

AGENDA – GENERAL MEETING

Wifi Access: ECSD OPEN USERID: 33684918 Password: 557398

St. Anthony Centre

10425 84 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB, T6E 2H3

January 19, 2018 – 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

(Lunch will be provided - Please advise if you have any dietary concerns)

9:00 AM Coffee and Registration
9:30 AM Zone 2/3 Business Meeting

1. **Call to Order/Recognition of Treaty 6 Land**
2. **Consideration of the Agenda – Addition items**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
4. **Approval of Minutes of General Meeting held on November 24, 2017 - Attached**
5. **Zone Business:**
 - 5.1. **Standing Item – ASBA Issues/Directives for Action**
 - 5.2. **Chair’s Report – Colleen Holowaychuk– Attached**
 - 5.3. **Review of Financial Report – Attached**
 - 5.4. **By-Election Director 2 Alternate**
6. **ASBA Reports:**
 - 6.1. **Zone Directors – Jennifer Tuininga, Trina Boymook - Attached**
 - 6.2. **President – Mary Martin - Attached**
7. **Alberta Education Report - Garret Doll, Acting Director, Metro Services Branch or designate**
See *In the Loop* for current information.
Under **Ministry** click “**In The Loop**” <https://education.alberta.ca/>
8. **Preparing Alberta Schools for Cannabis Legalization p – 11:30 a.m (30 min)**
 - Les Haugen (Action on Smoking and Health)
9. **How School Boards can Save Money and Advance Education around Energy, Environment, and Sustainability – 1:00 p.m (90 min)**
 - Workshop and Discussion with Gareth Thomson (Alberta Council for Environmental Education)

Part of this workshop will involve having trustees discuss and consider policies that pertain to environmental sustainability. Please bring any such policies your board may have to share with colleagues and to help facilitate discussion.

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10. Zone Committee Reports:

- 10.1. Advocacy Committee Report** - Paula Galenzoski, Margaret Border, Irene Sawyer, Anne Karczmarczyk
- 10.2. Edwin Parr Report** – Judy Lefebvre, Dana Kentner, Dale Karpluk
- 10.3. U of A Field Experiences Advisory Committee Report** – Glenys Edwards
- 10.4. Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium (ERLC) Report** – Justine Wright
- 10.5. Comprehensive School Health Report** – Nancy Sand
- 10.6. Zone Language Report** – Mario Gagné, Gemma Christie

11. Board Sharing (if time permits)

This is an opportunity to share achievements, celebrations and challenges with other boards. Please provide our Secretary Kim Ayers a brief outline of your message for our minutes.

12. Adjourn

**Next Meeting
Annual General Meeting
February 23, 2018
St. Anthony Centre
9:30 a.m.**

ASBA ZONE 2/3

LAST MEETING MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

ALBERTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION ZONE 2/3
DRAFT MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING

St. Anthony Centre
10425 84 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB, T6E 2H3
November 24, 2017 – 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

8:30 AM *Board Rep Training*
9:00 AM *Coffee and Registration*
9:30 AM *Zone 2/3 Business Meeting*

1. Call to Order/Recognition of Treaty 6 Land – 9:35 a.m.

2. Consideration of the Agenda – Addition items

- Judy Muir has resigned as Director 2 Alternate. Add 5.3, By-election for Director 2 Alternate.
- Doreen Lupaschuk is here in Garrett Doll's absence.
- Add Advocacy topic selection as #8

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Trustee Becigneul (<i>Greater St. Albert Catholic</i>) moved to approve the Agenda as amended. <p style="text-align: right;">Carried.</p>
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4. Approval of Minutes of General Meeting held on September 29, 2017 - Attached

MOTION: Trustee Klaassen (<i>Black Gold</i>) moved to approve the minutes of the general meeting held on September 29, 2017. <p style="text-align: right;">Carried.</p>
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5. Zone Business:

5.1. Standing Item – ASBA Issues/Directives for Action

5.2. Chair's Report – Colleen Holowaychuk– **Attached**

- Suggested Reading (books and web links) will be posted to the Zone 2/3 website as well as a hard copy will be placed at the front table at meetings.
<http://www.asba.ab.ca/about-asba/people/zones/zone-23/>
- Promising Practices Assurance Review and Collection Bargaining Webinar December 12, 9-12.
- A. Zone 2/3 Facebook Page Discussion. The following bylaws were highlighted and will be pinned to the facebook page
 - 15.3 Each geographic Zone numbered 1, 2/3, 4, 5, or 6 shall be governed by these Bylaws and Schedule A of the Alberta School Boards Association Bylaws, together with such other Bylaws established by the Zone which are not inconsistent with the Bylaws of the Association.*
 - 15.4 The objects of the geographic Zones shall be to work in cooperation for the mutual benefit of all members of the Alberta School Boards Association, to consider matters relating to education and school administration which are of particular interest to their areas, to encourage better understanding between Boards and the public, to work for continued improvement in the educational system, and to make recommendations to the Alberta School Boards Association*
- Suggestions provided:
 - We are all ASBA and serve all ASBA Boards.

