

ALBERTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION ZONE 4
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Hosted by Clearview Public Schools
held on January 28, 2019 at 10:00 a. m.

G. Doll	Alberta Education Acting Director
J. Rockwood	Alberta Education
L. Jess	ASBA President
T. Boymook	ASBA Vice President
L. Skori	Battle River School Division
H. Bilton	Chinook's Edge School Division
C. Huelsman	Chinook's Edge School Division
J. Knispel-Matejka	Chinook's Edge School Division
A. Tarnoczi	Chinook's Edge School Division
K. Checkel	Clearview Public Schools
E. Grice	Clearview Public Schools
G. Hayden	Clearview Public Schools
G. Neitz	Clearview Public Schools
J. Schofer	Clearview Public Schools
B. Scott	Clearview Public Schools
K. Smyth	Clearview Public Schools
M. Hollman	Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools
C. Leyson	Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools
N. Buchanan	Red Deer Public Schools
D. Macaulay	Red Deer Public Schools
L. Woodward	Red Deer Public Schools
K. Becker	Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools
J. Pettifor	Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools
L. Ware	Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools
J. Andrew	Wild Rose School Division
R. Hickman	Wild Rose School Division
G. Thompson	Wild Rose School Division
M. Tryon	Wild Rose School Division
T. Bratland	Wolf Creek Public Schools
B. Buchanan	Wolf Creek Public Schools
P. Hansen	Wolf Creek Public Schools
L. Henry	Wolf Creek Public Schools
K. Lowry	Wolf Creek Public Schools
B. Milman	Recording Secretary

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a. m. by Chair C. Huelsman. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and she welcomed back G. Thompson. Introductions were made.

Approval of the Agenda

Additional agenda items were called for.

#01/19 **Motion by L. Henry to approve the agenda dated 2019 January 28 as presented.** **CARRIED**

Approval of the Minutes

A copy of the minutes of the 2018 October 22 Regular ASBA Zone 4 meeting were provided with the agenda.

#02/19 **Motion by T. Bratland to approve the minutes of the 2018 October 22 Regular Alberta School Boards Association Zone 4 meeting as presented.** **CARRIED**

Election for the Position of ASBA Alternate Director

C. Huelsman called for nominations for the position of ASBA Alternate Director.

H. Bilton nominated M. Hollman.

C. Huelsman called for nominations a second time. Nominations were called for a third and final time.

M. Hollman was declared elected to the position of ASBA Alternate Director for Zone 4.

Zone 4 Chair Report

C. Huelsman provided a verbal update. She has been in contact with the Minister's office and his scheduling assistant is trying to find a date for him to attend a Zone meeting.

Zone Financial Report

A copy of the ASBA Zone 4 Financial Statement and copies of the bank statements from October 31 to December 31, 2018 were provided with the agenda.

#03/19 **Motion by M. Hollman to approve the Zone Chair and Financial Report as presented.** **CARRIED**

Zone 4 Director Report

L. Woodward commented on item 7 in Mr. Scott's report regarding the Language Committees. It was requested that comments be forwarded to Mr. Scott. C. Huelsman provided an update from a Zone Chairs point of view. N. Buchanan commented that a Doodle poll will be sent out shortly from the Language Committee. Ms. Buchanan will **bring more information forward to the March 2019 meeting.**

#04/2019 **Motion by P. Hansen to receive the ASBA Director's report as provided.** **CARRIED**

ASBA Presidents Report

L. Jess provided a verbal report.

-The ASBA Advocacy Committee met last week and will share the outcome when the plan is complete. Additional meeting dates have been set to include the discussion at the FGM.

-Ms. Jess along with the CEO attended the pre-budget consultation with Minister Eggen. The Minister took one question. He commented that Alberta Education is committed to stable enrolment growth, local school boards needs and investing in new and existing infrastructure.

-A strategic planning session has been scheduled by ASBA on February 15, 2019.

-Ms. Jess thanked boards for completing the School Board Autonomy survey.

-A call for proposed bylaw amendments is coming out this week with the deadline being March 4, 2019. -The Zone Chairs meeting will be held on February 5, 2019 in Edmonton.

-The Winter Leadership Academy was held last week. She commented on the speakers at the session. ---The ASBA Newsletter is scheduled to come out February 20, 2019.

-Ms. Jess is attending the CSBA meeting at the end of this week.

-Nomination forms for Edwin Parr are now on the website with the nomination package to be to the Zone Chair by March 15, 2019.

-The new ASBA website was launched at the FGM. Board Superintendents and Division employees don't have access to the private side of the ASBA website. The ASBA Bylaws are posted on the private side also. There was a comment that the website should be more open and transparent. Some of the information needed is on the private side and is required by division employees. Some of the information that is confidential should be posted on the public side of the website as it needs to be more transparent. Ms. Jess will take this forward to the ASBA Board.

