



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

**May 7-8, 2009**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Board Members**

Mrs. Heather Welwood, President  
Mrs. Jacquie Hansen, Vice President  
Ms. Bev Esslinger, Edmonton Public (Friday)  
Mrs. Marilyn Bergstra, Edmonton Catholic (Thursday)  
Ms. Carol Bazinet, Calgary Public  
Mr. Serafino Scarpino, Calgary Catholic (Thursday)  
Mrs. Lynda Akers, Zone 2/3 (Thursday)  
Mr. Clayton Jespersen, Zone 2/3  
Mr. Doug Gardner, Zone 5  
Ms. Kerry Milder Zone 6 (Thursday)  
Mr. Ted Paszek, ACSTA  
Mr. Roy Goulet, FCSFA  
Mr. Don Fleming, PSBAA

**Guests  
(Friday)**

**Board Alternates:**

Ms. Linda Wellman, Calgary Catholic\*  
Ms. Deb Engel, Edmonton Catholic\*  
Ms. Joan Trettler, Zone 2/3(2)  
Ms. Anne Marie Boucher, Zone 5

**Zone Chairs:**

Mr. Ralph Wohlgemuth, Zone 1\*  
Ms. Lisa Brower, Zone 2/3\*  
Mr. Lloyd Baumgarten, Zone 4\*  
Ms. Colleen Deitz, Zone 6\*

*\* Voting member due to the Director being absent, or the Director and alternate being absent during the meeting on Friday.*

**Presenters**

Mr. Ron Liteplo, Executive Director, LAPP (Item E.3)  
Mr. George Walker, ASBA Representative, LAPP (Item E.3)  
Dr. Sue Lynch, Director, Child Study Centre, U of A (Item I.1)

**Regrets**

Mrs. Dianne Lavoie, Zone 1  
Ms. Jackie Swainson, Zone 4

**Staff/Consultants**

Mr. David Anderson, Executive Director  
Ms. Donna Engel, Director, Corporate Services  
Ms. Suzanne Lundrigan, Director, Communications  
Mr. Scott McCormack, Manager, Special Initiatives  
Ms. Heather Tkachuk, Research and Policy Analyst  
Ms. Debra Tumbach, ASBA Senior Lawyer (Item B.2)  
Mr. Terry Gunderson, ASBA Consultant (Item F.1)  
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 7:10 p.m. She announced that Board Alternates and Zone Chairs would join the meeting on Friday and advised that S. Scarpino, K. Milder, and L. Akers would be attending the Minister's Financial Task Force meeting on Friday.

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

S. Scarpino led in the singing of O' Canada.

The Board observed a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Mat Hanrahan.

**A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

**A.1 Agenda**

**(a) Additions/Changes**

**Changes:**

**B.2 – School Act Amendment re Board Meeting Attendance via Video-Conference** was made time specific to Thursday at 7:15 p.m.

**Additions:**

**B.3 - ASBA Advocacy Priority Reports**

- (a) Infrastructure Task Force
- (b) High School Completion Task Force
- (c) Transportation Task Force
- (d) Budget Update

**G.4 – Member Reports:** Update re Inspiring Education: Dialogue with Albertans (K. Milder )

**J.4(c) – Correspondence:** Memo from Dave Colburn dated May 7, 2009 re March symposium on healthy schools.

**(b) Approval**

**MOTION #1**  
S. Scarpino

That the agenda be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

**A.2 Approval of Minutes – April 16-17, 2009**

**(a) Errors/Omissions**

**G.1 President's Report – ASBA Leadership Academy** (page 6, first paragraph): "Observers" were clarified to mean Board of Director observers.

**G.4 Member Reports (PSBAA):** D. Fleming advised that he had distributed a report at the April meeting.

**(b) Approval**

**MOTION #2**  
L. Akers

That the minutes of the April 16-17, 2009 ASBA Board of Directors meeting be approved as corrected.

**CARRIED**

(c) **Business Arising** **G.1 – President’s Report - AAWEI:** D. Anderson informed the Board that a meeting date had not yet been confirmed.

A.3 **In-Camera Session** An *in-camera* session was not required.

**B. ADVOCACY**

B.1 **Policy Development Advisory Committee (PDAC) Report** J. Hansen, PDAC Chair, reported that the proposed format of the ASBA Governance Handbook would be presented at the Spring General Meeting for the general assembly’s consideration. Prior to that, a webcast or video-conference presentation of the proposal would be provided to those who had missed a Zone presentation.

B.2 **School Act Amendment re Board Meeting Attendance via Video-Conference** D. Tumbach, ASBA Senior Lawyer, provided background information and recommendations prepared by Legal Services on the legal ramifications of video-conferencing for meetings as requested by the general assembly at the 2008 Fall General Meeting (4DA/FGM08).

**MOTION #3**  
C. Jespersen That the following motion, along with requisite background, be presented for consideration by the membership at Spring General Meeting 2009:

*That the Minister of Education should work with the Alberta School Boards Association to establish a legislative framework providing school boards the ability to conduct electronic meetings, considering the many complexities surrounding the issue and providing local autonomy in establishing procedures around such meetings within the framework provided by the legislation.*

**CARRIED**

As an interim Board policy, the background information would be circulated to the membership for their consideration following a presentation by the PDAC at the 2009 Spring General Meeting.

