



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

**May 13-14, 2010**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Board Members**

Mrs. Heather Welwood, President  
Ms. Jacquie Hansen, Vice President  
Ms. Bev Esslinger, Edmonton Public (Friday)  
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. Patty Dittrick, Zone 4 (alternate)  
Ms. Anne-Marie Boucher, Zone 5  
Ms. Kerry Milder Zone 6  
Mrs. Alice Brick, ACSTA  
Mr. Roy Goulet, FCSFA

**Guests:**

Mr. Amir Faiz, ASBA IT Resource (I.1)  
Dr. John Rymer, Alberta Education (I.2)

**Staff/Consultants**

Mr. David Anderson, Executive Director  
Ms. Suzanne Lundrigan, Director, Communications  
Mr. Scott McCormack, Manager, Special Initiatives  
Mr. Terry Gunderson, ASBA Consultant (F.1, F.2)  
Ms. Heather Tkachuk, Research and Policy Analyst  
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 7:07 p.m.

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

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

A moment of silence was observed in honour of Ernie Wynychuk, a trustee with St. Albert PSSD #6 who had recently passed away.

**A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

**A.1 Agenda**

**(a) Additions/Changes**

**Additions:**

**A.3 *In-Camera* Session:** Facilitator for Board Self-Evaluation and Executive Director Evaluation would be considered during the *in-camera* session.

**F.1 ASBA 2009-12 Strategic Plan Implementation Second Report and F2 ASBA Board of Directors Self-Evaluation** would be discussed immediately following the *in-camera* session.

**Changes:**

**I.1 Electronic Board Package Access Demonstration:** This would be time-specific for Friday at 10:00 a.m.

**J.2(a) Report: Comparison of Private, Charter and Public School Systems:** This would be moved to Discussion Item I.4.

**(b) Approval**

**MOTION #1**

K. Milder

That the agenda be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

**A.2 Approval of Minutes – April 16, 2010**

**(a) Errors/Omissions**

**G.1(a) CSBA Update:** Reword to reflect that Ms. Andrea Prupas was appointed the new Managing Director of CSBA.

**(b) Approval**

**MOTION #2**

M. Bergstra

That the minutes of the April 16, 2010 ASBA Board of Directors meeting be approved as corrected.

**CARRIED**

**(c) Business Arising**

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

**A.3 *In-Camera* Session**

**MOTION #3**

S. Scarpino

That the meeting move *in-camera* with voting members and ASBA Executive Director present.

**CARRIED**

The observers and remaining staff left the meeting.

**MOTION #4**

C. Bazinet

That the meeting move out of *camera*.

**CARRIED**

The observers and staff rejoined the meeting. The next items discussed were F.1 and F.2 (see page 5 of the Minutes).

**B. ADVOCACY**

**B.1 Policy Development  
Advisory Committee (PDAC)  
Report**

**Directives for Action and Issues Update:**

*Setting the Direction:* Rocky View S. Div. submitted the following directive for action to the PDAC:

*That the ASBA requests the Minister of Education to implement and fully fund, September 1, 2010, the recommendations set out by the Setting the Direction Initiative.*

Following discussion, the Board felt that, in light of the fact that the report and its recommendations had not been released to date, the following motion would be the most appropriate action to take.

**MOTION #5**  
S. Scarpino

That the ASBA send a letter to the Minister requesting timely government response on the "Setting the Direction" report, recommendations, and timelines.

**CARRIED**

*Operating Schools Outside Electoral Boundaries:* An update on ASBA's development of a protocol was included in the briefing note.

**MOTION #6**  
L. Akers

That the meeting recess until Friday morning, following the Board photo session.

**CARRIED**

The meeting recessed at 8:30 p.m. and reconvened on Friday at 9:27 a.m.

**B.2 ASBA Advocacy Priority Reports**

**(a) Infrastructure Task Force**

S. Scarpino, Chair of the Infrastructure Task Force, advised that they had just met and he would provide a report at the June 2010 Board meeting.