-Attended Implementation Advisory committee meeting with government regarding new curriculum rollout. The tool kit will be available February 1. Both new curriculum and plan has been approved by the Minister. There is more information available on Alberta Education website.

-Renovations are underway at the ASBA office. The building owners are paying for the renovations. The office space will be reduced by one third.

-There was a question asking about a concern regarding the MELT program. Ontario has exempted their bus drivers and Saskatchewan has exempted their farmers from the program. C. Huelsman commented that at the RMA conference that she asked Minister Mason about the busing situation. Minister Eggen spoke to her personally and let her know the department doesn't want school boards to take the brunt of the cost of this initiative. There was a comment that not only is the cost of the implementation tough on boards but it is hard to find spare drivers in rural Alberta. C. Huelsman encouraged trustees to keep advocating for the MELT program.

-There was a question regarding the Advocacy messages. T. Boymook provided a verbal update that a plan and terms of reference are being drafted. Messages regarding local autonomy will be sent out later after the data has been collected from the survey that was due January 25, 2019. ASBA wanted to have a metro director, an urban director and a rural director as well as the President and Vice President. L. Woodward thanked ASBA for this committee and asked what the timeline will be for the upcoming election. After the February 6 meeting something will come out. The ASBA Communications Director has drafted some messages. If the messaging comes out of Edmonton it doesn't support rural Alberta. Advocacy will continue beyond the election.

During the World Café conversation today, the discussion will focus on FAQ's for upcoming election and questions that trustees want to ask candidates.

There was a comment regarding the Leadership Academy agenda. Trustees really like the small group activities at the FGM. The Leadership Academy had three speakers. ASBA was asked if they are thinking of going back to the small group sessions. Ms. Jess responded that the ASBA staff plan the sessions. Ms. Jess was asked if ASBA could notify boards of ASBA staff changes.

#05/2019 Motion by L. Woodward to receive the ASBA President report as provided. CARRIED

Labour Relations Report

#06/2019 Motion by P. Hansen to move the meeting In Camera CARRIED

G. Doll, J. Rockwood, M. Hollman and R. Hickman left the meeting 10:42 a. m.

D. Macaulay provided a verbal update during the In Camera portion of the meeting.

#07/2019 Motion by K. Smyth to return to the Regular meeting at 10:52 a. m. CARRIED

G. Doll, J. Rockwood, M. Hollman and R. Hickman returned to the meeting at 10:52 a. m.

RECESS: 10:54 a. m.

RECONVENED: 11:00 a. m.

Board Showcase - Clearview / Wolf Creek Partnership

T. Bratland introduced the guests from Clearview and Wolf Creek boards.

Clearview Superintendent P. Barron spoke on the partnership that has been formed between Clearview and Wolf Creek school divisions. Trustee G. Neitz provided the background information on the Development Fund for the local football program. The opportunity for the trust, development and leadership continues to grow.

Enhanced learning models

- are being integrated into classrooms.
- are resources for teachers and interest students.
- access to learning materials are available with six courses being developed.

Rock the Diploma is 17 hours of students sitting with a specialist.

Trustee G. Neitz recited their family story about their three childrens' education.

P. Barron commented on the equity of resources and quality of instruction in rural schools and the expense of running small classes. The quality of instruction is sometimes challenging to find a qualified instructor who is willing to instruct in rural Alberta. How do boards ensure that there won't be a drop in performance when a teacher retires and a new one has been hired. Urban environments are closer to learning environments.

Preparing students for exams – in rural schools some courses may only be offered every second year. Technology is bringing information to boards differently.

Background – rural school divisions are committed to providing access to high quality programming at all of our school sites, regardless of size, location, demographics, etc. This impetus compelled Wolf Creek and Clearview to explore a partnership with the Enhanced Learning model for rural high schools. They don't use the word "blended", this is high quality content that is critical and a support for teachers and students. Teachers are face to face in front of students providing instruction. Teachers and students will also be supported with high quality digital content made by master teachers. Every teacher has access and the ability to grow the content. There is access to content specialists to support the instructional needs at each site. This empowers teachers and students.

Summer Content Development – in addition to supporting small high schools, this strong content developed by practicing master teaches, can also support: academic offerings at any of Outreach schools, summer school course offerings, credit recovery at high schools, provide review material for diploma prep, student choice of program delivery at traditional high schools, creates great course schedule flexibility including when courses may not be offered, assist high school completion rates. The Divisions looked at their AERR results and decided they needed to do something to help student prepare for exams.

Why partner with Rock the Diploma? The Divisions reviewed the materials. Rock the Diploma currently offers hundreds of sessions across Alberta each year. They offer access to pre-developed materials and takeaways for students, teacher contract concerns and conflicts. What do we need to do to help students? Many teachers run their own diploma prep courses. Statistics were provided on the division rates prior to Rock the Diploma and after. Students reported that the Rock the Diploma preparation helped them get ready for exams. The students felt confident and ready for the exams.

