



FALL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, November 23, 2009
Westin Hotel, Edmonton

MINUTES

- ATTENDANCE:** As per registration list.
- CALL TO ORDER:** President Heather Welwood called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.
- PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS:** ASBA President Heather Welwood provided her opening remarks to the assembly.
- CHAIR:** Vice-President Jacquie Hansen assumed the Chair's position for the business meeting.

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS:

Note: Procedural motions require a simple majority.

Appointment of Parliamentarian:

MOTION #1 S. Scarpino (Calgary Catholic)
K. Kryczka (Calgary Board of Education)

That Kevin Feehan be appointed Parliamentarian.

CARRIED (90%)

Approval of Rules of Procedure:

MOTION #2 M. Bergstra (Edmonton Catholic)
C. Jespersen (Pembina Hills RD #7)

That the Rules of Procedure be adopted.

CARRIED (100%)

Appointment of Balloting Committee:

MOTION #3 B. Esslinger (Edmonton Public)
A-M. Boucher (Greater Southern Public Francophone RA #4)

That, according to Bylaw No. 9, Section 10, the Balloting Committee shall be chaired by Heather Rogers.

CARRIED (100%)

Receipt of Emergent Issues:

J. Hansen announced that the Policy Development Advisory Committee (PDAC) had received six emergent resolutions prior to the submission deadline. These were:

- 10EM/FGM09** Reaffirmation of Current Student Assessment Policy, Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) (submitted by Lethbridge SD #51)
(Note: The title of this emergent issue was corrected to read: Reaffirmation of Current Student Assessment Policy, Provincial Diploma Exams)
- 11EM/FGM09** Revise Weighting of Diploma Exams (submitted by Lethbridge SD #51)
- 12EM/FGM09** Reserve Claw-backs (submitted by High Prairie S. Div. #48)
- 13EM/FGM09** Bill 206 (submitted by Grande Prairie Public SD #2357)
- 14EM/FGM09** Bill 206 (submitted by Calgary Board of Education)
- 15EM/FGM09** School Act Review – Ministry of Children and Youth (submitted by Ft. McMurray Public SD #2833)

The PDAC determined that only 10EM/FGM09 and 12EM/FGM09 met the criteria to be considered by the membership, but that the assembly, by a 2/3 majority vote (66.67%), could ask for any of the others to be considered as well.

MOTION #4 D. Lavoie (Holy Family CRD #37)
M. Bergstra (Edmonton Catholic)

That emergent issues 10EM/FGM09 and 12EM/FGM09 be accepted for consideration.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION #4

S. Pelland (Peace Wapiti S. Div.#76)
S. Noskey (Northland S. Div. #61)

That consideration of the addition of emergent issues 10EM/FGM09 and 12EM/FGM09 to the Order Paper be divided.

DEFEATED (42%)

VOTE on MOTION #4

CARRIED (93%)

MOTION #5

Note: Requires a 2/3 majority as per GP-12.4(b)(i).

J. Thompson (Ft. McMurray Public SD #2833)
G. Carbery (Ft. McMurray RCSSD #32)

That emergent issue 15EM/FGM09 be added to the Order Paper for consideration by the assembly.

DEFEATED (65%)

MOTION #6

Note: Requires a 2/3 majority as per GP-12.4(b)(i).

K. Fowler (Lethbridge SD #51)
D. Peterson (Livingstone Range S. Div. #68)

That emergent issue 11EM/FGM09 be added to the Order Paper for consideration by the assembly.

CARRIED (75%)

MOTION #7

Note: Requires a 2/3 majority as per GP-12.4(b)(i).

P. Cochrane (Calgary Board of Education)
S. Shavers (Grande Prairie Public SD #2357)

That emergent issue 14EM/FGM09 be added to the Order Paper for consideration by the assembly.

CARRIED (100%)

In summary, emergent issues 10EM/FGM09, 11EM/FGM09, 12EM/FGM09, and 14EM/FGM09 were added to the Order Paper.