**(b) Transportation Task Force**

B. Esslinger advised that the task force was waiting to hear from the Minister whether ASBA would be included in further discussions.

**(c) High School Completion  
Task Force**

A copy of the draft ASBA report entitled "Improving High School Completion: Alberta School Board Perspectives" written by Sig Schmold was provided to the Board. S. McCormack advised that this version incorporated revisions which the Board had previously requested, but that it was still subject to some minor editing.

He explained that the task force was looking for the Board's acceptance of the report so that it could be printed and distributed to school boards by the end of June thus enabling the sharing of promising practices and strategies.

**MOTION #7**  
A-M. Boucher

That the ASBA Board of Directors accept the report entitled "Improving High School Completion: Alberta School Board Perspectives" and further authorizes the High School Completion Task Force to make necessary minor edits.

**CARRIED**

**B.3 Task Force Reports**

**(a) Governance Task Force**

The Board was provided with the draft summary report titled "Fundamentals of Effective Governance" which would be presented at the Spring General Meeting. S. Scarpino, Chair of the task force, requested direction from the Board as to whether it should be presented in its entirety or only particular portions.

**MOTION #8**  
C. Jespersen

That the ASBA Board of Directors accept the summary report titled "Fundamentals of Effective Governance" and that it be presented in its entirety at the 2010 Spring General Meeting.

**CARRIED**

Board members commented on the report as follows:

- It was important to align the report with the "Inspiring Education" report and the *School Act* Review
- It was important to remember that school boards existed at the pleasure of the government
- Both "new" and "veteran" trustees would benefit from a session on governance at the Spring General Meeting, zone meetings, and/or Candidate School

S. Scarpino thanked all the committee members, especially Scott McCormack, for their dedication and hard work.

**(b) First Nation, Métis and Inuit Student Success Task Force**

D. Lavoie advised that the first meeting of the task force was scheduled for May 31, 2010.

**C. RESEARCH**

There were no agenda items under this section to discuss.

**D. PARTNERSHIPS**

There were no agenda items under this section to discuss.

- E. SERVICES TO BOARDS** Please refer to G.3: Executive Director's Report – Legal Initiatives (page 7) regarding the launch of an ASBA legal e-newsletter named “*vis-à-vis*”.
- F. BOARD POLICIES**
- F.1 ASBA 2009-2012 Strategic Plan Implementation Second Report** Mr. Terry Gunderson presented the second report of the ASBA 2009-2012 Strategic Plan Implementation and highlighted the action taken on the various strategies. Directors made the following comments:
- E.2.2:** Under “Progress”, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, correct to reflect that a town hall meeting be about the local budget (not provincial)
- E.2.3** Under “Progress”, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, correct to reflect that the Candidates School would be held after the Spring General Meeting (not during)
- E.1.1** Under “Progress”, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, correct the name of the report to “Minister’s Fiscal Accountability Task Force”, chaired by Janice Sarich...
- B.2.1** S. McCormack advised that the Minister had appointed a representative to serve on ASBA’s Infrastructure Advocacy Task Force.
- General:** Be consistent with naming either just the Chair or all of the members of an ASBA task force when noted in the implementation plan.
- MOTION #9**  
M. Bergstra
- That the ASBA Board of Directors receive the 2009-2012 Strategic Plan Implementation Second Report, with the minor corrections noted, for information.  
**CARRIED**
- F.2 ASBA Board of Directors Self-Evaluation (2009-2010)** Mr. Terry Gunderson presented the proposed Board self-evaluation process for the period July 2009 – June 2010 which included a pre-assignment evaluation questionnaire. He clarified that Board Governance Policies 2 and 13 defined the role of the Board of Directors and the Executive Director, respectively.
- Regarding the section of the questionnaire concerning Board/Executive Director Relations (p9), D. Anderson agreed with the Board's suggestion that his input be included in the responses. As well, the Board agreed to amend the questions to reflect the Board's role in this area as defined in the Board's Governance Policy 2, 2.1.1 – 2.1.4.

