



Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting ASBA Boardroom

May 10-11, 2007

ATTENDANCE

Board Members

Mrs. Maureen Kubinec, President (Friday)
Mrs. Heather Welwood, Vice-President
Mrs. Bev Esslinger, Edmonton Public (alternate) (Friday)
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. Jacquie Hansen, ACSTA
Mrs. Judy Muir, PSBAA
Mr. Martin Blanchet, FCSFA

Guests

Ms. Judy Buddle (alternate – Edmonton Catholic)
Ms. Marge Belcourt (alternate – Calgary Catholic)
Ms. Diane Lavoie (alternate – Zone 1)
Ms. Lynda Akers (alternate – Zone 23)
Ms. Anne Marie Boucher (alternate – FCSFA)
Ms. Francis Bissell (Chair, Zone 1) - Friday
Dr. Morag Pansegrau (Chair, Zone 23) - Friday
Ms. Jackie Swainson (Chair, Zone 4) - Friday
Mrs. Marjorie Moncrieff (Chair, Zone 6) - Friday

Presenters

Mr. George Walker, ASBA Representative on LAPP (A.5)
Mr. Ron Liteplo, CEO of LAPP Board (A.5)
Mr. David Schneider, Communications, LAPP (A.5)
Mr. Jerry Heck, VP Stakeholder Relations & Growth –
Careers...The Next Generation (A.6)

Staff/Consultants

Mr. David Anderson, Executive Director
Ms. Donna Engel, Director, Corporate Services
Ms. Heather Tkachuk, 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

Vice-President Welwood called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Ms. Judy Buddle led the Board in the singing of O'Canada.

A. RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

A.1 Agenda

(a) Additions/Changes

Changes:

A.7 Executive Director Evaluation Process: this item was deferred to the June Board meeting.

Additions:

A.10 June Agenda (*with subsequent items being renumbered*)

B.3.1 Drug Awareness Committee

B.3.2 Approach to Teachers' Unfunded Pension Plan Liability

B.4 High School Completion Report

(b) Approval

MOTION #1
D. Gardner

That the agenda, as amended, be approved.

CARRIED

A.2 Approval of Minutes – April 19-20, 2007 and April 21, 2007

April 19-20, 2007

(a) Errors/Omissions

A.6 Anaphylaxis Policy Advisory: Add paragraph just prior to motion #5 as follows:

“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.”

(b) Approval

MOTION #2
K. Holloway

That the minutes of the April 19-20, 2007 ASBA Board of Directors meeting be approved as amended.

CARRIED

(c) Business Arising
(April 19-20, 2007)

There was no business arising from the April 19-20 meeting.

April 21, 2007 - Review of Board Charter: No errors or omissions were noted.

MOTION #3
D. Gardner

That the minutes of the April 21, 2007 ASBA Board of Directors meeting be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

- Business Arising**
(April 21, 2007)
- D. Anderson advised that the “Practices” statement in the Board Charter under Commitments and Obligations to limit the reporting of vote results to ‘carried’ or ‘defeated’ would be addressed at the Board Leadership Meeting in August.
- A.3 Accountability Report – Communications and Partner Relations**
- In response to questions regarding the number and type of committees that ASBA appointed representatives, D. Anderson advised that a review was undertaken every three years to determine if such representation should continue. He added that a list of current committees and their representative(s) would be provided to the board in their June meeting package.
- He added that the recommendations of the recent NSBA report would be considered at the September Board meeting.
- MOTION #4**
C. Bazinet
- 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 Communications and Partner Relations Accountability Report; and
- That the ASBA 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**
- A.4 In-Camera Session**
- An *in-camera* session was not required.
- A.5 Local Authorities Pension Plan Presentation (LAPP)**
- Mr. Ron Liteplo, Mr. George Walker, and Mr. David Schneider provided a PowerPoint presentation on LAPP which was requested by the Board during their strategic planning discussions. Their presentation included information on LAPP’s basic facts and background, financial status, key issues and an update on their governance review.
- R. Liteplo encouraged school board feedback on slide #27 on potential plan design issues for ASBA related to reciprocal arrangements with other plans, higher benefits, later retirements and any other issues boards might have.
- Mr. G. Walker advised that LAPP was undergoing significant governance changes and was currently entering phase two of the review seeking input from stakeholders on the structure of the LAPP Board and how input should be gathered. The major focus of phase two was consideration the separation of the role of sponsors from the current role of trustees.
- Mr. Walker suggested that ASBA should consider if they wanted a seat on the proposed Sponsors group and on the LAPP Board of Trustees. He also stressed that it was critical to get school boards directly involved in phase two. He added that ASBA should consider