DRAFT MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING

- We have our own facebook pages and if we are not posting something that is supportive of all, post it on your own page.
- Common rules: practice positivity, do not promote a product or opinion, is it true, is it necessary, is it kind, is it misleading, does it cause dissention, does it cause doubt, principals of integrity and impartiality.
- Working together makes us all look good. Weakening the trustee role and this disharmony does not make us look good as a whole.
- It says to the government we aren't getting along.
- What is the recourse for someone that posts something that isn't in keeping in the spirit of our webpage?
 - Executive Committee will speak to member that is posting. Post will be removed.
- Add questions to member requests to join the facebook page "are you a member of Zone 2/3", "Have you read the pinned rules"?
- Facebook page should promote ASBA and is inclusive and sharing.
- Moderate posts before they allowed to post.
- Need to be careful around censoring.

MOTION: Trustee Boisvert (Elk Island Catholic) moved that we remove the ASBA Zone 2/3 facebook page.

Defeated.

MOTION: Trustee McBride (Evergreen Catholic) moved that the Facebook page only be open to current trustees of ASBA Zone 2/3.

Carried.

18 in favour

3 opposed

MOTION: Trustee Becigneul (Greater St. Albert Catholic) moved to open ASBA Zone 2/3 facebook page to current trustees from other ASBA zones.

Carried.

11 in favour

7 Opposed

B. Zone 2/3 Meetings Discussion

- Looking for feedback in regards to meetings. The length of meetings, number of PD etc. 1 or 2 PD's per session. Some months are too busy so no PD will be planned. Suggestions provided: Some Trustees travel far. Prefer if start times stay around 9:30. Possibly end no later than 3:00 pm.

DRAFT MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING

5.3. By-Election Director 2 Alternate

Michelle Lamar, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic nominated **Vicky Lefebvre, Lakeland Catholic**
Trustee **Lefebvre** accepted the nomination
Second call for nominations

- Trustee Hrynyk felt notice was too short on this election and should be moved to the January 2018 meeting.

MOTION: Trustee Hrynyk (Northern Lights) moved to postpone the election to the next ASBA Zone 2/3 meeting, January 19, 2018.

Carried.
16 in favour
1 opposed

6. ASBA Reports:

6.1. Zone Directors – Jennifer Tuininga, Trina Boymook

- Board of Directors will meet for orientation December 13. December 14-15 is the Boards first meeting. There are 4 out of 10 returning Directors and a newly elected Vice-President.
- As directors for Zone 2/3 we prepare and present reports to you. We communicate your concerns or comments from Zone back to the Board.
- As a Director when it comes to voting, we must vote what is best for the Association as a whole. Trina and I are working on your behalf.
- Please take back the information you receive to your Board and invite them to come participate as well.
- In October, I was appointed to PDAC. Going forward we will have Heather Tkachuk and Suzanne Polkosnik visit each of the Zones to ensure everyone is comfortable with the policy process. We have policies and bylaws through ASBA. Important to remember the ASBA is made up of 61 member boards and we want to work together through excellent governance.

6.2. President – Mary Martin

- Record breaking attendance for FGM, 457 registrants. <http://www.asba.ab.ca/learning/fgm-2017/>. Over 160 attended orientation sessions.
- We were pleased to introduce our ASBA Indigenous Advisory Circle. Funding by an Alberta Education grant. They are available as a resource. This circle has representation from every nation and every geographical area within province which is a real strength.
- Privileged by being served by strong Vice Presidents. President Martin introduced Vice-President Eddleston.
- November 2, Bill 24 bill to support gay straight alliance was introduced and has since passed third reading.
- November 4 represented ASBA at Alberta Council of Environmental Education, 10 ways Alberta schools show climate leadership. Pursuing a climate change charter and want school boards as signatories. Current government has shown climate change is a priority.

