



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

**September 8-9, 2011**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Board Members**

Jacque Hansen, President  
Cheryl Smith, Vice-President  
Cheryl Johner, Edmonton Public (Alternate)  
Becky Kallal, Edmonton Catholic  
Lynn Ferguson, Calgary Public  
Mary Martin, Calgary Catholic  
Sharilyn Anderson, Zone 1  
Johnette Lemke, Zone 2/3  
Joan Trettler, Zone 2/3 (Alternate)  
Cheri Neitz, Zone 4 (Alternate)  
Anne-Marie Boucher, Zone 5  
Karen Bartsch, Zone 6  
Mary-Anne Penner, ACSTA  
Patty Dittrick, PSBAA

**Presenters**

Dr. John Rymer, Executive Director, Learner Assessment, Alberta Education (I.1)  
Mr. Waldemar Riemer, Director, International Education Services, Alberta Education (I.3)

**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, ASBA Policy and Research Analyst  
Mr. Terry Gunderson, ASBA Consultant (A.3 and B.1)  
Ms. Grace Cooke, ASBA Lawyer (I.2)  
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 Hansen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Becky Kallal led in the singing of O Canada.

**A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

**A.1 Agenda**

**(a) Additions/Changes**

**Additions:**

- B.2(e) Other Updates
- B.3(c) Advocacy Update Tool

**(b) Approval**

**MOTION #1**  
L. Ferguson

That the agenda be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

**A.2 Approval of Minutes – August 15, 2011**

**(a) Errors/Omissions**

There were no errors or omissions noted.

**(b) Approval**

**MOTION #2**  
A-M. Boucher

That the minutes of the August 15, 2011 ASBA Board of Directors meeting be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**(c) Business Arising**

There was no business arising from the August 15, 2011 minutes.

**A.3 In-Camera Session**

The *in-camera* session was held on Friday morning, September 9, 2011.

**MOTION #3**  
L. Ferguson

That the meeting move *in-camera* with the voting Directors and staff present.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION #4**  
C. Neitz

That the meeting move out of *camera*.

**CARRIED**

**(a) ASBA Executive Director's Evaluation Report**

This was discussed during the *in-camera* session.

**(b) ASBA Executive Director's Response**

This was provided during the *in-camera* session.

**(c) ASBA Board of Directors' Self Evaluation Final Report**

This was discussed during the *in-camera* session.

**(d) ASBA Board of Directors' Self Evaluation Follow-Up**

**MOTION #5**  
A-M. Boucher

That highlights of the Board of Directors' self-evaluation, including commentary on the process, context, and positive path forward be circulated to school boards.

**CARRIED**

**(e) Tripartite Discussions**

This was discussed during the *in-camera* session.

**B. ADVOCACY**

**B.1 ASBA 2010-2013 Strategic Plan Implementation Final Report**

Mr. Terry Gunderson presented the year-end implementation report of the ASBA 2010-2013 Strategic Plan and highlighted the action taken on the various strategies. Of the 14 key results identified by the Board to be achieved during the 2010-2011 school year, all but one (D1.2) were actioned. Strategy D1.2 would be completed in 2011-2012.

**MOTION #6**  
J. Lemke

That the ASBA Board of Directors receive the 2010-2013 Strategic Plan Implementation Final Report as presented for information.

**CARRIED**

It was noted that a condensed version of the strategic plan was available on the ASBA website.

**B.2 Policy Development Advisory Committee (PDAC) Report**

**(a) Directives for Action Update**

C. Smith, Chair of PDAC, advised that the committee had met on September 7 to consider the directives for action submissions received from boards, including agenda items B.2(b) and (c). The committee recommended the following:

**Election Costs** (Zone 2/3): The membership would like ASBA to work with other municipalities and school boards to lobby for the election costs of candidates to be tax deductible.

*PDAC Recommendation:* Refer to the ASBA/AUMA partnership for further discussion and exploration.

