



**Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
ASBA Boardroom**

February 11-12, 2010

ATTENDANCE

Board Members

Mrs. Heather Welwood, President
Ms. Jacquie Hansen, Vice President
Ms. Bev Esslinger, Edmonton Public
Mrs. Marilyn Bergstra, Edmonton Catholic
Ms. Carol Bazinet, Calgary Public (alternate)
Mr. Serafino Scarpino, Calgary Catholic
Ms. Dianne Lavoie, Zone 1
Ms. Lynda Akers, Zone 2/3
Mr. Clayton Jespersen, Zone 2/3
Ms. Jackie Swainson, Zone 4
Ms. Anne-Marie Boucher, Zone 5
Ms. Kerry Milder Zone 6
Mrs. Alice Brick, ACSTA
Mr. Roy Goulet, FCSFA
Mrs. Patty Dittrick, PSBAA

Guests

Mr. Gene Williams, Executive Director, Strategic Financial
Services Section, Alberta Education (I.3)

Staff/Consultants

Mr. David Anderson, Executive Director
Ms. Donna Engel, Director, Corporate Services
Ms. Suzanne Lundrigan, Director, Communications
Ms. Heather Rogers, Director, Finance (E.3, E.4)
Mr. Scott McCormack, Manager, Special Initiatives
Ms. Angela Town, ASBA Lawyer (B.1)
Ms. Heather Tkachuk, Research and Policy Analyst
Ms. Bobbie Garner, Administrative Assistant
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 Welwood called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Music was provided for the national anthem as well as video clips of Canadian scenes.

INSTALLATION

Mrs. Alice Brick was officially installed as the ACSTA observer.

Mrs. Patty Dittrick was officially installed as the PSBAA observer.

A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

A.1 Agenda

(a) Additions/Changes

The following agenda items were made time specific:

B.1 Lobbyist Act – Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

E.4 Budget Assumptions – Friday, 1:30 p.m.

Addition:

B.3(d) Governance Task Force

I.3 Budget 2010 Debriefing – Friday, 10:00 a.m.

(b) Approval

MOTION #1

J. Hansen

That the agenda as amended be approved.

CARRIED

A.2 Approval of Minutes – January 16, 2010

(a) Errors/Omissions

No errors or omissions were reported.

(b) Approval

MOTION #2

C. Jespersen

That the minutes of the January 16, 2010 ASBA Board of Directors meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

(c) Business Arising

There was no business arising from the January 16, 2010 minutes.

A.3 *In-Camera* Session

An *in-camera* discussion was held later Thursday evening. Please see motions # 11 and 12.

B. ADVOCACY

B.1 *Lobbyist Act* – Presentation

Angela Town, ASBA lawyer, provided a briefing on the *Lobbyists Act* and four possible options with rationale on how ASBA could proceed with regards to registering as a lobbyist.

D. Anderson advised the board that, based on a review of the legislation, ASBA would not be registering as a lobbyist (see Option 1), unless the Board had any objections.

The options provided were:

1. Do not register as a lobbyist, but rely on exemption under section 3(1)(i).
2. Do not register as a lobbyist, rely on exemption under 3(1)(i) for the time being, and request an advisory opinion from the Ethics Commissioner.
3. Do not register as a lobbyist, rely on exemption under 3(1)(i) for the time being, and consider taking steps to have the regulation amended to add ASBA as a Prescribed Provincial Entity.
4. Register as an organizational lobbyist and commit to the onerous filing requirements.

Ms. Town advised that, under the *Act*, individual trustees were exempt, however it was unclear whether ASBA Directors were exempt as well.

The board did not express any objection to choosing Option 1.

B.2 Policy Development Advisory Committee (PDAC)

(a) Revised ASBA Board Governance Policies – Approval

J. Hansen advised that the edits requested at the Board's January meeting had been incorporated into the final version of the ASBA Board Governance Policies.

MOTION #3
C. Jespersen

That the ASBA Board of Directors adopt the revised Board of Directors Governance Policies, dated February 2010, as presented and rescind any previous versions.

CARRIED

B.3 ASBA Advocacy Priority Reports

(a) Infrastructure

S. Scarpino gave an update on the proposed Infrastructure Advocacy Task Force compilation report of feedback received from school boards on ideas to advance infrastructure needs.

S. McCormack advised that the next phase of the task force's work was to research and develop a new model that provides an alternative approach to fixing the infrastructure system and present it to the government.

The Board requested that the draft report be emailed to them for discussion and consideration during a conference call meeting. Later in the meeting it was decided that the conference call meeting would be held Friday, February 19, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

MOTION #4
K. Milder

That the Board consider for approval the draft Infrastructure Task Force report during the conference call meeting.

CARRIED

(b) Transportation

S. McCormack advised that the task force was hoping to analyze the transportation report (*At the breaking point: Alberta's student transportation system*) now that the provincial budget had been announced.

(c) High School Completion

S. McCormack informed the Board that data from the task force's previous survey regarding best practices was being compiled and that a report would be available sometime in April.