developing a "White Paper" on the structure of LAPP and a Sponsor Group and to seek school board buy-in prior to indicating to the government school board interest in participating.

A.6 Careers...The Next Generation Presentation

Mr. Jerry Heck provided update information on Careers...The Next Generation, an industry sponsored career development and awareness program.

A.7 Executive Director's Evaluation Process

This item was deferred to the June Board meeting.

A.8 Board Self Evaluation Process

The Board discussed the revised evaluation process which was similar to the process used by many Alberta school boards. The revised process called for a half day session at the August Board Leadership Session to be facilitated by Dr. Leroy Sloan. In order to meet this timeline, Board members would need to complete a self-evaluation assignment package at the June Board meeting so that the results could be collated prior to the August session.

Several remarks and suggestions were expressed by Board members which included:

- Use similar questions to those listed under Attachment 2 (Interpersonal Working Relationships Questionnaire) for the Board meeting evaluations, and collate and summarize these for the annual Board self-evaluation.
- Ask the membership in the Member Satisfaction survey to determine if the Board had captured their trust and confidence.
- The Board evaluation should reflect and align with the Board Charter.
- Hold the Executive Director Evaluation in the morning and the Board Self-Evaluation in the afternoon of the same day of the Leadership Session.

MOTION #5

H. Welwood

That the ASBA Board of Directors approve the revised Board self-evaluation process document for the period May 2006 – June 2007; and

That Carol Bazinet and Lois Burke-Gaffney be appointed to work with Dr. Leroy Sloan on the Board self-evaluation committee.

CARRIED

MOTION #6

W. Olson-Lepchuk

That the August ASBA Board of Directors self-evaluation workshop be facilitated by Dr. Leroy Sloan.

CARRIED

A.9 External Committee Appointments

(a) Children and Poverty Committee (ATA)

MOTION #7
D. Cavaliere

That Mrs. Alice Brick continue as the ASBA representative on the Children and Poverty Committee until the 2007 Municipal election, after which time ASBA will canvass school boards for trustee interest in serving on this committee for a term to expire June 30, 2009.

CARRIED

As per the rotation list, the Zone 6 Director (K. Milder) would review the interest applications and recommend a representative to the Board at their December 2007 meeting.

A.10 June Board Agenda

D. Anderson advised that the sole purpose for holding a June board meeting was to review proposed Fall General Meeting policies and directives for action as required by policy. However, other issues had traditionally been added to the agenda. The June meeting was also an opportunity to introduce new Directors as well as bid farewell to departing Directors.

The schedule for the upcoming June meeting would include an orientation for new directors at 3:00 p.m. and a dinner with the new and departing board members and observers at 5:00 p.m., with business starting at 5:30 p.m.

A.11 Directors' Requests for Information

Grande Prairie letter re Taxation: L. Burke-Gaffney inquired about a letter addressed to M. Kubinec with a copy to all Board Chairs by Grande Prairie Public. D. Anderson responded that this letter had been received and that a response to it was forthcoming.

Joint Property Tax Agreement: L. Burke-Gaffney requested information on the agreement between the AUMA, AAMD&C and the province regarding redirecting school taxes to municipalities.

MOTION #8
D. Cavaliere

That the meeting move *in-camera*.