DRAFT MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING

- November 15 school amendment act was introduced. Great deal of consultation, started 9 years ago. One of the new contemplations within Bill 28 was the code of conduct for trustees. In the absence of regulation it is an interesting element we need to watch.
- November 14, attended Alberta Education Engagement session which covered promising practices in Indigenous student success.
- November 14, attended an appreciation reception in Edmonton. Had the opportunity to speak with Premier Notley, and Ministers Anderson and Hoffman.
- November 15, represented ASBA at an embargo briefing relative to Bill 28.
- November 16, with Suzanne Polkosnik participated in the Alberta Education consultation specific to engagement in Alberta Educations business plan. Those of you who were part of the engagement sessions, the feedback loop, heard a presentation about the development of Alberta Education business plan. Noticed there were varying levels of engagement by Boards and of familiarity. Met as a group ASCA, CASS ASBOA, ASBA, a number of Alberta Education Directors and looked at not only how we can be involved at a higher level in responding to the business plan but actually driving it. It was very positive and more conversations will happen. Next meeting scheduled for February.
- Systems excellence advisory committee. This is the last one at which point some final recommendations can be made.
- Leadership academy: Sunday is a social activity. Meetings start Monday.
- ASBA Leadership Academy: January 15 (new trustees), 16 (returning trustees), 17 (Chairs).

7. Alberta Education Report – Doreen Lupaschuk, Director, Greater Edmonton Services Branch
See *In the Loop* for current information.

Under **Ministry** click “**In The Loop**” <https://education.alberta.ca/>

- Final submission for modular classroom priorities is December 1. Approvals will be communicated in early 2018.
- Bill 24 – GSA. Waiting Royal assent. Contains provisions for students to be protected in a safe and caring environment. Will work close with school authorities. Act requires all publically funded school boards to have and make them publically available.
- Bill 28 – School Act amendments. Had its second reading, then to committee of the whole, then third reading then Royal assent.

8. Advocacy Selection

Advocacy Ideas	
Topic	Board
Provincial Funding Formula. Focus on Rural education - Selected	NGPS
Mental Health/Building Resilience - Selected	SAPS
Transportation issues	FMCS D
Help prepare us for next election	FMCS D
New Provincial boundaries	Aspen view
RCSD	
Cost of Living CEU's	SAPS
Carbon Tax Supports	Black Gold

DRAFT MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING

9. PD Roberts Rules – 1:00 PM - Attached

- Becky Kallal

10. Board Sharing

This is an opportunity to share achievements, celebrations and challenges with other boards. Please provide our Secretary Kim Ayers a brief outline of your message for our minutes.

11. Zone Committee Reports:

- 11.1. Advocacy Committee Report** - Paula Galenzoski, Margaret Border, Irene Sawyer, Anne Karczmarczyk– **No Report**
- 11.2. Edwin Parr Report** – Judy Lefebvre, Dana Kentner, Dale Karpluk – **Verbal Report**
- 11.3. U of A Field Experiences Advisory Committee Report** – Glenys Edwards – **No Report**
- 11.4. Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium (ERLC) Report** – Justine Wright– **No Report**
- 11.5. Comprehensive School Health Report** – Nancy Sand– **No Report**
- 11.6. Zone Language Report** – Mario Gagné, Gemma Christie– **No Report**

12. Adjourn

MOTION: Trustee Irwin (<i>Elk Island Public</i>) motioned to adjourn the meeting 1:45 p.m.

Carried.

**Next Meeting
Annual General Meeting
January 19, 2018
St. Anthony Centre
9:30 a.m.**

ASBA ZONE 2/3

REPORTS

**January 2018
Zone 2/3 Chair's Report**



Happy New Year and welcome back after what I hope was a wonderful Christmas holiday for all of you! Hopefully you were able to spend time with your loved ones and create many special memories this Christmas season as well as get some well-deserved rest and relaxation!

Zone 2/3 Facebook Page

We now have 90 members. All former trustees have been removed and there have been no other issues. Thank you for the open and frank conversation we were able to have at the November meeting.

Upcoming Professional Development

January

*Preparing Alberta Schools for Cannabis Legalization – Les Haugen (Action on Smoking and Health)

*How School Boards can Save Money and Advance Education around Energy, Environment, and Sustainability – Workshop and Discussion with Gareth Thomson (Alberta Council for Environmental Education)

Part of this workshop will involve having trustees discuss and consider policies that pertain to environmental sustainability. Please bring any such policies your board may have to share with colleagues and to help facilitate discussion.

