

## 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](http://www.asba.ab.ca). For more information contact **Marian Johnson** at 1.780.451.7101.*

### **ASBA response to school board directives for action**

In a bid to be more responsive to members, the board of directors considers direct requests from school boards and or Zones for quick action on emerging issues. Here is the board of director's response to recent requests:

#### **Election Costs (April 2011 by Zone 2/3)**

*The membership would like ASBA to work with other municipalities and school boards to lobby for the election costs of candidates to be tax deductible.*

Refer to the ASBA/AUMA partnership for further discussion and exploration.

#### **Criminal Record Checks and CYIM Checks for Student Teachers (April 2011 Zone 2/3)**

*Should student teachers have criminal record and Child and Youth Information Management (CYIM) checks before they enter our classrooms?*

Zone 2/3 Directors find out what action ASBA is being asked to undertake.

#### **Develop a LGBTQ Policy Advisory for School Boards (June 2011 Edmonton Public)**

*That ASBA develop a policy advisory on sexual orientation and gender identity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual/ transgendered and queer (LGBTQ) students and staff.*

ASBA will develop a LGBTQ policy advisory for school boards. Board of directors to clearly explain that a policy advisory is just information a school board may choose to use should the local board wish to develop policy in an area.

#### **Fuel Price Contingency Grant (June 2011 Zone 1)**

*That ASBA lobby Alberta Education to reinstate the Fuel Price Contingency grant with recognition of all regional fuel prices incorporated.*

As the minister of education announced August 4, 2011 that the Fuel Price Contingency Program was being reinstated, the ASBA will write a letter of appreciation.

#### **School Bus Fly-By (November 2010 Zone 1)**

*That ASBA lobby the provincial government to double fines and demerit point penalties for traffic violations involving passing a school bus that has its red flashing lights on.*

Write a letter to appropriate ministries; provide key messages to boards who wish to communicate with local MLAs and refer to ASBA/AUMA partnership.

## **New look for ASBA's political advocacy approach**

Based on the advice of the ASBA Political Advocacy Task Force, chaired by Zone 6 Director **Karen Bartsch**, the ASBA Board of Directors adopted these principles to guide the ASBA's political advocacy work:

The ASBA seeks to shape government policy in support of students and school boards as follows:

- The ASBA's political advocacy goals and efforts will be informed by a systematic process of consulting with stakeholders – including but not limited to these venues – at the local board table; at Zones; at the board of directors table and at general meetings of the association.
- The ASBA provides an informed/researched perspective to policy-influencers to shape public policy.
- The ASBA participates actively in government initiatives to inform government policy development.
- The ASBA is the “go-to” source of information on key issues for the public, stakeholders and policy-influencers.
- The ASBA establishes partnerships with other organizations to strengthen its advocacy/influence.
- The ASBA cultivates positive working relationships with government MLAs and key ministries and bureaucrats.
- With the ASBA's political advocacy goals in mind, the association commends government publicly when it moves forward on those goals and is prepared to speak firmly, diplomatically and publicly when government does not.
- The ASBA seeks results not headlines

### **Who is on the ASBA Political Advocacy Task Force?**

Karen Bartsch, Zone 6 Director Chair, Grasslands Regional Division No. 6

Richard Van Ee, Trustee, Buffalo Trail PS Regional Division No. 28

Marie Logan, Trustee, Horizon School Division

Dr. Lucy Miller, Superintendent, Calgary Catholic Schools

David Price, Chair, Golden Hills School Division No. 75

Michael Ouellette, Trustee, Grande Prairie RCSSD No. 28

Bill MacFarquhar, Trustee, Chinook's Edge School Division No. 73

Suzanne Lundrigan, ASBA Director of Communications

David Anderson, ASBA Executive Director

## **ASBA report looks at state of First Nations, Métis and Inuit education in Alberta**

The ASBA task force working to improve First Nations, Métis and Inuit students' success in school oversaw writing a research paper titled *First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Success* which is scheduled for distribution at the upcoming ASBA Fall General Meeting.

As the task force has been broadened to include representatives from the Alberta School Councils' Association, the Alberta Teachers' Association, and the College of Alberta School Superintendents and Alberta Education, the next steps will see the task force revisit its terms of reference to develop a work plan.