**B.3 ASBA Advocacy Priority Reports**

(a) **Infrastructure Task Force** Scott McCormack provided a proposed Infrastructure advocacy plan developed to serve as a foundation for furthering this initiative for the Board’s consideration.

It was suggested that, for feedback purposes, a page be added at the end of the Infrastructure Report listing questions that would encourage conversations.

**MOTION #4**  
S. Scarpino That the ASBA Board of Directors adopt the proposed Infrastructure Advocacy Plan.

**CARRIED**

(b) **High School Completion Task Force** Scott McCormack provided a proposed High School Completion advocacy plan developed to serve as a

foundation for furthering this initiative for the Board's consideration.

It was suggested that "and other stakeholder major events" be added under Task 3.3 of the Professional Development section in the Start/Completion date columns.

**MOTION #5**  
C. Bazinet

That the ASBA Board of Directors adopt the proposed High School Completion Advocacy Plan.

**CARRIED**

**(c) Transportation Task Force**

Scott McCormack provided a proposed Transportation advocacy plan developed to serve as a foundation for furthering this initiative for the Board's consideration.

**MOTION #6**  
B. Esslinger

That the ASBA Board of Directors adopt the proposed Transportation Advocacy Plan.

**CARRIED**

It was noted that the advocacy plans for the three advocacy issues would be posted on ASBA's website.

**(d) Budget Update**

C. Bazinet and L. Akers reported that they had recently given the ASBA Budget presentation at Zone 2/3 and Zone 4. Concerns expressed at these meetings were lease costs and fee for service increases. The Budget Committee recommended that in future the base membership fee amount should be raised by the same percentage as fee for service increases.

**C. RESEARCH**

**C.1 TIES Report**

D. Gardner provided a pictorial flow chart of the TIES process and requested board authorization on proceeding as outlined in the chart. He also advised that ASBA would sponsor a "Futures" meeting in the fall to review promising practices and scenarios. In response, the board agreed that the process was correct.

**D. PARTNERSHIPS**

**D.1 Appointment to COATS Board of Directors**

**MOTION #7**  
J. Hansen

That the ASBA Board of Directors reappoint Marilyn Bergstra as the ASBA nominee to the Council on Alberta Teaching Standards Board of Directors for a three year term to expire September 30, 2012.

**CARRIED**

**E. SERVICES TO BOARDS**

**E.1 ASBIE Appointment**

As no applications were received for the ASBIE position, the Board directed D. Anderson to approach Zones to identify a candidate.

- E.2 Alignment of ASBIE Appointments to Policy** This item was deferred to the June meeting.
- E.3 Local Authorities Pension Plan (LAPP) Presentation** Mr. Ron Liteplo and Mr. George Walker joined the meeting to provide an update on LAPP's current financial performance and its plan to address this situation due to the recent economic downturn. During the presentation, schools boards were encouraged to consider the impact that insurance and pension costs had on their budget especially during salary negotiations.
- E.4 "Fair Bargaining" Report Recommendations** D. Anderson reported that several boards had not responded to the survey regarding which option they supported as outlined in the "Fair Bargaining" report drafted by Patricia Mackenzie.
- Following discussion, D. Anderson agreed to draft a suitable motion to initiate a staged sequential approach to bargaining, as outlined in the "Fair Bargaining" report, to move the issue forward. The following motion was presented later in the meeting.
- MOTION #8**  
C. Jespersen
- That, in accordance with the ASBA Strategic Plan (September 2009 – August 2012), and specifically Strategic Priority F (ASBA addresses the matter of labour relations), the ASBA Board of Directors direct the Executive Director to seek a commitment from the Alberta Teachers' Association to agree to support the current collective bargaining process with the exception that, for those boards who wish to voluntarily join an employers' organization(s), there be an agreement to negotiate at a single table, for the purpose of concluding a single collective agreement, and report back at the 2009 Fall General Meeting.
- CARRIED**

**F. BOARD POLICIES**

- F.1 Board Self-Evaluation** Terry Gunderson provided background information on previous board self-evaluations which were required by Board Policy GP-2.11. He provided recommendations for a process to be followed for the July 2007 – June 2009 self-evaluation.
- MOTION #9**  
C. Bazinet
- That the ASBA Board of Directors approve the Board self-evaluation process as per Attachment #1 for the evaluation period July 2007 – June 2009; and
- That the ASBA Board self-evaluation questionnaire be completed online by July 15, 2009; and
- That the ASBA Board of Directors further examine and define the role of the Board of Directors and Board/ Executive Director Relations.
- CARRIED**