(d) Governance

S. Scarpino, Chair of the Governance Task Force, gave an overview of the work of the new task force. Its membership also included Anne-Marie Boucher (Director, Zone 5), Karen Kryczka (Director, Calgary Board of Education), Ralph Wohlgemuth (Grande Prairie Catholic, Zone 1), Jeff Thompson (Ft. McMurray Public, Zone 2/3), Cheryl Smith (Battle River, Zone 4), and Don Zech (Palliser, Zone 6).

The task force would explore and identify best practices in governance for school boards. It was anticipated that the research would be completed by June 2010 in order for it to be presented at the Spring General Meeting.

B.4 First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Success Action Plan

D. Lavoie provided background information which led to the development of the proposed action plan for First Nation, Métis and Inuit student success. The purpose of the plan was to provide a steering and monitoring mechanism as well as deliverables that aligned with ASBA's strategic plan in order to help "action" strategic plan priorities.

It was suggested that a task force be established to oversee this work with Dianne Lavoie appointed as its Chair. The task force would consist of a representative (trustee or administrator) from each ASBA zone and at least one metro board, and that these representatives would have an aboriginal background and/or a high interest in aboriginal education and issues. The Board also requested that a special invitation to apply be extended to those representatives who attended the consultation meeting on January 13, 2010.

MOTION #5

S. Scarpino

That a task force on First Nation, Métis and Inuit student success be formed with Dianne Lavoie as Chair and that a Call for Interest be sent to all boards for applications.

CARRIED

The Board expressed their intent to have D. Lavoie review applications for the task force and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors for their approval.

C. RESEARCH

There were no agenda items under this section to discuss.

D. PARTNERSHIPS

D.1 External Committee Representation

(a) Careers...The Next Generation

MOTION #6

M. Bergstra

That the ASBA Board of Directors direct ASBA administration to canvass boards for trustee interest in serving on the CAREERS...The Next Generation Advisory Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2011.

CARRIED

The external committee recommendation rotation schedule was corrected to reflect that S. Scarpino would review the Careers...The Next Generation applications and make a recommendation to the Board at its April meeting.

(b) Children and Poverty

MOTION #7

M. Bergstra

That the ASBA Board of Directors direct ASBA administration to canvass boards for trustee interest in serving on the Children and Poverty Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2011.

CARRIED

The external committee recommendation rotation schedule was corrected to reflect that J. Hansen would review the Children and Poverty applications and make a recommendation to the Board at its April meeting.

E. SERVICES TO BOARDS

E.1 Technology in Education Policy

D. Anderson provided his opinion that the draft document was an internal Alberta Education document that should be considered as a directional or guidance document. He felt that the substance of the paper could be supported in principle with the following caveats (as detailed in the briefing note):

1. The policy assumes a high level of technical knowledge and skill for every teacher;
2. The policy states and assumes that students will be self-directed due to technology. Many students are self-directed but having technology does not ensure that all students will become self-directed.

MOTION #8
K. Milder

That the Association indicate that it can accept this policy document as a "directional" document that would provide guidance to school boards, while noting the caveats outlined in the briefing note.

DEFEATED

E.2 Guide to the Essential Conditions to Support Implementation of New Educational Initiatives

D. Anderson suggested that it would be more accurate if the document, which was prepared by regional consortia, referred to the implementation of consortia initiatives.

MOTION #9
L. Akers

That the Board of Directors defer approval in principle of the "Guide to the Essential Conditions to Support Implementation" until the regional consortia review was completed.

DEFEATED

MOTION #10
K. Milder

That the Board of Directors defer approval in principle of the "Guide to the Essential Conditions to Support Implementation" until the purpose of the document, future steps and outcomes, and more information is received, no later than the April Board meeting.

CARRIED

MOTION #11
B. Esslinger

That the meeting move *in-camera*, with only the voting members of the Board and Executive Director present.

CARRIED

All observers and the remaining ASBA staff left the meeting.

MOTION #12
B. Esslinger

That the meeting move out of *camera*.

CARRIED

The meeting recessed on Thursday evening at 9:15 p.m. and reconvened on Friday at 9:00 a.m.

- E.3 ASBA Q1 Financial Report** H. Rogers answered questions regarding the first quarter ASBA financial report and commented that the statement represented first quarter expenses only.
- MOTION #13**
D. Lavoie That the ASBA first quarter financial report be accepted as information.
CARRIED
- E.4 ASBA Budget Assumptions 2010-2011** D. Anderson advised that due to a significant increase in lease costs and a reduction in grant monies, ASBA was anticipating a very tight year ahead.
- Based on several budget considerations, the board reviewed the assumptions used to develop the draft 2010-11 budget and asked that various budget options be presented at its March meeting. These options included drawing on the building reserve; staff salary increases based on 1.3% (CPI) and 0%, and increased use of video-conferencing for meetings.
- MOTION #14**
L. Akers That the ASBA Board of Directors approve the 2010-11 budget assumptions as amended.
CARRIED
- F. BOARD POLICIES** There were no items to be discussed under this section.
- G. BOARD MEMBER REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES**
- G.1 President's Report** H. Welwood added the following to her written report:
- Arbitration Result:** The ASBA would continue to advance its position that the government needed to honour its commitment to fully fund teacher salaries based on 5.99%.
- AAMD&C:** In recent discussions with AAMD&C, it was agreed to elevate the role of trustees in a joint effort prior to the municipal elections.
- Council of Local Governments:** The three associations (ASBA, AUMA, and AAMD&C) previously involved in the Council, established to discuss local issues, were considering that it be resurrected.
- Official Trustee for Northland S. Div.:** H. Welwood advised that ASBA had tempered its response about the Minister's decision to replace the Northland board with an official trustee. She also commented on the Minister's statement at a recent Zone 1 meeting that school boards were responsible for everything that happened in a jurisdiction.