**Criminal Record Checks and CYIM Checks for Student Teachers** (Zone 2/3): Should student teachers have criminal record and Child and Youth Information Management (CYIM) checks before they enter our classrooms?

*PDAC Recommendation:* Ask Zone 2/3 Directors to seek clarification from the Zone including what action it would like ASBA to take.

**Development of a LGBTQ Policy Advisory for School Boards** (Edmonton Public): That ASBA develop a policy advisory on sexual orientation and gender identity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual/transgender and queer (LGBTQ) students and staff.

*PDAC Recommendation:* That ASBA develop a LGBTQ policy advisory, with communication clearly articulating that a policy advisory was simply information school boards may elect to use if they chose to develop policy in a certain area.

**Fuel Price Contingency Grant (Zone 1):** That ASBA lobby Alberta Education to reinstate the Fuel Price Contingency grant with recognition of all regional fuel prices incorporated.

*PDAC Recommendation:* Given the reinstatement of the Fuel Price Contingency Program, that ASBA send a letter of appreciation to the Minister of Education.

**School Bus Fly-By (Zone 1):** That ASBA lobby the provincial government to double fines and demerit point penalties for traffic violations involving passing a school bus that has its red flashing lights on.

*PDAC Recommendation:* That ASBA:

(1) send a letter to appropriate ministries requesting that penalties for passing a school bus with flashing red lights be comparable in severity to penalties for infractions committed in other circumstances where ensuring safety of people on the road is paramount;

(2) provide key messages and sample wording which school boards could utilize if they so chose in communicating with their local MLAs; and

(3) refer the concept to the ASBA/AUMA partnership for further discussion.

**MOTION #7**  
M. Martin

That the ASBA Board of Directors endorse the PDAC's recommendations for action with respect to directives for action and issues which have been submitted as outlined above.

**CARRIED**

- (b) **Policy re Length of Term for Trustees, and**
- (c) **Policy re Timing of Elections**

Both "length of term for trustees" and "timing of elections" issues were identified in the recent review of the *Local Authorities Election Act* by the AUMA and ASBA. At that time, the Board of Directors flagged these issues for consideration at the 2011 Fall General meeting as ASBA did not have any policies related to these issues.

**MOTION #8**  
L. Ferguson

That the ASBA Board of Directors approve the following proposed policy positions for recommendation to the membership at the 2011 ASBA Fall General meeting:

a) The Alberta School Boards Association supports a four year term of office for school board trustees.

b) The Alberta School Boards Association supports a trustee election cycle which coincides with municipal elections, provided consideration is given to timing needs of school boards.

**CARRIED**

(d) **Revised Proposed Policies – 2011 Fall General Meeting** The revised proposed policies for consideration at the 2011 Fall General meeting would be brought forward at the October 2011 Board meeting. They would be circulated to boards and zones next week, with feedback to be provided by early October 2011.

(e) **Other Updates** **Policy/Directives for Action Process:** Presentations would be made at upcoming Zone meetings to clarify the process for Boards/Zones to submit proposed policies and directives for action. The schedule for these presentations are:

|          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| Zone 1   | November 2   |
| Zone 2/3 | September 23 |
| Zone 4   | September 26 |
| Zone 5   | October 7    |
| Zone 6   | September 14 |

**ASBA Bylaw Review:** C. Smith advised that the PDAC was considering a review of the Association’s bylaws.

**B.3 ASBA Advocacy Priority Reports** The following task force and committee reports were provided:

**First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Success Task Force** (*S. Anderson, Co-chair*): The task force provided a copy of the research paper they oversaw entitled “First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Success” which was scheduled for distribution at the 2011 Fall General Meeting. D. Anderson explained that the study was done to outline the problems that school boards were facing, not provide solutions.

**MOTION #9**  
S. Anderson That the ASBA Board of Directors approve for distribution the research report, “First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Success”.