K. Von Kuster spoke about the Advanced Learning Model. Beginning in the Spring of 2018, the Division organized three sessions with Clearview teachers to discuss the Enhanced Learning model. They asked themselves, what it is and what it isn't, how it works coupled with the Hapara training and support. The greatest focus of this is it allows a newer teacher to learn how to teach. There was a fear from teachers that this would reduce teachers and that is not the case at all. Hapara is the filing cabinet for all the resources. There are three teacher planning days and refresher sessions were hosted at individual schools around the division, best practices are shared, teachers were "prepared" for their new semester. In the first semester, 21 different classes were running, several teachers were first time teachers for the course, instructors all teach in different ways, the ELM allows for teacher flexibility.

First semester supports – builds positive relationships, classroom visits, emails, phone calls, facilitating meetings with content creators, troubleshooting software, helping navigate Google driver, docs and forms, instructional coaching.

Getting ready for semester 2 – more targeted usage, split classes, first time teachers (new to teaching and new to a course), also available to long standing teachers to supplement what and how they are teaching, 20 teachers slated for semester 2.

A video was shown highlighting teacher and students' perspectives.

Teacher B. Poapst from William E. Hay High School commented on the program. The layout objectives are provided along with assessment of the program. He commented on the video resources for teachers and the flexibility to change the program. Students still need instruction on independent study.

Diploma exam preparation – last June Clearview was invited to join. A slide showing the before and after stats was shown. Results showed 10% higher marks than students that didn't attend the prep classes. The GAP marks showed 6% higher than the students that didn't attend the diploma prep courses. Math 30 – 2 – the school awarded mark was a bit lower than students that didn't attend the prep courses. Pre assessments were sent to students before Christmas. There is an increase in the numbers of students attending the prep courses.

Barriers – the cost of admission is removed, busing and food are provided, there is flexibility for students that have jobs and are involved in sports, students are able to study for 16 hours prior to the exams.

Two students provided their perspectives on the program. A booklet of extra practice was available for students.

There was a question regarding the cost of the program.

C. Huelsman commended the collaboration with the two divisions. There was a question asking how did the teachers buy into this program and the sharing of knowledge? It is different for teachers to open up their learning. This feeds into the collaboration for teachers. Teachers are now more than willing to share and learn. The culture of teachers closing the door to their classroom is changing. Teachers don't have 18 extra hours to teach prep courses. Students are learning from other teachers. Wolf Creek has built this into their teacher PD. Teachers new to a course are attending the courses to learn. It is a growing collaborative of networks. The right teacher is in front of the students. The students feel more prepared for the diploma exams.

C. Huelsman thanked the group for their presentation.

RECESS: 12:05 p. m.

RECONVENED: 1:03 p. m.

G. Hayden did not return to the meeting.

Labour Relations Update – D. Macaulay

D. Macaulay provided a verbal update and encouraged trustees to review the graphs that were provided in the December email.

Alberta Education Report

C. Huelsman welcomed J. Rockwood, Field Services Consultant to the meeting.

G. Doll reported on one of the roles of people services/field services. When the department receive calls, their job is to inform the caller or guide them back to the school authority.

Alberta Education website upgrade is now under alberta.ca. The government communications department is working on the site as not all of the information has been migrated over to the new site.

The learning guides have been developed (two of them), one to support the school authority and the other for families.

Math Bursary – the first date is January 30, encourage teachers to apply for a bursary. There are 2000 bursaries available at \$1,000 per course. The next deadline is at the end of May.

The *Education Stakeholder Satisfaction* survey will begin soon. Mr. Doll highlighted the various areas of the survey. The survey is on line and also by phone.

The draft K-4 curriculum has been signed off, curriculum working groups, a plan for the implementation piece which will deal with the piloting of the new curriculum, this will happen in the fall of 2019. Expect for a plan to be announced. Feedback from the teachers will go to the working groups.

Transportation feedback – there has been no official direction from the Minister's office.

MELT – the information the department is receiving is also second hand. The S endorsement deadline has been put to July 2019 now. Feedback from CASS and school authorities has been received.

There was a question asking if everything will be on hold with the upcoming election. Mr. Doll was asked about the budget announcements. Mr. Doll responded that the department is looking forward to getting information and having protocols in place after the writ has been dropped. He reminded the group that there is also a new elections commissioner. The department is hoping to do some COR work.

It was mentioned that boards are worried about the timing of preparing a budget and making decisions for the next school year.

Curriculum pilot projects - There was a comment about the election and a new government having the ability to shelve the new curriculum.

