



Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting ASBA Boardroom

April 19-20, 2007

ATTENDANCE

Board Members

Mrs. Maureen Kubinec, President
Mrs. Heather Welwood, Vice-President
Mrs. Bev Esslinger, Edmonton Public (alternate)
Ms. Debbie Cavaliere, Edmonton Catholic
Ms. Carol Bazinet, Calgary Public
Mrs. Lois Burke-Gaffney, Calgary Catholic
Ms. Wendy Olson-Lepchuk, Zone 1
Mr. Gerry Steinke, Zone 23
Ms. Karen Holloway, Zone 4
Mr. Doug Gardner, Zone 5
Mrs. Patricia Aitchison, Zone 6
Mrs. Jacquie Hansen, ACSTA
Mrs. Judy Muir, PSBAA
Mr. Martin Blanchet, FCSFA

Guests

Dr. Jim Dueck, ADM, Education Accountability (A.3)
Mr. Dennis Belyk, Executive Director, Learner Assessment (A.3)
Mr. Sig Schmold, ASBA Consultant (A.6)
Mr. Emilian Groch, CEO - ATRF (A.7)
Mrs. Mary Lynn Campbell, President, CASS (A.8)
Mr. Lee Lucente, Executive Director, CASS (A.8)
Ms. Teresa Haykowsky, Lawyer for CASS (A.8)
Mr. Steve Cymbol, ASBA Consultant (A.10)
Mr. Dickson Wood (Observer)

Staff/Consultants

Mr. David Anderson, Executive Director
Ms. Suzanne Lundrigan, Director, Communications
Ms. Heather Tkachuk, Administrative Assistant (A.4, A.9,
A.10, A.11, A.12)
Ms. Marian Johnson, Administrative Assistant

Note: Any enclosure, report or other document to which a motion relates in whole or in part becomes an integral and official part of these minutes.

CALL TO ORDER

President Kubinec called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m..

NATIONAL ANTHEM

P. Aitchison led the Board in the singing of O'Canada.

A. RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

A.1 Agenda

(a) Additions/Changes

Additions:

- A.14(a)** ASBA Budget Presentation Team
- A.14(b)** ASEBP Request re Chair's Term
- B.2** Approach to Unfunded Teachers' Pension Liability
- B.3** Election materials
- B.4** Meeting with Minister (April 30, 2007)

Changes:

- A.4** Accountability Report – this item would not be time specific.

(b) Approval

MOTION #1
D. Cavaliere

That the agenda, as amended, be approved.

CARRIED

A.2 Approval of Minutes – March 8-9, 2007

(a) Errors/Omissions

A.4(b) Accountability Report – Team Leader: The second bullet under QI 11 should read:

“QI 11: Need to explain that contractors have in their contract with ASBA a statement that obligations to them do not exceed expected association revenues. Contractors included Dr. Leroy Sloan and Mr. Terry Gunderson.”

A.11 NSBA Report – The correct title of the report was “Program and Financial Review”.

C.4 Member Reports – Edmonton Public: This report was provided by Bev Esslinger.

(b) Approval

MOTION #2
C. Bazinet

That the minutes of the March 8-9, 2007 ASBA Board of Directors meeting be approved as amended.

CARRIED

(c) Business Arising

A.6(b) Knowledge & Employability Skills Advisory Committee: With the correction to the appointment term, the following motion was made:

MOTION #3
D. Cavaliere

That Lloyd Baumgarten's term on the Knowledge & Employability Skills Advisory Committee expire December 31, 2008.

CARRIED

A.3 Preliminary Reporting of Achievement Test Results to Parents in June

Dr. Jim Dueck, Assistant Deputy Minister, and Mr. Dennis Belyk, Executive Director of Learner Assessment, provided an update on the department's work in providing parents with achievement test results in June. Based on feedback they received from parents, principals and teachers, the department developed four recommendations:

1. Implement reporting for grades 6 and 9 in 2008.
2. Share reports with districts and schools.
3. Review department policies and procedures in relation to this report.
4. Communicate with parents to explain the potential for variances between preliminary and final PAT results.

Although Alberta Education addressed many of ASBA's earlier concerns raised at their March 2006 meeting related to the first pilot study, the following additional concerns were expressed:

- Many parents were unaware that they should receive these results
- It was too soon (2006-07) to make June reporting mandatory
- Many schools already provide June results
- The importance of the exam should not be elevated

Based on the Board's discussion regarding the four recommendations, D. Anderson would present a report on ASBA's support of them for the Board's consideration at a later date.