**CARRIED**

**ASBA Political Advocacy Task Force** (*K. Bartsch, Chair*): The Board was presented with the task force’s work plan and a chart outlining its proposed overall approach to political advocacy as noted below:

- The ASBA’s political advocacy goals and efforts will be informed by a systematic process of consulting with stakeholders – including but not limited to these venues – at the local board table; at Zones; at the board of directors table and at general meetings of the association.
- The ASBA provides an informed/researched perspective to policy-influencers to shape public policy.

- The ASBA participates actively in government initiatives to inform government policy development.
- The ASBA is the “go-to” source of information on key issues for the public, stakeholders and policy-influencers.
- The ASBA establishes partnerships with other organizations to strengthen its advocacy/influence.
- The ASBA cultivates positive working relationships with government MLAs and key ministries and bureaucrats.
- With the ASBA’s political advocacy goals in mind, the association commends government publicly when it moves forward on those goals and is prepared to speak firmly, diplomatically and publicly when government does not.
- The ASBA seeks results not headlines.

Based on their discussion with government relations experts and their own deliberations, the task force submitted four recommendations to the Board. The first recommendation sought Board approval of the overall approach to political advocacy as noted above. The other three recommendations related to specific advocacy activities.

**MOTION #10**

M. Martin

That the ASBA Board of Directors adopt the overall approach to political advocacy as presented.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION #11**

K. Bartsch

That the ASBA Board of Directors adopt this approach to the ASBA’s participation in leadership races (i.e. in a non-partisan manner).

**CARRIED**

**MOTION #12**

J. Trettler

That the ASBA Board of Directors adopt this approach to the association’s participation in provincial elections (i.e. in a non-partisan manner).

**CARRIED**

**MOTION #13**

C. Johner

That the ASBA Board of Directors adopt this approach to the association’s MLA breakfasts (i.e. continue the breakfasts to promote relationship-building with MLAs).

**CARRIED**

K. Bartsch informed the Board that the task force was also working on a "Key Issues Approach" to enable the association to respond to emerging issues in the absence of policy. S. Lundrigan added that this would allow for the development of a forward-thinking process for emerging issues. This document would be provided at the October board meeting.

**ASBA Transformation Task Force:** C. Smith reported that the Transformation Task Force had identified several issues, based on ASBA policy, that boards might wish to consider bringing forward at the upcoming Fall Transformation Sessions being hosted by Alberta Education in partnership with ASBA and ATA:

*Funding* - long term, predictable and sustained funding

*Infrastructure* - new system of school building construction and modernization

*Transportation* - new system that does not require drawing from educational resources

*Student Health and Wellness:* coordinated and cross-ministry effort to address the needs of the whole child and for all children

*Governance* - local views, needs and aspirations

C. Smith added that the task force would be preparing background papers in areas identified as essential to the transformation of Alberta's education system as well as developing a toolkit to support school boards as they have local conversations with their communities and constituents regarding the transformation of Alberta's education system.

**(c) Advocacy Update Tool**

S. McCormack provided a sample "Status Update" list that summarized the activities of all the ASBA Task Forces and committees which would be updated and provided at each board meeting and available for Directors to take to Zone/Board meetings. The intention of providing this list was for Directors to use it as a communications tool, not to replace task force reports at each board meeting.

**MOTION #14**

That the task force and committee updates be received as information.

**CARRIED**

**B.4 Action on Inclusion Report**

L. Ferguson reported that the Action on Inclusion meeting scheduled for August did not occur and that the next meeting would be held in mid or late October.

J. Hansen advised that a working group committee had been struck to look at funding for this initiative. To date the group had met three times and were on a very tight timeline.

She added that, contrary to her understanding that Action on Inclusion was a system-wide initiative, it appeared that the government would only be funding special needs students. The ASBA representatives on the working group were David Anderson, Jacquie Hansen, Lynn Ferguson and Steve Cymbol.

D. Anderson reported ASBA had requested interim funding while the funding model was being developed, as special needs funding had been frozen for three years.

J. Hansen identified ASBA key messages on Action on Inclusion as:

- Maximum flexibility
- Wrap around services
- Student success
- Respect of students' needs

**C. RESEARCH**

There were no "Research" items.