CARRIED

Guests and observers were invited to attend the *in-camera* session.

MOTION #9
L. Burke-Gaffney

That the meeting move out of *camera*.

CARRIED

Later in the meeting D. Anderson advised the board that the bylaws were quite specific that the AUMA/ASBA joint property tax agreement issue must be brought to the Spring General Meeting for consideration.

However, in response to his letter of May 7, 2007 (see Information Item C.7d), D. Anderson advised that the AUMA was not prepared to accept his interpretation of one of the key principles of the agreement. As a result, the Board discussed the process to follow in taking this issue to the membership.

MOTION #10
H. Welwood

That the ASBA Board of Directors direct the Executive Director to arrange for a discussion by the membership at the SGM of the principles contained in the agreement and other matters related to school board taxation; and

That the membership at the SGM be asked to approve a deferral of the presentation of the ASBA/AUMA Agreement Regarding an Approach to Provincial Property Tax; and

That that the Association's guiding principles and policies that relate to school board taxation be considered for reaffirmation by the general assembly at the SGM.

CARRIED

The policy related to property taxation was:

"4.D.04 – Property Tax: That ASBA believes school boards should have access to some measure of taxing authority."

The two guiding principles were:

"School boards must have access to long-term stable funding to fulfill the mandate of education their students. A portion of this funding must come from property taxes." and

"Direct access to the local property tax base and the ability to tax are fundamental to school board autonomy, accountability and responsiveness to their communities."

M. Kubinec advised that she would provide this information in a Board Chairs Email.

A.12 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 (Sept)
- Discussion on how the cost of doing business impacts ASBA's budget

- NSBA Review Recommendations (Sept)
- Disposition of Items from January Board meeting
- Board Charter Follow-up
- Support of CASS Self-Governance Proposal (Sept)

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

B.1 Emergent Trends and Issues (“blue-skying”)

Board members shared several emerging trends and issues they were facing and requested that time be allotted on future agendas to allow for this type of discussion:

- Invite Minister’s staff to meet with school boards to discuss issues (e.g. funding framework)
- It was important that the Board of Directors have a long and short term vision. Exchanging ideas provided an opportunity to make progress and be innovative on the way education was offered
- Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) – the board should look into this especially since the Deputy Minister supported it.
- An “emerging issues and trends” discussion would provide Directors with an opportunity to bring forward new trends they had heard about while attending conferences
- Have a session at the Fall General Meeting to give boards the opportunity to talk about trends and issues in their area
- When the government program to oversee school board fiduciary responsibilities was developed the Board should look at it
- A visioning session with Alberta Education staff would be arranged by the Executive Director
- New teachers, as well as Edwin Parr nominees, needed to be educated on the role of ASBA

B.2 Spring General Meeting Responsibilities

Board members were advised of their “mover” and seconder” responsibilities at the Spring General Meeting. As well, the board discussed how the AUMA/ ASBA property tax agreement would be presented to the general assembly (see A.10 – Directors Requests for Information).

B.3 Issues Arising from April Meeting

B.3.1 Drug Awareness Committee

L. Burke-Gaffney, ASBA Board representative on the ASBA Drug Awareness Committee, expressed her concerns that the “Better Together Schools” program had two “masters” – AADAC (financial) and ASBA (administrative).

She questioned whether this type of program was under the mandate of ASBA, and commented on the stress she felt teachers were under to incorporate the program into the curriculum. She suggested that the program might better be handled by others, such as Alberta Health and Wellness in conjunction with AADAC.

Board members commented as follows:

- Successful projects were making a huge difference
- ASBA was AADAC's ticket into schools
- As school boards were required to apply for the funding, they obviously wanted to develop a program
- Should ASBA be putting so many resources into the committee? Would it continue as well without ASBA resources?
- This was an administrative burden on ASBA
- Was this a legitimate expenditure for ASBA when it could be handled by others?
- Partnerships were necessary – having ASBA support the projects was important

D. Anderson advised that he would provide the Board with a history and cost report on the Drug Awareness Committee.

B.3.2 Approach to Teachers' Unfunded Pension Plan Liability

D. Anderson informed the board that the ATA did not believe ASBA should be included in the discussion with the government on how to solve the unfunded pension liability issue, although the government had indicated that ASBA would be consulted.