February

*Understanding School Board Budgets - Ryan Stierman

*ASBA Presentation – Suzanne Polkosnik / Heather Tkachuk
(Will include information on the Proposed Policy Process)

First Calls for:

Indigenous Shining Student Award – Deadline TBA

ASBA Proposed Policies – Will be voted on at the May Meeting.

Edwin Parr Nominations - March 18, 2018

Upcoming Events / Deadlines

January 15-16, 2018	January Leadership Academy (see ASBA website for details)
January 19, 2018	Zone 2/3 Meeting
February 23, 2018	Zone 2/3 Meeting
March 14-16, 2018	Think Indigenous Education Conference Saskatoon, SK
March 15, 2018 (Tentative)	Zone 2/3 MLA Advocacy Event, Edmonton
March 16, 2018	Zone 2/3 Meeting
March 18, 2018	Edwin Parr Teacher Award Nomination Deadline
April 7-9, 2018	National School Boards Conference San Antonio, Texas
April 20-22, 2018	Alberta School Council Association Conference & AGM Edmonton

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen Holowaychuk
Chair, ASBA Zone 2/3
780-722-5370
colleen.holowaychuk@eips.ca

ASBA Zone 2/3
Balance Sheet
As of August 31, 2018

	<u>Aug 31, 18</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
ASBA Zone 23	64,925.80
Total Chequing/Savings	<u>64,925.80</u>
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	14,027.00
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>14,027.00</u>
Other Current Assets	
Prepaid Expenses	2,000.00
Total Other Current Assets	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>80,952.80</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>80,952.80</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Unrestricted Net Assets	32,115.23
Net Income	48,837.57
Total Equity	<u>80,952.80</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>80,952.80</u>

ASBA Zone 2/3
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 September 2017 through August 2018

	Sep '17 - Aug 18	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Income			
Membership Fees	55,735.00	55,735.00	0.00
Recoveries - Meals			
Edwin Parr Banquet	0.00	6,000.00	-6,000.00
MLA Presentation	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00
Total Recoveries - Meals	0.00	8,000.00	-8,000.00
Total Income	55,735.00	63,735.00	-8,000.00
Gross Profit	55,735.00	63,735.00	-8,000.00
Expense			
Committee Work			
Ad-Hoc Committees			
Committee Expenses	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
Per diem	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
Total Ad-Hoc Committees	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00
Advocacy Committee			
Committee Expenses	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00
MLA Presentation	0.00	4,000.00	-4,000.00
Per Diem	0.00	4,000.00	-4,000.00
Presentation and Media Expenses	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
Total Advocacy Committee	0.00	11,000.00	-11,000.00
Comprehensive School Health Rep			
Committee Expenses	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Per Diem	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Total Comprehensive School Health Rep	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
Edwin Parr Committee			
Awards Dinner	0.00	9,500.00	-9,500.00
Committee Expenses	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00
Per Diem	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00
Total Edwin Parr Committee	0.00	19,500.00	-19,500.00
Executive Committee			
Chair Allowance	150.00	1,600.00	-1,450.00
Expenses	742.64	6,800.00	-6,057.36
Per Diem	2,070.86	12,000.00	-9,929.14
Vice Chair Allowance	50.00	550.00	-500.00
Executive Committee - Other	245.22		
Total Executive Committee	3,258.72	20,950.00	-17,691.28
Labour Relations Representative			
Labour Relation expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Per Diem	0.00	0.00	0.00
Speaker Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Labour Relations Representative	0.00	0.00	0.00
Zone Language Rep			
Committee Expenses	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
Per diem	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
Zone Language Rep - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Zone Language Rep	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00
Total Committee Work	3,258.72	56,450.00	-53,191.28
Contract Services			
Accounting and Audit Fees	-22.34	6,000.00	-6,022.34
Guest Speakers	75.00	1,000.00	-925.00
Project Coordinator	0.00	2,700.00	-2,700.00
Secretary Services	795.70	4,050.00	-3,254.30
Total Contract Services	848.36	13,750.00	-12,901.64
Operations			
Bank Charges	7.50	100.00	-92.50
Meeting Expenses	2,651.76	10,000.00	-7,348.24
Postage and Courier	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Printing and Copying	0.00	400.00	-400.00
Total Operations	2,659.26	10,600.00	-7,940.74

3:01 PM

12/13/17

Accrual Basis

ASBA Zone 2/3
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
September 2017 through August 2018

	Sep '17 - Aug 18	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Other Types of Expenses			
CSBA Conference	0.00	4,000.00	-4,000.00
Zone Appreciation	131.09	300.00	-168.91
Total Other Types of Expenses	131.09	4,300.00	-4,168.91
Total Expense	6,897.43	85,100.00	-78,202.57
Net Income	48,837.57	-21,365.00	70,202.57

ASBA Zone 2/3 Directors Report
Prepared by Trina Boymook and Jennifer Tuininga
January 2018

The Board of Directors met on December 14, 2017.

