

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.

Proposes 4 per cent increase in membership fees

Board approves draft 2009-10 budget for presentation to Zones

As a result of rising lease costs (the lease rate for the building is increasing from \$7 per square foot to \$23 per square foot); projected increases in staff salaries and benefits and increasing costs associated with contracted services, the budget the ASBA Board of Directors is proposing to school boards is **\$276,973** higher than last year's. If approved by the membership, the ASBA's 2009-10 budget will be \$5 million. Check the ASBA website www.asba.ab.ca on March 27 for a copy of the proposed budget and information about how the proposed increase in membership fee will affect your board.

Key features of the proposed 2009-10 budget:

To offset the \$276,973 increase in the 2009-10 budget, the board of directors is proposing the following measures:

- Increase membership fees: 4 per cent
- Increase fee for service rates:
 - Communications - \$176/hr from \$149
 - Education Services - \$200/hr from \$179
 - Labour - \$176/hr from \$149
 - Legal - \$210/hr from \$179
- Increase registration fee for Spring General and Fall General meetings by \$50
- Transfer \$15,252 from reserve fund created when the ASBA sold its building in 1999

School boards vote on the proposed budget at the Spring General Meeting. To provide school boards with information about the proposed budget before the SGM, directors **Carol Bazinet** (Calgary Board of Education) and **Lynda Akers** (Grande Yellowhead Board of Education) will make budget presentations at the following Zone meetings. Trustees are encouraged to attend.

Proposed budget presented in Zones:

Zone 1	May 28	9:30 am
Zone 2/3	April 24	9:30 am
Zone 4	April 27	10:00 am
Zone 5	May 15	9:30 am
Zone 6	May 13	1:00 pm

For more information about the budget, please contact **Heather Rogers**, Director of Finance and Administration, at hrogers@asba.ab.ca or 1.780.451.7114.

Strategic plan in place for 2009-2012

The ASBA Board of Directors approved the 2009-2012 strategic plan. The new plan, which includes a focus on providing leadership to close student achievement gaps for special needs, aboriginal and English as a Second Language students will be posted on the ASBA website shortly. A fourth advocacy priority – early intervention – was added to the plan. It joins transportation, infrastructure and high school completion as an ASBA focus.

Trustee development aimed at helping school boards fulfill their governance responsibilities and the introduction of a service to help school boards with local public engagement efforts are other features of the 2009-2012 plan. The current strategic plan and updates are on the ASBA website: www.asba.ab.ca/policy_framework/strategic_plan.html.

Presentations

Dr. John Rymer, of the department of education, gave a presentation about the discrepancy between school awarded marks and the marks students get on diploma exams testing the same subjects.

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.