Adoption of Order Paper:

MOTION #8 C. Jespersen (Pembina Hills RE #7)
A-M. Boucher (Greater Southern Public Francophone RA #4)

That the Order Paper, as amended with the addition of emergent issues 10EM/FGM09, 11EM/FGM09, 12EM/FGM09, and 14EM/FGM09, be adopted.

AMENDMENT to MOTION #8

S. Shavers (Grande Prairie Public SD #2357)
Edmonton Public

That the Order Paper, as amended with the addition of emergent issues 10EM/FGM09, 11EM/FGM09, 12EM/FGM09, and 14EM/FGM09, be adopted and that discussion of emergent issue 14EM/FGM09 be moved to the top of the Order Paper following the procedural motions as it may be considered by the legislature for third reading.

CARRIED (97%)

VOTE on AMENDED MOTION #8

CARRIED (98%)

Approval of 2009 Spring General Meeting Minutes:

MOTION #9 K. Milder (Holy Spirit RCSRD #4)
S. Scarpino (Calgary Catholic)

That the minutes of the 2009 ASBA Spring General Meeting be approved as distributed.

CARRIED (100%)

EMERGENT ISSUE 14EM/FGM09:

14EM/FGM09: Bill 206

Note: Requires a double majority of 60%.

MOTION #10 L. Ferguson (Calgary Board of Education)
Grande Prairie Public SD #2357

That the ASBA believes that the proposed amendments to the *School Act* as detailed in Bill 206, "School (Enhanced Protections of Students and Teachers) Amendment Act" should not be supported.

CARRIED

(% of School Boards: 97%
% of Students: 97.6%)

PROPOSED POLICY POSITIONS

Note: These require a double majority of 60%. Any amendments to them require a simple majority.

ACCOUNTABILITY

1P/FGM09: Accountability Pillar

MOTION #11 C. Schlieff (Peace Wapiti S. Div. #76)
K. Prokopowich (Grande Prairie Public SD #2357)

It is proposed that the following be added to the Accountability section (pg. 1-1):

Accountability Pillar:

Accountability Pillar results reporting should provide an accurate representation of that which is being assessed. Where measures and statistical methods suited for large-scale jurisdictional and provincial measurement are applied to individual schools, results reported should be statistically valid and present an undistorted picture of that being measured.

Alberta Education, in consultation with the Alberta School Boards Association and other stakeholder groups, should review the Accountability Pillar with the intent to address issues created when methods best suited for large-scale jurisdictional and provincial measurement are applied to individual schools.

AMENDMENT to MOTION #11

M. Belcourt (Calgary Catholic)
K. Milder (Holy Spirit RCSR #4)

That the following section be added to the Accountability section:

Accountability Pillar:

The results should be made available prior to October 1 of each year to allow examination of data prior to jurisdictions finalizing their Education Plans.

DEFEATED (32%)

AMENDMENT to MOTION #11

J. Trettler (St. Albert PSSD #6)
 J. Boisvert (Elk Island CSRD #41)

That the second sentence of the first paragraph be deleted and that the phrase, "created when methods best suited for large-scale jurisdictional and provincial measurement are applied to individual schools." be deleted from the second paragraph.

CARRIED (77%)

VOTE on MAIN MOTION #11 as AMENDED:

CARRIED

(% of School Boards: 92%
 % of Students: 95.2%)

EDUCATION FINANCE**2P/FGM09: Funding (Alberta SuperNet)**

MOTION #12 D. Fleming (Edmonton Public)
 B. Huedepohl (Buffalo Trail Public SRD #28)

That the following be added to the Education Finance section (pg. 7-1):

"In addition, funding for high-speed connectivity of the Alberta SuperNet should be increased to cover service costs for 100/20 Mbps connection speeds at all educational sites."

