

## ASBA Board of Directors Meeting

*Board Highlights are circulated to the ASBA Board of Directors and ASBA staff after each meeting. Directors are asked to share Board Highlights with their respective constituencies. See the ASBA website [www.asba.ab.ca](http://www.asba.ab.ca) for draft and official minutes. For more information contact **Marian Johnson** at 1.780.451.7101.*

### **Board approves assumptions to guide development of 2009-10 budget**

Mirroring the practice of many local school boards, the ASBA Board of Directors approved 13 assumptions which will guide staff in developing a draft budget for the board's consideration in March. Pending board approval, the budget will be presented to school boards for ratification at the Spring General Meeting. These assumptions will underpin the proposed 2009-10 budget: :

- The budget will be balanced
- There will be a combination of proposed increases (membership fees, fee for service rates and registration fees) and/or transfers from reserves to balance the budget and meet projected expense levels
- Interest revenue will decline slightly due to lower investment returns
- Staffing levels will remain the same through 2009-2010
- Staff salary and benefit costs and contractor compensation will increase by 3.5 per cent (the projected market increase for 2009). However, as this is the third year since the last market study, one will be conducted to ensure staff salaries are within market and adjustments will be made if salaries are not within market.
- Past experience and the consumer price index (2.0 to 2.5 per cent) will be used to project expenses
- The per diem rate for trustees assigned to represent the association will increase by 3.5 per cent to \$160/day (rounded to nearest dollar)
- Honorariums for the vice-president and president will increase by 3.5 per cent to \$10,350 and \$20,700 respectively.
- Mileage rate will increase to .49/km (average of CRA rate)
- Lease costs (for ASBA office space) will increase from \$7.40/sq ft to the current market rate which is \$23/sq ft
- Current memberships including the Canadian School Boards Association and the National School Boards Association will be renewed
- Insurance is adequate and will be renewed at current levels
- There will be no direct recovery from school jurisdictions of travel expenses for association staff providing services to boards on a fee for service basis – which means the ASBA will continue to pay the travel and accommodation costs for staff officers working on a fee for service basis for school boards.

## **Government responds to ASBA request to reduce number of Alberta Education items on Zone agendas – schedules stand alone meetings**

The department of education is scheduling stand-alone consultation and information sessions in each of the Zones in a bid to ease the demands on regular Zone meeting agendas. The sessions take place:

Zone 1	March 18	Grande Prairie
Zone 2/3	March 26	Edmonton
Zone 4	March 24	Red Deer
Zone 5	March 5	Calgary
Zone 6	March 30	Lethbridge

Registration for the sessions is available at

<http://education.alberta.ca/apps/registration/sessions/>.

## **Presentations**

Dr. Jim Dueck, of the department of education, flagged a downward trend on provincial achievement tests. He presented statistics which indicate some provinces and countries have overtaken Alberta in terms of performance on standardized tests in some subjects.

Kim Bater, chair of the Canadian Rockies School Division and Dr. Hennos Theisens, with the Centre for Educational Research and Innovation, shared information about Canadian Rockies' Future Planning public engagement project. See the Canadian Rockies website for more information about this project <http://www.crps.ab.ca/future-planning/what/index.html>

## **Education governance theme of upcoming Spring General Meeting**

Facilitated discussions about education governance and what it should look like in the future will be the focus of the 2009 Spring General Meeting. The association is commissioning some “think pieces” from various perspectives which will provide a starting point for discussion about this issue.