The Board agreed that ASBA held a financial interest in these discussions since, in all likelihood, funds earmarked for education would be diverted to pay for the unfunded portion of the plan.

B.4 High School Completion Report

D. Cavaliere reported that the committee addressing this advocacy issue had met and identified the following initiatives to pursue:

- Approach Alberta Education to identify high school completion successes and expand search to include other provinces
- Consider offering a "best practices" session at a general meeting
- Clarify/redefine "completion"

C. INFORMATION ITEMS

C.1 President's Report

In addition to her written report, M. Kubinec reported on her recent meeting with PSBAA and her intention to use video-conferencing to give her report at an upcoming Zone 1 meeting.

(a) CSBA Update

There was nothing new to report.

- C.2 Vice-President's Report** In addition to her written report, H. Welwood reported that all SiPP benchmarks had been surpassed and referred the Board to Information Item C.6(f), her SiPP report.
- C.3 Executive Director's Report** In addition to his written report, D. Anderson advised that:
1. he was working on the issue of discipline of individual trustees at the board and ministerial level.
 2. the April 2008 FNMI Conference would have a strong Alberta focus in addition to a national dimension
 3. he would provide a report at the September Board meeting on the May 8th First Nations Tuition Agreement session at which the collection of agreements was a common issue
 4. legal research was nearing completion to find a solution regarding Directive for Action 1.D.05 – Eligibility to Run for Public School Board Trustee.
- C.4 Member Reports**
- Edmonton Public** (*B. Esslinger*): In addition to her written report, B. Esslinger announced that the Junior Achievement program had received funding for rural boards.
- Edmonton Catholic** (*D. Cavaliere*): Please refer to the "Focus on the Future" publication. D. Cavaliere also reported that a school had been closed the previous day due to a threat.
- Calgary Public** (*C. Bazinet*): C. Bazinet advised that Calgary Public court challenge with Palliser continued and issues were being discussed.
- Calgary Catholic** (*L. Burke-Gaffney*): Please refer to the written report.
- Zone 1** (*W. Olson-Lepchuk*): Since the Zone had not met since the last Board meeting, no report was provided.
- 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. However Donna Engel advised that Mr. Bob Clark had presented on the World Development Fund at their last meeting.
- Zone 6** (*P. Aitchison*): No report was available.

ACSTA (J. Hansen): In addition to providing a copy of the "Catholic Dimension", J. Hansen reported on the installation of Edmonton's new Archbishop, Richard Smith.

PSBAA (J. Muir): J. Muir advised that PSBAA was advertising for a new communications officer and that their next meeting was scheduled for June 2.

FCSFA (M. Blanche): No report was available.

C.5 Board Workplan Calendar

Board member comments on the plan included:

- Include regular presentations such as PAT results, etc.
- List only which Accountability Report was due, not that the Executive Director had met the quality indicator(s)
- Indicate reason for change of date of Board meeting in April was due to NSBA Conference.

C.6 Reports

The following reports were highlighted:

C.6(a) CEU/CTS Briefing: Directors were alerted that this report replaced an earlier version that they had previously received. As the recommendations contained in the report would be considered by the Minister's Advisory Committee on the Funding Framework on June 8, an ASBA Board of Directors conference call meeting would be scheduled for June 6 at 7:00 p.m. to develop an ASBA position on the recommendations.

C.6(g) TEAC: Marjorie Moncrieff stressed the need to provide new teachers with knowledge of the ASBA's role relating to school boards.

D. MEETING EVALUATION

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

E. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #11

L. Burke-Gaffney

That the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

President

Executive Director