**D. PARTNERSHIPS**

**D.1 Proposal re CSBA Membership**

In response to the Board's request at their August 2011 meeting, D. Anderson provided a plan to re-engage membership discussions with CSBA.

**MOTION #15**

B. Kallal

That the ASBA Board of Directors:

1. Direct the Executive Director to write to the CSBA Executive Director, with a copy to members' executive directors, outlining the primary concerns that led to our withdrawal:

- The association does not receive "value for money" for the \$60,000 in costs we incur as a member;
- The CSBA should focus on a very limited number of key advocacy issues that are supported by all members, and pursue these issues in a way that maximizes the likelihood for success;
- The CSBA should focus on sharing and communicating best practices at the association level; and

- There should be better organizational support for board meetings and better diligence by board members in carrying out their responsibilities.

2. The Board of Directors authorize the Executive Director to enter into discussions with the Executive Director of CSBA, and any others that she may wish, with the objective of finding a way for these concerns to be addressed;

3. If a way is found to address these issues, authorize the President (or a designate of her choosing) and the Executive Director to meet with the President and Executive Director to solidify an understanding at the political level;

4. Ask the Executive Director and the President to bring the matter back to the Board of Directors for a decision when, in their opinion, a satisfactory agreement had been found to address ASBA's concerns.

**CARRIED**

*The meeting recessed at 8:52 p.m. and reconvened on Friday at 9:00 a.m. for the In-camera session (A.3).*

**E. SERVICES TO BOARDS**

**E.1 ASBIE Appointments**

D. Anderson announced that Nieta World, ASBIE Principle Attorney, had recently informed him that the terms of two members of the ASBIE Board were about to expire.

**MOTION #16**

C. Johner

That the ASBA Board of Directors extend Joe Henderson's appointment for one year for a term to expire August 31, 2012 and Jean Champagne's appointment for two years for a term to expire August 31, 2013 on the ASBIE Board.

**CARRIED**

**F. BOARD POLICIES**

**F.1 ASBA Board of Directors  
Annual Work Plan 2011-2012**

It was noted that the 2011-2012 work plan included meeting dates and meeting format.

*Note: Following the meeting, it was noticed that the 2012 Fall General Meeting date was incorrect – the correct date is November 18-20, 2012.*

**MOTION #17**

C. Smith

That the ASBA Board of Directors approve the Board of Directors Annual 2011-2012 Work Plan as presented.

**CARRIED**

**G. BOARD MEMBER REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES**

**G.1 President's Report** Please refer to the written report.

**G.2 Vice-President's Report** Please refer to the written report.

**G.3 Executive Director's Report** D. Anderson added the following to his written report:

**Fall Transformation Sessions:** Directors were informed that they could attend a Transformation Session as an ASBA representative.

**Advocacy:** ASBA's "predictable and sustained funding" phrase was being picked up by leadership candidates, government, etc.

**ASBA/Alberta Education Relationship:** A dinner meeting of both group's senior staff was being organized to share perspectives of how to enhance the relationship and to discuss specific issues.

**Leadership Workshops:** Due to the overwhelming reaction to the leadership academy, similar regional workshops, to be facilitated by Jim Beaubien and Karen Caesar, were being organized for some time in the new year.

**Group Insurance Program:** D. Anderson announced that a group home and auto insurance program through TD Melouche Monnex was being developed for trustees and school board staff which would be available soon.

**G.4 Member Reports**

**Edmonton Public (D. Colburn):** C. Johner added to the written report that the board was moving to day time board meetings on a one-year trial basis.

**Edmonton Catholic (B. Kalla):** Please refer to the written report. Please note, as well, the clarification of the last paragraph of the report that programming of a new school year calendar is new in three schools (not that there are three new schools).

**Calgary Public (L. Ferguson):** Please refer to the written report.

**Calgary Catholic (M. Martin):** Please refer to the written report.

**Zone 1 (S. Anderson):** The next Zone meeting was scheduled for September 15 and would include the Edwin Parr Luncheon.

