

ASBA Board of Directors Meeting

Board Highlights are circulated to the Board of Directors and ASBA staff after each board of directors meeting. Directors are asked to circulate the highlights to their respective constituencies. See the ASBA website www.asba.ab.ca for board agendas, draft and official minutes. For more information contact **Marian Johnson** at 1.780.451.7101.

BOARD PARES NUMBER OF ASBA COMMITTEE REPS BY HALF

As of September 30, 2009, the ASBA had representatives serving on 170 government or education partners committees. Two factors determine if the association appoints a representative to a committee:

1. Participation presents an opportunity to advance ASBA policy
2. Participation creates an opportunity for the broader trustee community to participate in the ASBA's work

Based on an inventory which flagged 87 of these committees as inactive, the ASBA Board of Directors voted to stop assigning representatives to these committees. At an upcoming meeting, the board will assess the remaining committees for relevance and impact. Appointments to external committees are guided by the *Protocol for External Committee Representatives*. For more information about this document, contact **Teresa Ergezinger** at 1.780.451.7129.

ADVOCACY EFFORTS PROFILED IN NEW DOCUMENT

Participating in the review of the *School Act*; joining the Alberta Teachers' Association and the Alberta School Councils' Association *Stop the Cuts* campaign and proposing solutions to resolve the dispute over the definition of the Alberta Average Weekly Earnings Index were among the initiatives highlighted in the ASBA's advocacy highlights report. This report, which is included in the ASBA's 2009 Policies Bulletin, replaces the annual Directives for Action Progress Report, which is no longer needed under the new policy framework. The policy process no longer includes directives for action – so there is no longer the need for the annual removal of completed directives. Watch for this quick summary of the association's advocacy work in your policies bulletin.

WHAT POLICIES ARE BEING PROPOSED AT THE FGM?

At the November 23 business session, school boards will consider these and other proposed additions and changes to association policy:

- Government should include special education teachers in the class size calculation. Currently Alberta Education does not include these teachers unless they are working in a segregated program in a separate class.
- Change the *School Act* to allow non-certificated staff to supervise extra-curricular activities. The current legislation limits school jurisdictions' ability to recruit coaches who are not certificated teachers.

- Government should make training of educational assistants a priority. Over the past five years the number of educational assistants working in schools has increased by up to 40 per cent in some jurisdictions; and up to 35 per cent of these employees will be eligible to retire over the next four years.

The ASBA Policies Bulletin will be e-mailed to jurisdiction offices on October 30.