**MOTION #10**  
**A-M. Boucher**

That the ASBA Board of Directors approve the Board self-evaluation process as outlined and as amended for the evaluation period July 2009 – June 2010.

**CARRIED**

The Board agreed with D. Anderson's suggestion that Mr. Terry Gunderson be invited to serve as facilitator for both the Board self-evaluation and the Executive Director's evaluation. It was noted that Directors whose term ended in June 2010 would complete the Board self-evaluation questionnaire but not attend the session during the Leadership Retreat in August.

**MOTION #11**  
**D. Lavoie**

That the ASBA Board self-evaluation questionnaire be completed electronically.

**CARRIED**

**G. BOARD MEMBER REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES**

**G.1 President's Report**

H. Welwood elaborated on her written report and added the following:

**Inspiring Education/Setting the Direction:** In-camera discussions were being held at Zone meetings to update boards on the status of these government initiatives. Currently they were still in the Minister's office and we understand they will be released as a package at some point in June.

**Funding Salaries:** A tripartite meeting with the Minister, ASBA and ATA was scheduled for June 15 to discuss finding a solution to funding salaries.

J. Hansen advised that the PDAC was looking for a membership driven directive calling for the government to fulfil its commitment to fully fund teacher salaries as per the AAWEI. It was agreed to discuss this under Discussion Item I.5.

**Out-going Directors:** H. Welwood thanked all the outgoing Directors (Bev Esslinger – Edmonton Public; Clayton Jespersen – Zone 2/3-2; Serafino Scarpino – Calgary Catholic; and Kerry Milder – Zone 6) for their work on the Board and noted their successors:

|                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Edmonton Public:  | Dave Colburn               |
| Calgary Catholic: | Mary Martin                |
| Zone 2/3(2):      | To be determined May 28    |
| Zone 4:           | To be determined May 31    |
| Zone 6:           | Karen Bartsch (Grasslands) |

**(a) CSBA Update**

There was nothing new to report.

- G.2 Vice-President's Report** In addition to her written report, J. Hansen advised the Board of her attendance at the ATA's Symposium on Global and Environmental Curriculum and the ACSTA's "Blueprints" conference. As well, she would be attending the PSBAA conference to be held just prior to the ASBA Spring General Meeting.
- G.3 Executive Director's Report** D. Anderson added to his written report that Ontario was facing an issue regarding boards employing retired teachers as substitute teachers. S. McCormack was looking into this issue further.
- School Act Review:** D. Anderson informed the Board that he and President Welwood would be serving on a government committee to explore separate school district formation as part of the *School Act* review (see Information Item J.3a).
- Legal Initiatives:** S. Lundrigan announced that ASBA was launching a new legal newsletter which would highlight legal issues and developments in plain language for educators. The newsletter was titled "*vis-à-vis*" and would be available by subscription to the education community across Canada. In conjunction with this, ASBA would be hosting monthly webinars on various legal issues and sponsoring conferences focussed on education-related legal or labour issues. The first webinar was scheduled for June 17.
- G.4 Member Reports**
- Edmonton Public** (*B. Esslinger*): B. Esslinger informed the Board that Edmonton Public was considering a plebiscite.
- Edmonton Catholic** (*M. Bergstra*): Please refer to the written report.
- 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 report. The next meeting was scheduled for May 27, 2010.
- Zone 2/3** (*L. Akers/C. Jespersen*): Please refer to the written report.
- Zone 4** (*J. Swainson*): A report was not available.

**Zone 5** (*A-M. Boucher*): Please refer to the written report.

**Zone 6** (*K. Milder*): A report was not available.

**ACSTA** (*A. Brick*): Directors were provided with the Spring 2010 edition of "The Catholic Dimension".

**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

There were no requests for information.

