

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 for draft and official minutes. For more information contact **Marian Johnson** at 1.780.451.7101.*

Board approves assumptions to guide development of 2010-11 budget

The ASBA Board of Directors approved assumptions to guide the development of the draft 2010-11 budget which will be presented to the board in March. There are significant expenses for the coming year related in particular to the \$122,000 increase in lease costs for the ASBA office. The board asked the executive director to bring back a balanced budget that explores the option of drawing on the building reserve. Pending approval by the board of directors, the proposed budget will be presented to school boards for their consideration at the Spring General Meeting.

Board of directors adopts revamped governance policies for itself

The ASBA Board of Directors adopted a revised set of governance policies to describe and support its governance functions. Highlights of the new document include a new Director Code of Conduct and Sanctions on page 18 -21 and the proposed association Policy Development Process found on pages 61-66. Read it: www.asba.ab.ca/files/pdf/bofd_governance_policies.pdf Vice-president **Jacquie Hansen** will be visiting Zones to gather feedback about the proposed process. A key change is that school boards will be able to bring forward issues between general meetings.

ASBA not captured under *Lobbyists Act*

The board of directors received a briefing on the *Lobbyists Act*. Based on a review of the legislation, executive director David Anderson advised the board the ASBA will not be registering as a lobbyist.

Board to consider draft bylaw re Charter school membership in ASBA

The board of directors has asked executive director David Anderson to draft for their consideration a change to the ASBA bylaws that would create a separate membership category for charter schools. Note: any changes to the ASBA bylaws must be supported by school boards – so a decision on this will have to be voted on at a general meeting. If a new membership category were created – and approved by school boards – it would give charter schools access to ASBA services including professional development – but charter schools would have no role in the ASBA’s governance. If the province’s 13 charter schools were to join the association, this would generate an estimated \$134,500 in fee revenue.

Board of directors to establish FNMI task force – call for interest

A call for interest will be issued to establish a First Nations, Métis and Inuit task force. Zone 1 Director **Dianne Arcand Lavoie** will chair the task force. Through its strategic plan, the ASBA is focused on addressing the achievement gap for FNMI learners.

New task force to identify best practices in governance for school boards

A task force lead by Calgary Catholic Director **Serafino Scarpino** will explore and identify best practices in governance for school boards. Joining Scarpino in this assignment are: **Karen Kryczka** (Director, Calgary Board of Education); **Anne-Marie Boucher** (Director Zone 5) **Ralph Wohlgemuth** (Grande Prairie RCSSD No. 28, Zone 1) **Jeff Thompson** (Fort McMurray Public School District No. 2833, Zone 2/3); **Cheryl Smith** (Battle River Regional Division No. 31, Zone 4) and **Don Zech** (Palliser Regional Division No. 26, Zone 6).

ASBA hosts candidate information sessions and campaign school

In the run-up to the October 18 school board election, the ASBA is hosting candidate information sessions around the province. These sessions will be free and will feature retiring trustees talking about the role of the trustee. We are asking people to pre-register for planning purposes. The dates and locations are posted on the ASBA website. New this year will be a campaign school open to all potential candidates. This is scheduled for June 9 in Red Deer. Watch the ASBA website for details, fees and registration information.