CARRIED

(% of School Boards: 95%
 % of Students: 79.3%)

3P/FGM09: Funding (Technology)

MOTION #13 S. Huff (Edmonton Public)
 Chinook's Edge S. Div. #73

That the following be added to the Education Finance section (pg. 7-1):

"Funding should be based on a current Total Cost of Ownership and the appropriate networking infrastructure and technical support for these learning technologies, on a five-year lifecycle replacement schedule.

CARRIED

(% of School Boards: 79%
 % of Students: 69.9%)

Lynda Akers assumed the Chair.

FACILITIES

4P/FGM09: Funding Model
MOTION #14 B. Pettigrew (Rocky View S. Div. #41)
 Clearview S. Div. #71

That the following Facilities section be reaffirmed and amended as follows
 (pg. 9-1):

Funding Model:

The provincial government should provide funding for capital projects based upon a funding model which gives school boards annual, sustained funding for capital projects required to meet the needs of a growing population as well as aging education infrastructure.

AMENDMENT to MOTION #14

S. Cooper (Chinook's Edge S. Div. #73)
 Wolf Creek S. Div. #72

That the word "growing" be replaced by "changing".

AMENDMENT to the AMENDMENT to MOTION #14

J. Trettler (St. Albert PSSD #6)
 D. Colburn (Edmonton Public)

That the words "and/or changing" be inserted between the words 'growing' and 'population'.

VOTE on AMENDMENT to the AMENDMENT **CARRIED** (73%)

VOTE on the AMENDED AMENDMENT to MOTION #14 **CARRIED** (87%)

VOTE on MAIN MOTION #14 as AMENDED **CARRIED**
 (% of School Boards: 90%)
 % of Students: 95.3%)

5P/FGM09: Infrastructure Preservation Funding
MOTION #15 V. Lefebvre (Lakeland RCSSD #150)
 D. Fleming (Pembina Hills RD #7)

That the following section under Facilities be reaffirmed (pg. 9-3):

Infrastructure Preservation Funding:

The provincial government should provide preservation funding to school boards that is equivalent to the industry standard of two percent of school facility replacement costs.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION #15

D. Caron (Greater St. Albert CRD #29)
Calgary Board of Education

That the phrase “the industry standard of two percent” be replaced with “current industry standards”.

VOTE on AMENDMENT TO MOTION #15

DEFEATED (40%)

AMENDMENT TO MOTION #15

M. Bergstra (Edmonton Catholic)
Black Gold RD #18

That the following be added to the end of the motion: “and that this amount be above and beyond funding for major modernization.”

CARRIED (63%)

AMENDMENT TO MOTION #15 as AMENDED

M. Blanchet (Greater North Central Francophone ER #2)
Edmonton Catholic

That the words “per year” be added after the phrase “industry standard of two percent”.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT

CARRIED (85%)

VOTE on MAIN MOTION #15 as AMENDED

CARRIED
(% of School Boards: 92%)
(% of Students: 95.8%)

IMPLEMENTATION OF PROVINCIAL INITIATIVES**6P/FGM09: Class Size Initiative**

MOTION #16 I. Taylor (Chinook’s Edge S. Div. #73)
Wolf Creek S. Div. #72

That the title of this section be amended to ‘Provincial Initiatives’ and that the following be added under the title “Class Size Initiative”:

“Methods used to calculate the class size ratio should include all on-site teachers who work directly with children, including teachers of students with special needs.”

DEFEATED
(% of School Boards: 21%)
(% of Students: 19.4%)

PERSONNEL AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

Jackie Swainson assumed the Chair.

7P/FGM09: Supervision of School Extra-Curricular Activities

MOTION #17 C. Jespersen (Pembina Hills RD #7)
W. Kowalchuk (Aspen View RD #19)

That the following section be added under Personnel and Employee Relations (pg. 12-1):

Supervision of School Extra-Curricular Activities:

The *School Act* should be clarified to indicate that all appropriately qualified staff, regardless of whether they hold a teaching certificate, be allowed to supervise extra-curricular activities.