**Zone 2/3** (*J. Lemke/L. Brower*): The next Zone meeting was scheduled for September 23. J. Trettler suggested that a check list of required documents to be submitted to the Zone be included on the front page of the Edwin Parr nomination package.

**Zone 4** (*C. Nietz*): The next Zone meeting was scheduled for September 26.

**Zone 5** (*A-M Boucher*): The Zone meeting held on September 2 included an advocacy presentation by Zone 2/3.

**Zone 6** (*K. Bartsch*): The next Zone meeting was scheduled for September 14.

**ACSTA** (*M.A. Penner*): The next ACSTA meeting was scheduled for September 16.

**FCSFA** (*K. Doucet*): 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 Alternate School Year (Zone 1)
- Discrepancy of School vs Diploma Awarded Marks
- Continuation of PATs and Diploma Exams

## I. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### I.1 2010-2011 Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exam Results

Dr. John Rymer, Executive Director, Learner Assessment, Alberta Education gave a presentation on the 2010-2011 Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exam results and trends.

#### MOTION #18

L. Ferguson

That the meeting move *in-camera*.

**CARRIED**

#### MOTION #19

C. Neitz

That the meeting move out of *camera*.

**CARRIED**

The information provided to the Board was embargoed until October 4 at which time the Minister would release it and make it available on Alberta Education's website.

The Board requested that at a future meeting Dr. Rymer give a presentation on the discrepancy of school vs. diploma awarded marks.

**I.2 Comparison of *School Act* and Proposed *Education Act***

H. Tkachuk provided a brief historical background on the development of the proposed *Education Act* (Bill 18). During the summer of 2011, ASBA staff undertook a comparison of the current *School Act* and the proposed *Education Act*.

Grace Cooke, ASBA lawyer, then presented highlights of the major changes reflected in the proposed *Act*, which included:

- Procedural items moving out to regulations
- Student residency requirements
- Compulsory education
- Rules for Alternative programs
- Board/Student/Parent responsibilities
- Specialized support and services
- Suspensions and expulsions
- Natural Persons Powers
- Dispute resolutions process
- Ministerial Review (to provide greater autonomy for boards)
- School closures
- Trustee appointments
- Investigations and inquiries
- Superintendent appointments no longer requiring Ministerial approval
- All School Boards will become School Divisions
- Transportation

**MOTION #20  
S. Anderson**

That based on ASBA's review of the proposed *Education Act*, the ASBA Board of Directors authorize the Executive Director to send a letter to the Deputy Minister expressing appreciation for areas of advocacy incorporated in the proposed *Act* and raising outstanding areas of advocacy not presently addressed.

**CARRIED**

It was noted that the proposed *Education Act* would be tabled at the legislature's Fall session, assuming there was one.

In addition, if the *Act* was passed, ASBA would provide a summary of areas where boards might need to develop policies due to the changes in the new *Act*.

D. Anderson advised that this presentation could be given at Zones, if requested.

**I.3 International Education Week**

Mr. Waldemar Riemer, Director of International Education Services for Alberta Education, provided information on the benefits and importance of international education in the classroom and the 2011 International Education Week to be held November 14-18. He also provided a handout on "Benefits and Trends in International Education" from the "Handbook for International Education Administrators".

**I.4 Focusing on the Future**

The Board's desire to allow time to informally discuss emerging educational issues at each Board meeting was expressed during their self-evaluation. As a result, at this Board meeting, directors identified the following:

- Encourage Zones to invite other Zones to attend their meetings and have them provide professional development sessions on advocacy strategies, best practices, etc., or to just observe.
- Identify work that school boards need to do to improve student achievement.
- Promote ASBA policies related to standardized tests and testing.
- Define "generative governance".

**J. INFORMATION ITEMS**

Directors were urged to review all the information items provided in the agenda package.

**K. MEETING EVALUATION**

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

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION #21**  
B. Kallal

That the meeting adjourn.

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

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President

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Executive Director