### **Who is on the FNMI education task force?**

Sharilyn Anderson, Zone 1 Director *Co-Chair*

Dianne Lavoie, Holy Family Catholic Regional Division, Zone 1 *Co-Chair*

Beatrice Wright, Holy Family Catholic Regional Division, Zone 1

Darrell Ghostkeeper, Living Waters Catholic Regional Division Zone 2/3

Kathy Cooper, Prairie Rose School Division, Zone 6

Cindy Olsen, Edmonton Catholic Separate School District Metro

Brian Callaghan, CASS Representative, Superintendent, Canadian Rockies Regional Division

Blaine Hogg, CASS Representative, Director of Student Services, Westwind SD

Michele Mulder, Executive Director, Alberta School Councils Association

Patrick Loyer, Executive Staff Officer, Professional Development, Alberta Teachers' Association

Linda Pelly, Director, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Services Branch, Alberta Education

*Representatives have yet to be named for Zone 4 and 5*

## **ASBA task force explores transformation of education from school boards perspective**

Under the leadership of ASBA vice-president **Cheryl Smith**, the ASBA task force looking at transformation of education has identified these priorities:

### **Short term**

In support of school boards' participation in the September/October transformation meetings with representatives of the Alberta Teachers' Association and Alberta Education, the task force is encouraging school boards to identify issues they want to bring forward.

The task force has also identified the following themes – based on ASBA policy – that school boards may wish to include in their deliberations:

- Funding (long term, predictable and sustained funding)
- Infrastructure (new system of school building construction and modernization)
- Transportation (new system that does not require drawing from educational resources)
- Student health and wellness (coordinated and cross-ministry effort to address the needs of the whole child and for all children)
- Governance (to represent local views, needs and aspirations)

### **Long term**

- The task force will prepare background papers in areas identified as essential to transformation of Alberta's education system.
- The task force will develop a toolkit to support school boards as they have local conversations with their communities and constituents about transformation about Alberta's education system.

### **Who is on ASBA Transformation task force?**

Cheryl Smith, ASBA vice-president, *Chair*

Serafino Scarpino, Calgary Catholic, Metro

Ralph Wohlgemuth, Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools, Zone 1

Jeff Thompson, Fort McMurray Public School District, Zone 2/3

Cheryl Johner, Edmonton School District, Metro

Anne-Marie Boucher, Greater Southern Francophone Regional Authority, Zone 5

Don Zech, Palliser Regional Division, Zone 6

Susan Lang, Executive Director, Association of School Business Officials of Alberta

Michele Mulder, Executive Director, Alberta School Councils' Association

Kath Rhyason, Executive Director, College of Alberta School Superintendents

David Anderson, Executive Director, Alberta School Boards Association

Scott McCormack, Manager Special Initiatives, Alberta School Boards Association

## **Other news of note**

### **ASBA Board of Directors endorses 4-year term for school boards**

The ASBA Board of Directors adopted a policy calling for a 4-year term for school trustees. This dovetails with the Alberta Urban Municipalities position on this issue. The move is seen as a cost-saving measure. As with any policy adopted by the ASBA Board of Directors, it will be subject to approval by school boards at the upcoming Fall General Meeting.

### **Strategic plan final report available on ASBA website**

Check out the progress on the ASBA's strategic plan here.

[http://www.asba.ab.ca/files/pdf/strategic-plan/strat\\_plan\\_final\\_10\\_13.pdf](http://www.asba.ab.ca/files/pdf/strategic-plan/strat_plan_final_10_13.pdf)

### **Next board of directors meeting via videoconference**

As part of its austerity measures, the ASBA Board of Directors is meeting fewer times this year – and is exploring videoconference meetings. The upcoming October meeting will be conducted online.

### **Annual report and Value statement en route to school boards**

The ASBA's 2010-11 annual report will be posted on the ASBA website shortly. As a cost and environment saving measure, we are only producing an online version. Each school trustee and senior administrator will receive a copy of the ASBA's annual *Value statement* which will detail how much money that board spent on association services and the savings accrued as a result of membership in the association. For more information contact Heather Rogers [hrogers@asba.ab.ca](mailto:hrogers@asba.ab.ca)