A.4 Executive Director's Accountability Report

(a) Advocacy

Board members provided suggestions to improve future Advocacy reports:

- Be more specific on the Executive Director's role and include research he has done and the staff involved in the research
- Include who gave direction to the Executive Director to perform tasks
- Include examples of the results of tasks
- Clarify the meaning of "direct board observation"
- Include reference to the impact of "Missing the Mark" report
- Clarify that Advocacy reports are provided on a quarterly basis during the report's timeframe

It was noted that there would be a refresher session at the June Board meeting to review the reporting process, and that it could be revised at the Board's August meeting.

MOTION #4
D. Cavaliere

That, based on the Board of Directors' review of the information provided, the board determines that the Executive Director has met the quality indicators as outlined in the Advocacy Accountability Report; and

That the Board of Directors request the Executive Director to include this accountability report in the ASBA Executive Director Evaluation Evidence Binder for the period September 1, 2006 – August 31, 2007.

CARRIED

D. Anderson confirmed that the suggestions previously noted would be incorporated into the final Advocacy report for August.

A.5 In-Camera Session

An *in-camera* session was not required.

A.6 Anaphylaxis Policy Advisory

Mr. Sig Schmold, ASBA consultant, presented a revised Anaphylaxis Policy Advisory and Background Report developed by a stakeholder steering committee. This advisory was prepared to provide a consistent standard for the management of students and staff affected by anaphylaxis.

Two key concepts emerged from the study:

1. Responsibility should be shared among the individual, parents, school system and health care providers.
2. The goal was to create an allergy-safe or allergy-aware environment rather than an allergy-free environment.

The advisory recommended that a policy should address the following:

- Information about anaphylaxis
- Identifying individuals at risk
- Communication strategies
- Allergy avoidance strategies
- Emergency response plan
- List of roles and responsibilities

The Background Report contained five recommendations that the steering committee felt would ensure, if implemented, a safe and caring school environment for students and staff at risk of life-threatening allergies.

The Board agreed that the recommendation to seek an amendment to the Student Record Regulation to include information related to critical student medical conditions be deleted from the five recommendations.

MOTION #5
P. Aitchison

That ASBA adopt the recommended policy advisory and encourage Alberta's school boards to implement the policy and procedural concepts outlined in the advisory; and

That ASBA encourage the Alberta government to fund a school-based anaphylaxis resource package, possibly in partnership with private industry, Alberta Health and Wellness and other related departments, to be provided to each school in Alberta. The resource package provided to all schools in Ontario could serve as a template for the Alberta school anaphylaxis resource package; and

That ASBA, with funding from the Alberta government, consider developing a companion policy advisory regarding asthma. Expert medical opinion has drawn a close link between asthma and students at risk of life-threatening allergies; and

That ASBA encourage Alberta Education to request Alberta's Health Regions to work closely with school boards in their region to provide information, awareness and training regarding individuals with life-threatening allergies.

CARRIED

A.7 Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund

Mr. Emilian Groch, CEO of the Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund Board, gave a presentation on the history and background of the teachers' pension plan.

He included in his presentation an explanation of the government's very recent offer to assume the teachers' portion of the unfunded pension liability on a pro-rated basis for a one-year period beginning September 1, 2007, as well as their intention to establish a task force to review and consider options to address the teachers' share of the unfunded pre-1992 pension liability.

A.8 Support of CASS Self-Governance Proposal

Ms. Mary Lynn Campbell, CASS President, updated the Board on CASS's proposal to become a professional body and how ASBA's concerns had been addressed related to eligibility for membership, dual membership in the ATA, superintendent's accountability to the board, and establishment of a legal fund. She added that the proposal was in its fifth draft.

Ms. Campbell advised that the next steps in CASS's journey to self-governance were to:

- Develop standards of practice and code of conduct
- Present final draft of legislation to MLAs and education partners

- Meet with Legislative Services to assess amendments to subsequent Acts
- Meet with Minister of Education to seek his support in presenting a Bill to the appropriate legislative committees.

Ms. Campbell answered several questions related to the parameters of the standards of practice, board notification of complaint investigations, discipline, and grievances.

A.9 ASBA Analysis of Minister's Response to ASBA FGM 2006 New Directives for Action

D. Anderson explained that the analysis was a new feature introduced by the ASBA Policy Development Advisory Committee (PDAC). H. Welwood added that it reflects further action or follow-up to be taken based on the Minister's response to ASBA policies and directives for action considered at general meetings.