CARRIED

(% of School Boards: 81%
% of Students: 64.5%)

8P/FGM09: Educational Assistants

MOTION #18 Bev Esslinger (Edmonton Public)
C. Jespersen (Pembina Hills RD #7)

That the following section be added under Personnel and Employee Relations (pg. 12-1):

Educational Assistants

The appropriate government ministries should make the training of educational assistants a high government priority.

CARRIED

(% of School Boards: 74%
% of Students: 85.6%)

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

9P/FGM09 Accommodations for Students Writing Provincial Exams

MOTION #19 C. Ripley (Edmonton Public)
Calgary Board of Education

That the following underlined section be added to the Student Assessment section (pg. 17-3):

Accommodations for Students Writing Provincial Exams

The Alberta School Boards Association supports the use of authorized assistive technology, including approved text to speech software programs and assistance of a reader and/or CD version and/or scribe, as an accommodation for students when they write achievement tests and diploma exams.

CARRIED

(% of School Boards: 83%
% of Students: 91.6%)

At 11:50 a.m. the meeting recessed for lunch, with guest speaker, Mr. Ian Hill, at 1:15 p.m. The business session reconvened at 2:15 p.m.

Jacquie Hansen assumed the Chair.

EMERGENT ISSUES

MOTION #20 C. Jespersen (Pembina Hills RD #7)
J. Stitzenberger (Grande Yellowhead Public S. Div. #77)

Note: This motion requires a simple majority.

That the assembly allow a representative from the Student Assessment Branch of Alberta Education to address the changes that Alberta Education has made as noted in the 'Background' material (dropping of written response questions on Math/Science diploma exams).

CARRIED (86%)

Dr. Jim Dueck, Assistant Deputy Minister, Accountability & Reporting Branch of Alberta Education, provided clarification to the changes being implemented on written/multiple choice questions on Diploma Exams.

10EM/FGM09 Reaffirmation of Current Student Assessment Policy, Provincial Diploma Exams (PDEs)

Note: Emergent issues require a double majority of 60%. Their amendments require a simple majority.

MOTION #21 K. Fowler (Lethbridge SD #51)
M. Logan (Horizon S. Div. #67)

That the following current policy be reaffirmed (pg. 17-2, lines 37-39):

The design of provincial diploma examinations should provide for a balance of multiple choice and open ended questions in all subject areas tested.

CARRIED

(% of School Boards: 87%

% of Students: 75.2%)

Jackie Swainson assumed the Chair.

11EM/FGM09 Revise Weighting of Diploma Exams

MOTION #22 K. Fowler (Lethbridge SD #51)
D. Peterson (Livingstone Range S. Div. #68)

Beginning in the 2010/2011 school year, in calculating students' final marks for all subjects with diploma exams, the weighting for such exams should be 30% of the final mark, with the remaining 70% to be determined by the school awarded mark.

AMENDMENT to *MOTION #22*

S. Huff (Edmonton Public)
K. Warren (Wild Rose S. Div. #66)

That consideration of the “Revise Weighting of Diploma Exams” motion be postponed to the 2010 ASBA Spring General meeting.

CARRIED (89%)

Lynda Akers assumed the Chair.