The Board amended the meeting schedule to incorporate strategic planning and to modify the previous schedule to better reflect time required to complete the work for each month that the Board meets, while being mindful of keeping meeting costs to a minimum. The meeting schedule includes a combination of face to face meetings and video conferencing.

The Board of Directors appointed the following people to Boards and one Internal Committee:

Alberta School Boards Insurance Exchange (ASBIE) Board.

- Allan Tarnoczi Chinook's Edge School Division 3 year term
- Caren Mueller Evergreen Catholic 3 year term
- Reappointed Joan Crockett Greater St Albert Catholic 2 year term

Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan (ASEBP) Board

- Reappointed Drew Chipman 1 year term
- Holly Bilton Chinook's Edge School Division 2 year term
- Kim Pasula Red Deer Public 2 year term
- Observer Shirley Caputo Grand Yellowhead School Division 1 year term

The varied length of terms is to provide continuity

Supplemental Integrated Pension Plan (SIPP) – no applications of interest were received

ASBA Policy Development Advisory Committee

- Tammy Henkel 1 year term
- Trina Boymook 1 year term

The Audit Committee brought forward a recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve the audited financial statements after their meeting with the auditors. We are happy to report that ASBA received a clean audit. This is the fourth year with auditors Collins Barrow.

The Board reviewed the feedback received from the FGM and New Trustee Orientation session. There was a 34% response rate from the FGM with an overall satisfaction of 80%. The response rate for the New Trustee Orientation session was 48% with an overall satisfaction of 94%. The feedback will be used to plan for future events.

The Board of Directors approved the amendments to the Supplemental Integrated Pension Plan (SIPP) as presented. Boards should recall the request to approve amendments to the final average earnings that was circulated in early fall. The amendments received more than the 60% approval required of member boards.

The Board spent some time talking about the amendments to the School Act, Bill 28, and how ASBA can support members.

Executive Director, Suzanne Polkosnik, shared with the Board that a communication audit is underway to look for gaps and opportunities to improve communication with members. The Board looks forward to receiving the results of the audit.

Representatives from the Pre Budget Consultation provided the Board an overview of the meeting. School Boards should expect to receive an invitation to complete a 3 question survey. The Board also discussed the recent email that went out to Superintendents from Deputy Minister Curtis Clark on Discretionary Spending and changes to IMR reporting.

The Board is looking forward to the upcoming ASBA Winter Leadership Academy

In December 2017, ASBA circulated the following communications to members:

- December 4, 2017 – Program and registration announcement for the ASBA Winter Leadership Academy (*sent to board of directors, board chairs and zone chairs*)
- December 8, 2017 – Invitation to register for the ASBA Winter Leadership Academy (*sent to trustees*)
- December 12, 2017 – ASBA vis-à-vis legal newsletter (*sent to board of directors, board chairs and zone chairs*)
- December 22, 2017 – President's email (*sent to board of directors, board chairs and zone chairs*)

Follow ASBA on Twitter @ABSchoolBoards

ASBA President's Report to Zones

January, 2018

With a very successful Fall General Meeting and New Trustees Orientation events behind us, the efforts of your Board of Directors have been focused on positioning ASBA for success. We held our director orientation on December 13th, and our Board of Directors meeting on December 14th.

Although it has been a short time since our FGM and several zone meetings, a number of significant developments have occurred which may be of interest.

ASBA Leadership Academy

- ASBA's Winter Leadership Academy, scheduled for January 15th and 16th at the DoubleTree Hotel in Edmonton, will be upon us very soon. Registrations have been strong, and the event will build upon and strengthen aspects of leadership necessary for new and returning trustees. Speakers include:

Jim Brown – Principal Consultant at the Table Group, a Patrick Lencioni Company;
Author of the *Imperfect Board Member: Discovering the seven Disciplines of Governance Excellence*

Catrin Owen – CEO at Calder Bateman; media training

Tannis Topolnisky – Trainer of IAP2 Foundations in Public Participation Public Participation for Decision Makers – Participants will complete this first course in the certification from the International Association for Public Participation during this workshop.

