

ASBA Board of Directors Meeting

*Board Highlights are circulated to the Board of Directors and ASBA staff after each meeting. Directors are asked to circulate these highlights to their respective constituencies. Meeting agendas, draft and ratified minutes are available on the ASBA website at www.asba.ab.ca. For more information contact **Marian Johnson** at 1.780.451.7101.*

Board of Directors wants legislation changed to allow school boards to conduct electronic meetings

After reviewing the legal implications of school boards holding electronic meetings, the ASBA Board of Directors adopted a policy calling for the development of legislation that would give school boards this right. The board of directors wants the minister of education to work with the ASBA to develop the legislative framework to support the change. Because this is an interim policy position, it will be subject to ratification by the membership at the June 1 business session during the Red Deer SGM. The policy and supporting legal research will be circulated to school boards shortly.

Board of Directors adopts advocacy plans for improving high school completion; infrastructure and transportation

The board of directors approved advocacy plans in support of the association's three advocacy priorities. The plans, developed by task forces lead by members of the provincial board, will be posted on the ASBA website www.asba.ab.ca early next week. Check under the new *Advocacy priorities* section on the front page of the website.

President Welwood to meet with ministers re Bill 44

After a week which included writing a letter expressing school board concerns with Section 11.1 of Bill 44 and issuing a media release with four education partners, ASBA President Heather Welwood will meet with the Hon. **Lindsay Blackett**, the Minister of Culture and Community Spirit., and the Hon. **Dave Hancock**, Minister of Education. She will reiterate the message that parental rights are well protected under the *School Act* and that the Section 11.1 provisions will be costly to implement and create unnecessary and nearly impossible to accommodate administrative requirements.

Board of Directors asks executive director to begin talks with Alberta Teachers' Association staff about bargaining

In support of ASBA's strategic priority of preparing school boards for teacher bargaining by August 31, 2012, the board of directors asked executive director David Anderson to seek talks with his ATA counterpart about bargaining. The goal of these talks is to have a commitment that for those boards who wish to voluntarily join an employer bargaining organization (i.e. SBEBA) – there be an agreement to negotiate at a single table for the purpose of concluding a single collective agreement. The board asked the executive director to report the results of these staff-level discussions at the November 2009 Fall General Meeting.

Beyond this effort at the administrative level, the ASBA Board of Directors will ask school boards for their guidance and advice about how to proceed on the bargaining issue. Less than 50 per cent of the province's school boards responded to a call for input on this issue. The ASBA Board of Directors will renew its efforts to get input from school boards. They will raise the question at upcoming Zone meetings and the issue will be discussed at the November 2009 Fall General Meeting.

Appointments

Marilyn Bergstra, Edmonton Catholic was reappointed to the Council on Alberta Teaching Standards for three years (expires September 30, 2012).