these transportation needs. Consideration should be given to allowing special needs students to be transported with other students without penalizing the board.

UPDATE INFRASTRUCTURE STUDY

Consultant **Sig Schmold** presented the first draft of the infrastructure advocacy report to the ASBA Board of Directors. The ASBA infrastructure advocacy committee: **Serafino Scarpino**, Director, Calgary Catholic, *Chair*; **Bev Esslinger**, Director, Edmonton Public and **Doug Gardner**, Director Zone 5 asked Schmold to survey school boards to ask them to identify and prioritize key facility pressure points and promising practices. Fifty-four of the province's 62 school boards responded. The committee's goal is to provide the final report to school boards at the Spring General Meeting in June.