Becky Kallal – Editor, Parliamentarian, Governance Trainer

Indigenous Advisory Circle

- ASBA's Indigenous Advisory Circle, introduced at FGM, is ready to serve as a vital resource to both the Board of Directors as well as school boards, with representation from every geographic area of the province.

Legislation/Legal News

- ***An Act to Support Gay-Straight Alliances (Bill 24)***
 - *An Act to Support Gay-Straight Alliances (Bill 24)* received **Royal Assent on December 15, 2017**. Bill 24 amends a number of provisions in the *School Act* with respect to welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments (WCRSLE) and student organizations, such as gay-straight alliances (GSAs). Many of the changes resulting from Bill 24 are now in force effective December 15, 2017, with the remaining changes - those dealing with WCRSLE policy requirements - **coming into force on April 1, 2018**.

- ***School Amendment Act, 2017 (Bill 28)***
 - The *School Amendment Act, 2017* (Bill 28) received **Royal Assent on December 15, 2017**. Bill 28 amends a number of provisions in the *School Act* related to various subject matters. **Some of the changes resulting from Bill 28 are now in force, effective December 15, 2017. A significant portion of the changes come into effect September 1st of 2018, 2019, or 2020.**
- **The first issue of ASBA's [vis-à-vis legal newsletter](#)** was introduced earlier this month, and is intended to update ASBA members about emerging legal issues which affect school boards and their employees. This inaugural issue focuses on changes to the Employment Standards Code which come into effect January 1, 2018.

Ministry Communications

- Recently, school jurisdictions were included on the distribution of two ministry communications from Deputy Minister Curtis Clark.
 1. **The first**, dated December 11th, and directed to Superintendents and Executive Directors of various stakeholder associations, **outlines austerity measures** to be undertaken by the ministry, and encourages strong consideration of the same by "...stewards of this system". The email notes direction to departments and agencies including:
 - Maintaining non-bargaining staff compensation at current levels until September 30, 2019;
 - Continued hiring restraint; and
 - Strengthening restraint in discretionary spending, including conference attendance and sponsorship, hosting, travel and working sessions to ensure that pressures are managed within existing budgets.
 2. **The second** letter, also circulated directly to superintendents on December 11, 2017, outlines mandated **changes to the reconciliation of IMR** (Infrastructure, Maintenance and Renewal Funds), effective immediately. These changes include the need to initialize monthly reporting of IMR initiative progress, the need to capitalize no less than 30 percent of eligible IMR funding for the 2017/2018 fiscal year, and the inability to offset IMR funding that was previously treated as an operating expense by accessing accumulated operating reserves.
- These two communications provide school boards with opportunities for advocacy and response which reinforce the governance and stewardship roles of school boards. Both letters were written to the administrators of school boards. Clearly any issue involving budgetary contemplations resides at least partially, with governors.
- Within days of the receipt of these letters, provincial educational stakeholders were invited to **a pre-budget consultation meeting which was held in Edmonton on December 13th**. The pre-budget consultation was attended by Ministers Eggen and Ceci as well as number

of Alberta Education officials including Deputy Minister Clark. During the pre-budget consultation, ASBA advanced position that jurisdictions that are well governed are high functioning districts with strong results, and that those that are not well governed do not succeed. The imperative for ASBA to ensure that, through effective professional development, our system governors are well prepared, in particular in the aftermath of municipal elections that saw a turnover of 48%, was communicated. It was further emphasized by both the CEO, Suzanne Polkosnik, and myself, that Minister Eggen has been on public record supporting the need for effective governance. Minister Eggen confirmed that he did recognize both the value of excellence in locally elected school boards, as well as the notion of professional development designed to provide this assurance. He pointed to Bill 28 and the provisions for a mandated Code of Conduct for trustees as evidence of this commitment.

- Both our CEO and I confirmed with both Minister Eggen and Deputy Minister Clark that the intent of both letters was to describe what was being done within the ministry administratively. We were assured that, while there are expectations that all efforts will be made to be fiscally responsible, that it is not the intent of the ministry to impinge on the autonomy of locally elected school boards to determine how best to allocate and prioritize funding within their jurisdictions.

Getting to know your ASBA

- With a significant turnover of trustees within the province during the last election (48%), there has been a great deal of interest expressed in having information and professional development at zone meetings early this spring specific to what makes ASBA unique, and the Association's policy development process. To that end, senior ASBA staff will be visiting Zones in the new year.