

ZONE 6

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Notice of General Meeting

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AND SECRETARY-TREASURERS***

DATE:	September 9, 2009
LOCATION:	Erickson's Catering, Lethbridge
TIME:	10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

10:00 Registration

10:15 Welcome & Call to Order –

- Colleen called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Additions to Agenda –

- No PD Committee report today and the ASBA report by Jacquie Hansen has been moved up to replace the PD report.

Approval of Agenda –

- Moved by **Jean Mrak** that the agenda be approved with changes. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes May 2009 –

- Don Zech moved to accept the minutes of May 2009. Motion carried.

10:30 Reports

- Labor Relations – Jim Burdett
 - Jim reported on the meeting with the Minister in regards to the current AAWEI dispute; the Minister committed to providing support in the event of grievances being filed. Currently there are negotiations underway and many have asked to be provided the same rate as teachers. Terry Riley spoke about the successful conclusion of the CUPE negotiations with their custodians and secretaries. Ken Arthur spoke regarding the negotiations with CUPE and felt that their relationships with CUPE were very good.

- Zone 6 Chair – Colleen Deitz –
 - Colleen reported on changes to the meeting and the changes to the November meeting, which will be on November 9th in order to allow for the Minister to attend and present MELRA awards. Colleen also attended the leadership conference this summer in August and found it a very rewarding and educational experience.
 - (These were just highlights that were set to ASBA for the year end report. They didn't form part of this report. They were part of the June exec. Meeting. Thanks
 - Zone 6 highlights for 2008-2009 - Some of the highlights for Zone 6 this past year have been that in October we held a Grievance Procedures Workshop with the help of ASBA Labor Relations Staff and Legal Staff. The workshop was well attended and very informative. At our January meeting we dedicated the afternoon portion to a facilitated discussion on the "Fair Bargaining for a Better Future" report. It was an excellent meeting and we believe it helped Boards in our Zone with the opportunity to discuss the report honestly and openly and achieve a better understanding of the report itself.
 - At our regular Zone meetings we always try to have a Board presentation on Best Practices. This is a great way for us to share and showcase the wonderful projects that Board's in our Zone are doing for kids. So far this year we have had Lethbridge 51 give a presentation on Differential Instruction in the dual track school. Grasslands gave a presentation on Assessment for Learning. Medicine Hat Catholic gave a presentation on their Community Coming Together project; Horizon gave a presentation on their Family Connections project.
 - And as always the highlight every year for our zone is our Edwin Parr Banquet. We introduce the nominees from each board by way of a video which shows the nominees in their schools and with their students. Every year these videos get better and better and it's a great way to see these wonderful teachers in their classrooms.)

- CSBA Report – Jo Lee Godfrey –
 - Jo-Lee attended the CSBA (Canadian School Board Association) Conference in Halifax in July. Nova Scotia has 8 School Boards with 9-17 members per Board for a total of 108 trustees each serving a term of 4 years.
 - There were over 80 trustees from Alberta and about 10 or so were from Zone 6. Nova Scotia School Board did an outstanding job in organizing this event - providing an exceptional program for professional development as well as the social events for which Nova Scotia is renowned. Next years conference will be held on July 7-9 at St. Johns Newfoundland.

- ASBA Report – Jacquie Hansen –

- Jacquie is here to represent Heather who is extremely busy at this time with events on the provincial horizon. Jacquie has not been involved with provincial meetings at this point. The Minister is set on 4.82%. Proposed policies have been sent out after a legal review so that trustees can ensure they have met the intent of the boards in Alberta. These should be sent back by September 29th. The annual report has been approved in August at the board of directors meeting. The leadership retreat was a success and the expansion of invitees was considered a way to expand capacity and provide succession planning for boards and the ASBA. The ASBA leadership has been in discussion in regards to video conferencing which has become part of an effort to reduce costs and to encourage the use of the technology. There is a busy year that will require significant effort. David reported that the ASBA legal staff has had a few changes. One went to work on the School Act review and the Justice Ministry recruited Karen Munro. Efforts are underway to replace those individuals. Terry Riley asked if the target school board in regards to the 4.82 – 5.99% grievance, which will be filed, would be provided assistance financially from the ASBA. David Anderson stated that this will be discussed on the 12th board chairs meeting and that there will be assistance.

11:00 Provincial Situation Discussion – David Anderson –

- David provided a synopsis of the current issue with teachers and the province in regards to AAWEI which will not be funded by the province as treasury has rejected any additional funding to cover this cost. David stated that the opinion of ASBA is that the ATA position is very strong and will likely result in an arbitration panel or the courts would agree that the increase will likely be 5.99%. The ASBA president has requested that boards be left out of the dispute and the originators of the agreement (ATA and AB. Education) handle the legal disagreement among themselves.
- David then spoke in regards to the provincial reduction in budgets for school boards, which has occurred due to the reduction in resource royalties. ASBA asked that the term to describe the reduction as “reserves” and not “surpluses”. The amount of the reductions is not balanced across the province and was based on the amount of “reserves” each board has. There will be discussion around fairness on behalf of boards. The discussion on the September 12th agenda will be around the long-term affect of the reduction in the next budget year. The province would like boards to engage in a cooperative process so that changes can be made while still maintaining excellent education in the province. The scale of the reductions is unheard of in Alberta and so it will take significant efforts to resolve the issue and maintain the mandate.

12:00 LUNCH

1:15 **Reports**

- Field Services Director – Ron Taylor
 - See attached

- ASBA Zone Directors Report – Kerry Milder –
 - Our zone had their first general meeting of the new school year on Sept.9th, which happened to be the same day that Minister Hancock was in Lethbridge to meet with Zone 6 Boards.
 - A highlight from our zone this month is the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity Vulcan County Central High students(Palliser Regional Division) had on Sept. 22 to link up with astronauts on the International Space Station. This opportunity was jointly made possible by Alberta Education and the Canadian Space Agency. The students got to ask questions of Canadian astronaut, Dr. Robert Thirsk by videoconferencing. The answers to the students' questions were provided by Dr. Thirsk as well as two American astronauts, Dr. Michael Barrett and Nicole Stott. The astronauts did demonstrations such as showing how they eat and sleep in space. Minister Hancock was present for the videoconference link-up. Palliser's technology team worked with teachers to provide this opportunity to enhance student learning via videoconferencing. This event has also supplied Palliser's teachers with professional development.
 - The relationships of the ten boards in our zone have remained positive and strong during this past month of financial turmoil. I believe that this speaks volumes about the professionalism and commitment of the school boards in our zone and the province.

2:00 **Adjournment** – Moved by Jo Lee Godfrey to adjourn. Motion carried.