Based on initial feedback from the Board, the PDAC provided a revised analysis later in the meeting.

MOTION #6
P. Aitchison

That the ASBA Board of Directors approve the recommended actions outlined in the revised briefing note and that this information be circulated to all boards.

CARRIED

MOTION #7
P. Aitchison

That, upon completion of the Governance Review, the ASBA Policy Development Advisory Committee, in consultation with administration, develop Zone work-shop presentations to facilitate a better understanding by members of policy direction and the need to have clear advocacy direction for the president to take to the government.

CARRIED

A.10 Consolidation of Facilities/ Infrastructure Policies

H. Welwood presented the information related to the Policy Development Advisory Committee's work to consolidate ASBA policies related to facilities and infrastructure at the direction of the general assembly as per directive for action 6.D.10.

Recommendations to delete and amend existing policy statements and directives for action were accompanied with reasons for the proposed action. The end result of the consolidation brought the number of policies and directives down from 49 to 22.

In reviewing the revised wording of the policies and directives it was noted that the intent of the original statement in two policies/directives had been lost:

6.1.P.02 – Funding Model for School Board Capital Projects: Board members felt the concept of a funding model had been lost in the new wording and consolidation of 6.D.14, 4.D.21 and 6.D.01. They also felt that the new policy statement should contain an overarching statement which includes reference to a funding model that provides annual, sustained funding.

6.1.D.04 – Funding for Outreach School Lease Costs: Board members felt that this was a request for targeted funding which was contrary to current policy.

MOTION #8

H. Welwood

That the ASBA Board of Directors approve the proposed consolidation recommendations contained on pages 1-17 of the “Review and Proposed Recommendations to Consolidate Existing ASBA Facilities and Infrastructure Policies/Directives for Action” document dated April 2007; and

That directive 6.D.14 be revised to read as a policy belief statement; and

That the word “request” be used in the directives for actions instead of the word “lobby”.

CARRIED

A.11 “Missing the Mark” – Alignment with ASBA Policies and Directives for Action

H. Welwood pointed out that the recommendations of the two “Missing the Mark” documents had not been formally adopted by the Board of Directors. As a result, the Policy Development Advisory Committee compared the recommendations to current ASBA policies and found that all but two were supported by existing policies.

MOTION #9

W. Olson-Lepchuk

That the ASBA Board of Directors endorse the two “Missing the Mark” reports with the exception of the following recommendations contained within the reports:

1. That Alberta Education, in consultation with stakeholders, develops and keeps current an Education Price Index similar in nature to the consumer price index. This index would have an overall Alberta index and specific regional indexes. The Education Price Index would be used to establish annual base level grant increases to school boards. The Education Price Index would more directly link cost of service with the revenue to provide the service; and
2. That base per student grant increases be sufficient to cover the cost of teacher compensation packages.

CARRIED

- A.12 Review and Streamlining of ASBA Policies & Directives for Action** A suggestion by the Policy Development Advisory Committee to review and streamline ASBA policies and directives was made in conjunction with the consolidation of facilities and infrastructure policies as directed in Policy 6.D.10.
- It was felt, however, that the review and streamlining should occur following the governance review as it may bring about an opportunity to redesign policies.
- MOTION #10**
P. Aitchison
- That the issue of reviewing and streamlining ASBA policies be deferred to the June 2007 Board of Directors meeting.
- CARRIED**
- A.13 Date for Board Leadership Session – August 2007** D. Anderson advised that the Board Leadership session would include discussions on the Executive Director's Evaluation, the Board Self-Evaluation, and leadership dimensions.
- MOTION #11**
W. Olson-Lepchuk
- That the 2007 Board Leadership Session be held the evening of August 22, and all day August 23 and 24, 2007 in Banff.
- CARRIED**
- A.14 Directors' Requests for Information** D. Anderson advised that he would respond to the Zone 6 questions that P. Aitchison had sent to him.
- (a) ASBA Budget Presentation Team**
- MOTION #12**
H. Welwood
- That Gerry Steinke work with Karen Holloway to give budget presentations at Zone meetings.
- CARRIED**
- (b) ASEBP Request re Chair's Term**
- MOTION #13**
W. Olson-Lepchuk
- That the meeting move *in-camera*.
- CARRIED**
- MOTION #14**
L. Burke-Gaffney
- That the meeting move out of *camera*.
- CARRIED**
- MOTION #15**
G. Steinke
- That Richard Van Ee's term on the ASEBP Board of Trustees be extended to December 31, 2007.
- CARRIED**
- (c) High School Completion** D. Cavaliere and K. Holloway provided an outline for a long range (five year) plan for ASBA to provide leadership in improving high school completion rates as well as a choice of two suggested logos. The plan called for financial support by ASBA and Alberta Education.
- MOTION #16**
H. Welwood
- That the ASBA Board of Directors approve in principle the proposed "Improved High School Completion" strategic plan and timelines as outlined and that it be referred to ASBA administration for further review.
- CARRIED**