- MOTION #15**
J. Swainson
- That the meeting move *in-camera* with only the voting members and Executive Director present. **CARRIED**
- All observers and remaining ASBA staff left the meeting.
- MOTION #16**
B. Esslinger
- That the meeting move out of *camera*. **CARRIED**
- The observers and ASBA staff rejoined the meeting.
- Meeting with Minister:** Later in the meeting H. Welwood informed the Board that to date there had not been a meeting of the Minister, ASBA and ATA regarding bargaining, despite what was stated in a recent email to boards from the Minister.
- (a) **CSBA Update** The CSBA Board of Directors appointed Andrea Prupas as their Managing Director.
- G.2 Vice-President's Report** Please refer to the written report.
- G.3 Executive Director's Report** D. Anderson supplemented his written report with the following:
- Dinner Meeting with ATA:** A dinner meeting had been organized for the ASBA Board of Directors and the ATA Table Officers for Thursday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m. The primary purpose of the dinner was to socialize.
- Electronic Board Packages:** D. Anderson advised that future Board meeting packages would be available on ASBA's website. Access would be by password. The target start date was March, although it may not be until April.
- Trustee Elections:** S. Lundrigan informed the Board that election material was available on ASBA's website. In addition, candidate information sessions were scheduled for May and a campaign school was scheduled for June 9 in Red Deer. Directors were encouraged to promote these sessions.
- G.4 Member Reports**
- Edmonton Public (B. Esslinger):** Please refer to the written report.
- Edmonton Catholic (M. Bergstra):** Please refer to the report distributed at the meeting.
- Calgary Public (K. Kryczka):** Please refer to the written report.

Calgary Catholic (*S. Scarpino*): Please refer to the written report.

Zone 1 (*D. Lavoie*): Please refer to the written report.

Zone 2/3 (*L. Akers/C. Jespersen*): Please refer to the written report. L. Akers updated the Board that the Minister would now most likely attend the MLA breakfast on February 26th.

Zone 4 (*J. Swainson*): Please refer to the report distributed at the meeting.

Zone 5 (*A-M. Boucher*): Please refer to the written report. In addition, A-M. Boucher advised that consultations for a blended francophone (public and Catholic) board in southern Alberta were continuing.

Zone 6 (*K. Milder*): A Zone report was not available. However, K. Milder informed the Board that Donna Pechanec of AISI had requested permission for an AISI display booth to be set up at ASBA's general meetings.

ACSTA (*A. Brick*): A report was not available.

FCSFA (*R. Goulet*): A report was not available.

PSBAA (*P. Dittrick*): Please refer to the report distributed at the meeting.

H. OTHER

H.1 Directors' Requests for Information

Miscellaneous Statutes and Amendment Act re video conferencing: D. Anderson advised that the ASBA legal opinion on this issue of allowing video conference meetings would be sent to boards soon.

H.2 Agenda Items – Future Board Meetings

The following items were identified:

- Presentation on "Balanced School Year" (research by Zone 1)
- Criteria for Friends of Education Award
- Presentation by the Society for Safe and Caring Schools re FNMI

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS

I.1 Charter School Membership – Information on ASBA Bylaws

D. Anderson informed the boards that some charter schools had inquired about ASBA membership to gain access to ASBA services. As current ASBA bylaws did not provide for this, it would require a bylaw change for charter schools to become members.

The board agreed that if they brought forward a bylaw proposal to the Spring General Meeting, clear communication to the membership beforehand was essential, including definition of charter, private and public schools.

MOTION #17
M. Bergstra

That the ASBA Board of Directors direct the Executive Director to bring forward a draft bylaw amendment for Board consideration that would establish a separate membership category in the ASBA bylaws for charter schools. The amendment would enable charter schools to access all ASBA services, including professional development (subject to the eligibility requirements of each service), but would exclude them from participation in the governance of the association.

CARRIED

I.2 Library Access Policy and Guidelines

D. Anderson requested that Directors provide any comments they might have to him and they would be forwarded to the ASBA representative.

MOTION #18
J. Swainson

That the draft "Library Access Policy and Guidelines" be received as information.

CARRIED

I.3 Budget 2010 Debriefing

Mr. Gene Williams presented information on how the 2010/2011 budget would impact education and clarified that the handout he had provided was no longer confidential.

J. INFORMATION ITEMS

J.3(c): The ASBA Trustee Remuneration Report as of August 31, 2009 was highlighted.

K. MEETING EVALUATION

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

L. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #19
A-M. Boucher

That the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

President

Executive Director