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

The following items were identified:

- Presentation on "Balanced School Year" (research by Zone 1)
- Presentation by the Society for Safe and Caring Schools re FNMI
- Council of Local Governments Agreement

## I. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### I.1 Electronic Board Package Access Demonstration

Mr. Amir Faiz gave a presentation on how Directors could access the new and secure ASBA Board of Directors' private website and provided each director with a personalized copy of the reference guide. The program's name was "eyeOS".

He advised that a modern web browser, preferably Firefox 3.6 or better, plus high speed internet were required to access the site.

Board members were instructed to upload their reports to the website using the 'Groups' icon, selecting the desired sub-folder ('Directors Input' folder), and selecting "Upload". User-friendly prompts provided guidance on completing this.

Other documents that the directors or staff would like to share with each other, such as powerpoint presentations, documents or reports, were to be uploaded to the "Public" sub-folder.

In the future, separate folders for individual task forces, PDAC, etc. could be made available.

**I.2 Weighting of Diploma Exams**

D. Anderson advised that directors would be required to sign a confidentiality agreement regarding distribution of information provided on this website.

D. Anderson explained that, as a result of Emergent Resolution 11EM/FGM09 being deferred to the 2010 Spring General Meeting due to lack of complete information, Dr. John Rymer, Executive Director of Learner Assessment, had been invited to give a

presentation to the Board on the history of diploma exam testing and grading in Alberta. The resolution called for a 70/30 split of school awarded marks and diploma exam marks to determine a student's final grade.

Dr. Rymer provided a historical perspective of the weighting of diploma exams in Alberta which has occurred for the past 120 years.

Between 1880 and the 1960's, final grades were based on 100% of the diploma exam mark. From 1972 to 1983, there were no diploma exams and final grades were based on 100% of the school awarded mark.

However, between 1976 and 1979, as a result of public upset over the discontinuance of diploma exams, 18 studies were conducted under the direction of the Minister's Advisory Committee on Student Achievement. These studies examined issues such as grade inflation, lack of public confidence in the education system, and the lack of standardized methods of student evaluation.

In 1983, the Student Evaluation Board made the decision to blend school awarded marks and diploma examination marks on a 50/50 basis. This decision was based on public feedback to a provincial survey conducted by Dr. Eugene Ratsoy. Public feedback highlighted the inconsistencies of student assessment and evaluation practices between classrooms, schools, and authorities across the province which were seen to be neither fair nor equitable.

Directors agreed that Dr. Rymer's presentation should be provided to the general assembly at the Spring General Meeting prior to consideration of the deferred resolution. D. Anderson advised that this would require prior approval by Alberta Education and the membership's approval at the meeting.

**I.3 2010 Spring General Meeting (SGM) Update** S. Lundrigan announced that to date 280 delegates had registered for the SGM. Directors were also provided with a list of session host assignments and movers and seconders of motions for the business session.

Board members were reminded that they would be meeting in Heather Welwood's hotel room on Sunday, June 6 at 9:00 p.m. at the Capri Hotel to review their SGM responsibilities.

**I.4 Comparison of Private, Charter and Public School Systems** D. Anderson advised that this chart [Information Item – Reports - J.2(a)] was provided to the Board for their information.

**I.5 Request from PDAC** S. McCormack provided a handout of a proposed motion for the Board to direct ASBA to ask the government to fully fund teacher salaries to the end of the government's agreement with the ATA.

**MOTION #12**  
P. Dittrick  
That the ASBA call upon the provincial government to honour its commitment to fully fund increases in teacher compensation called for in the November 2007 Alberta Government-ATA Memorandum of Understanding.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION #13**  
K. Milder  
That the ASBA Board of Directors put this matter forward to the membership for endorsement at the 2010 ASBA Spring General meeting.

**CARRIED**

**J. INFORMATION ITEMS** There were no questions regarding any of the information items.

**K. MEETING EVALUATION** Directors were encouraged to complete and return their May meeting evaluation form.

**MOTION #14**  
L. Akers  
That the departing Directors be thanked for their dedicated service to the Board.

**CARRIED**

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION #15**  
D. Lavoie  
That the meeting adjourn.

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

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President

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Executive Director