A.15 Agenda Items – Future Board Meetings

The following items were identified:

- Plant Operations and Maintenance Issues – Discussion with Minister of Education
- Approval of ASBA Advocacy Plan (2006-2009) - (Revised)
- ASBA Labour Disruption Plan and Labour Update
- Presentation on Local Authorities Pension Plan (LAPP)
- Discussion on how the cost of doing business impacts ASBA's budget
- NSBA Review Recommendations
- Disposition of Items from January Board meeting
- Streamlining of ASBA Policies and Directives for Action (June)
- ASBA Support of Preliminary Reporting of Achievement Test Rests
- Drug Awareness Committee Discussion (May)

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

B.1 ASBA Committee on Drug Awareness

This was referred to the June Board meeting.

B.2 ASBA Approach to the Teachers' Unfunded Pension Liability

It was agreed that this issue would be discussed following the Board Charter meeting on Saturday, April 21, 2007.

B.3 Election Materials

S. Lundrigan provided a copy of the ASBA 2007 election brochure.

B.4 Meeting with the Minister (April 30, 2007)

Suggested issues to be brought up at the meeting were:

- High School Completion
- Teachers' Unfunded Pension Liability
- Having schools where children live
- Infrastructure
- International education
- Minister's vision for education and for school boards
- ASBA's vision for education
- Relationship with ASBA Board of Directors

C. INFORMATION ITEMS

C.1 President's Report

In addition to her written report, M. Kubinec provided a summary of her meetings during the day related to the provincial budget speech.

- Minister's conference call with Board Chairs and Superintendents
- Meeting with Minister
- Attended Question Period at legislature
- Attended budget presentation at legislature

The President's key messages to boards were:

1. A 3% grant increase is very lean in today's economy
2. It was disappointing that pre-Kindergarten funding was not included
3. It was disappointing that infrastructure funding was not included.

M. Kubinec expressed kudos to the Minister for his creative ideas on alternative funding and to tackling the unfunded teachers' pension liability issue.

Later in the meeting M. Kubinec provided each board member with a copy of the document she had provided to the Minister entitled "Exploring Alternative Means of Funding School Facilities".

Regarding the unfunded teachers' pension liability, G. Steinke expressed his concern that the \$25 million earmarked by the government to pay off this debt would be from the Alberta Education budget and, hence, school boards would be affected. For this reason he felt school boards should have representation on the task force being established to look into this issue.

MOTION #17
P. Aitchison

That the meeting move *in-camera*.

CARRIED

MOTION #18
L. Burke-Gaffney

That the meeting move out of *camera*.

CARRIED

M. Kubinec informed the board that a new committee was to be struck by the government to consider new facilities and that ASBA would be represented on it.

(a) CSBA Update

A report was not available.

C.2 Vice-President's Report

A report was not available.

C.3 Executive Director's Report

Please refer to the written report.

C.4 Member Reports

Edmonton Public (*B. Esslinger*): Please refer to the written report.

Edmonton Catholic (*D. Cavaliere*): A report was not available.

Calgary Public (*C. Bazinet*): Please refer to the written report.

Calgary Catholic (*L. Burke-Gaffney*): Please refer to the written report.

Zone 1 (*W. Olson-Lepchuk*): Please refer to the written report.

Zone 23 (*G. Steinke*): Please refer to the written report.

Zone 4 (*K. Holloway*): Please refer to the written report.

Zone 5 (*D. Gardner*): A report was not available.

Zone 6 (*P. Aitchison*): Please refer to the written report.

ACSTA (*J. Hansen*): Please refer to the written report.

PSBAA (*J. Muir*): Please refer to the written report.

FCSFA (*M. Blanche*): Please refer to the written report.

D. MEETING EVALUATION

Directors were encouraged to complete and return their meeting evaluation form.

E. ADJOURNMENT

The President adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

President

Executive Director