## **G. BOARD MEMBER REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES**

- G.1 President's Report** In addition to her written report, H. Welwood reported the following:
- Setting the Direction:** Directors were reminded of the Special Education Minister's Forum being held at the Shaw Convention Centre June 8-9, 2009.
- H. Welwood announced her intention to seek another term as ASBA President.
- (a) CSBA Update** By copy of a letter from CSBA, the Board was advised that Ms. Nada Borden was elected President and Ms. Ruth Ann Furgala was elected Vice-President of the Canadian School Boards Association. Also confirmed was the resignation of the CSBA National Director.
- G.2 Vice-President's Report** J. Hansen highlighted Information Item J.3(d) which was her report on the "Towards 2020" conference she attended as her conference of choice. The purpose of the conference was to raise the profile of children nationally and the protection of Canada's youth and children.
- J. Hansen announced her intention to seek another term as ASBA Vice-President.
- G.3 Executive Director's Report** In addition to his written report, D. Anderson commented that the Pandemic planning undertaken by Alberta Health and Wellness, Alberta Education, and ASBA was extremely successful.
- Spring General Meeting:** Board members were reminded that the focus of the 2009 SGM was on governance and the role school boards play in the governance of public education. They were also reminded that there would be a meeting of the Board on the Sunday evening at 9:00 p.m.
- Ontario Governance Report:** A copy of the report of the Review Committee to the Minister of Education (Ontario) dated April 2009 entitled "School Board Governance: A Focus on Achievement" would be emailed to the Directors.
- Meeting with Janice Sarich, MLA, Parliamentary Assistant:** D. Anderson advised that he had met with Ms. Sarich on April 24 and briefed her on the issues of Transportation and Financial Capacity. He commented that he had received no response from her about working with ASBA in these areas.
- G.4 Member Reports** **Edmonton Public** (*B. Esslinger*): A report was not available.

**Edmonton Catholic** (*M. Bergstra*): A report was not available.

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

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

**Zone 1** (*D. Lavoie*): A report was not available as there had not been a Zone meeting since the last Board meeting.

**Zone 2/3** (*L. Akers & C. Jespersen*): Please refer to the written report.

**Zone 4** (*J. Swainson*): A report was not available.

**Zone 5** (*D. Gardner*): A report was not available as there had not been a Zone meeting since the last Board meeting.

**Zone 6** (*K. Milder*): A report was not available as there had not been a Zone meeting since the last Board meeting.

**ACSTA** (*T. Paszek*): A copy of the "*Catholic Dimension*" was provided.

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

**PSBAA** (*D. Fleming*): Please refer to the report distributed at the meeting.

## H. OTHER

### H.1 Directors' Requests for Information

In response to a query submitted by L. Akers, D. Anderson clarified that ASBA was a national affiliate of NSBA which allowed only ASBA directors, not individual school boards, to receive a discount on registration fees.

### H.2 Agenda Items – Future Board Meetings

The following items were identified:

- Presentation on "Success in School for Children and Youth in Care"
- Viewing of Zone 2/3's "Building the Foundations of Learning" (re PO&M and IMR funding)
- Alignment of ASBIE Appointments to Policy (June)
- Discussion re Involvement of Charter Schools as Members of ASBA (June)

## I. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### I.1 Early Childhood Mapping Project Presentation

Dr. Sue Lynch, Director of the Child Study Centre at the University of Alberta, gave a presentation on the "Alberta Early Child Development (ECD) Mapping Project". The purpose of this project was to examine the developmental progress of preschool children throughout Alberta and to find ways of assisting communities improve the developmental trajectories in the first four years of life in an effort to improve early childhood outcomes. School communities would be asked to participate in the study.

Dr. Lynch's PowerPoint presentation would be available on the ASBA website.

### I.2 June 2009 ASBA Board of Directors Meeting

Donna Engel advised that for the June Board meeting, D. Anderson would host a BBQ on Thursday evening, starting at 7:00 p.m., and the meeting would be held all day Friday starting at 9:00 a.m.

### I.3 Bill 44

D. Anderson brought to the board's attention the President's letter to Minister Blackett as well as the ASBA Legal review of the Bill (Information item J.4a), in particular section 11.1. He described the Bill as punitive in nature, not collaborative. He added that the government appeared to be introducing bills on issues that were within the purview of school boards.

D. Anderson also advised that a joint press release was issued May 6<sup>th</sup> by ASBA, ASCA, ATA and CASS which expressed each organization's concerns regarding section 11.1 of the *Bill*. He stressed that it was not ASBA's aim to block parents' rights or determine what a teacher could teach. Directors were urged to express the message to MLAs that parental rights were protected under the *School Act* and that the provisions in section 11.1 would be costly and extremely difficult to implement.

## J. INFORMATION ITEMS

**Inspiring Education Dialogue Sessions:** K. Milder reported that she had attended the session held April 29<sup>th</sup> and found it to be quite interesting with good positive discussions. H. Welwood added that a "toolkit" was available to assist boards in organizing similar discussions within their community.

**ASBA Leadership Academy:** Donna Engel confirmed the dates of August 17-19, 2009 for the Board of Directors and August 18-19, 2009 for Board Alternates and Zone Chairs.

## K. MEETING EVALUATION

Directors, Alternates and Zone Chairs were encouraged to complete and return their May meeting evaluation form.

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION #10**

D. Gardner

That the meeting adjourn.

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

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President

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Executive Director