12EM/FGM09**Reserve Claw-backs**

MOTION #23 J. Dvornek (High Prairie S. Div. #48)
Grande Prairie Public SD #2357

That the provincial government ensure that any future cuts to education not be directed at school boards’ reserves. If reductions are decided by the Alberta Government, such reductions should be done equitably and fairly based on a shared reduction in funding under the Alberta Education Funding Framework.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION #23

T. Riley (Medicine Hat SD #76)
M. Logan (Horizon S. Div. #67)

That the following substitute motion replace the original motion:

Given Alberta’s current fiscal reality, if reductions to education funding are forthcoming, ASBA urges the provincial government to proceed on the following basis:

- Make the amount of the reduction to the K-12 system as small as possible
- Ensure all expenditures by Alberta Education directly support/enhance student learning, with those department initiatives less directly impactful on student learning either cancelled or deferred
- Allocate any remaining reductions to individual school boards, charter schools, private schools on an equitable basis. In implementing such reductions equitably and fairly, principles of the funding framework should apply “in reverse”
- Within this framework, leave decisions on where to implement cost reductions to individual school boards so that they can determine the best way to meet the needs of their communities.

AMENDMENT to ORIGINAL MOTION #23

Note: Requires a simple majority.

C. Jespersen (Pembina Hills RD #7)
S. Koroll (Black Gold RD #18)

That the original motion be changed to read:

That the provincial government ensure that no claw-backs be taken from school boards' reserves.

DEFEATED (40%)

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT to ORIGINAL MOTION #23

J. Dvornek accepted as a friendly motion, that the first sentence of the original motion be amended to read:

That the provincial government ensure that no claw-backs be taken from school board reserves.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT to SUBSTITUTE MOTION #23

D. Colburn (Edmonton Public)

J. Boisvert (Elk Island CSRD #41)

That the phrase "Given Alberta's current fiscal reality," in the substitute motion be replaced by the phrase "We are opposed to any funding cuts to education, however,"; and that a fifth bullet be added to the list stating that "claw-backs will not be directed at school board reserves."

D. Fleming (Edmonton Public) called for the question, as to whether the assembly wanted to consider the Substitute Motion (as amended) as the main motion. This would require a simple majority. (Note: At this point the voting system froze, so voting cards were used.)

CARRIED

Therefore, Main Motion #23 (formerly the Substitute Motion), as amended, now reads:

We are opposed to any funding cuts to education, however, if reductions to education funding are forthcoming, ASBA urges the provincial government to proceed on the following basis:

- Make the amount of the reduction to the K-12 system as small as possible
- Ensure all expenditures by Alberta Education directly support/enhance student learning, with those department initiatives less directly impactful on student learning either cancelled or deferred
- Allocate any remaining reductions to individual school boards, charter schools, private schools on an equitable basis. In implementing such reductions equitably and fairly, principles of the funding framework should apply "in reverse"
- Within this framework, leave decisions on where to implement cost reductions to individual school boards so that they can determine the best way to meet the needs of their communities
- Claw-backs will not be directed at school board reserves.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION #23

E. Horner (Prairie Land RD #25)

J. Stitzenberger (Grande Yellowhead Public S. Div. #77)

That the word 'public' be inserted between the words 'to' and 'education' in the first sentence.

CARRIED (standing count)

W. Kingma (Pembina Hills RD #7) called for the question, as to the assembly's decision regarding Main Motion #23 as amended.

DEFEATED
(% of School Boards: 56%)

Business Arising from 12EM/FGM09:

Note: Each business arising motion requires a 2/3 majority vote (66.67%) to be eligible for consideration by the assembly as per GP12.3(b).

MOTION #24 M. Blanchet (Greater North Central Francophone ER #2)
R. Goulet (Greater Southern SC Francophone ER #4)

That the assembly allow debate on the following motion:

As public education is an investment in our government's future generations, be it resolved that the Alberta School Boards Association believes the government is responsible to fully fund the K-12 education system.

DEFEATED (40%)

MOTION #25 R. McKay (Evergreen CSR #2)
D. Engel (Edmonton Catholic)

That the assembly allow debate on the following motion:

The Alberta School Boards Association supports no further cuts to public education.

DEFEATED (66%)

Therefore, both business arising motions were lost.

14EM/FGM09 Bill 206 (Calgary Board of Education)

This issue was debated immediately following the procedural motions. Please see Motion #10 of the Minutes (page 4).

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.