#09/2019 Motion by H. Bilton to receive the Alberta Education report as presented. CARRIED

CARC Report

L. Woodward provided a verbal update from the recent CARC meeting. At the meeting, CARC thanked L. Jess for her service on the CARC board. Mrs. Woodward noted that courses available from CARC are available to trustees. She commented on the post-secondary report. The CARC AGM will be held on February 12, 2019.

CARC tracks learning opportunities throughout the year.

- CARC offered 267 learning opportunities for 6,777 participants
- CARC offered 65 learning opportunities at jurisdictions for 743 educators

There was a high number of out of division participants attending CARC sessions.

The CARC Executive Director is available to come to board meetings if requested.

#10/2019 Motion by M. Tryon to receive the CARC report as presented. CARRIED

Zone 4 Edwin Parr Committee Report

L. Skori, C. Leyson and L. Woodward will be the Edwin Parr Interviewing committee for 2019. The Zone Vice Chair, T. Bratland is the liaison for the committee. The deadline for Edwin Parr nominations is March 15, 2019. The Edwin Parr nomination package is now posted on ASBA website. March 15 is the deadline for jurisdiction nomination packages to be sent to the Zone Chair. H. Bilton and T. Bratland are available if the nominating committee has questions.

Edwin Parr Award Apples – Red Deer Catholic found a supplier for glass apples out of Sylvan Lake. The information will be forwarded to the ASBA Vice Chair.

Zone 4 Awards Committee

H. Bilton requested trustees to let the committee members know of community awards that are out there. The committee will provide a summary of this information to all trustees.

Student Wellness Representative

K. Smyth reported on the Healthy School day scheduled for May 7, 2019 at Crossroads Church in Red Deer. She invited ASBA President L. Jess to attend the day. The theme for the day is “Intentional Connection Building”. She encouraged divisions to send their senior leaders and wellness leaders. Trustees were invited to attend. Keith Hanson is the keynote speaker.

#11/2019 Motion by J. Knispel-Matejka to receive the Wellness report as presented. CARRIED

Zone 4 Language Report

An email has been sent out to address the questions regarding the information presented earlier in the meeting.

ASBA Fall General Meeting Feedback

G. Neitz left the meeting at 1:32 p. m.

K. Checkel commented on the format of the second day at the Fall General Meeting. Formerly, the format included small group sessions which he felt was a great opportunity to discuss items. He felt this format was useful rather than listening just to keynote speakers. ASBA President L. Jess provided an update indicating that the ASBA staff scheduled this opportunity for small divisions to have high profile speakers. In the old format, it also included keynote speakers. Trustees prefer the one keynote speaker and then break-out sessions. Boards try to have their board members divide and cover all breakout sessions and provide a summary at their next meeting. Perhaps CARC could help at the Spring General Meeting.

There were comments regarding how many attendees there are at the afternoon sessions. It was suggested that the second day session end at noon or 1:00 and then have lunch. Have World Café discussions in the large room more as there would be more interaction.

There was a question asking if there is a reduction in fees for only attending a portion of the meetings. There are no reductions for attending a portion of a day.

Leadership Academy Comments – it was mentioned that for the Leadership Academy, the cost of the hotel was good but there were issues with the quality of the service at the hotel.

Career Expo Sponsorship

M. Hollman was the Coordinator for the Zone last year for the Career Expo at Red Deer College. This year the Career Expo has been scheduled on May 2. A Silver sponsor costs \$1250 and comes with one booth and a \$2500 Gold sponsor comes with two booths. C. Huelsman requested that board representatives discuss what level of sponsorship they are comfortable with and **report back at the February Zone meeting.**

Spring General Meeting By-law Amendment

H Bilton presented a resolution sponsored by Chinook's Edge School Division is requesting that Rural Caucus of Alberta (RCASB) become Zone 10 under the umbrella of the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA), By-law 15.9.3.

RCASB now represents over 40 rural Alberta School boards. Chinook's Edge would like to see RCASB's participation as an observer at the ASBA Board of Directors meetings as this would enable a better flow of communication back to the rural school boards.

Under the ASBA By-laws, Zone 7, 8 and 9 are represented by PSBA, Catholic Trustees and the Francophone boards. ASBA Vice President T. Boymook clarified that anyone can attend the meeting as an observer. Being recognized as a Zone would give the opportunity to submit a report to ASBA. Wolf Creek volunteered to second the motion.

A vote was held and Zone members are in favor of this By-law Amendment going forward.

There was a question asking if this would open up to charters boards.

Rural Caucus currently operates without a membership fee on a cost recovery basis. Boards participate in Rural Caucus and are not members. The goal is to be a voice for rural boards.

T. Boymook mentioned that the ASBA Board of Directors is having the conversation as to the role of zones at their meeting next week

Trustees felt that being able to give a report to ASBA and actually going to the table and being recognized is very beneficial.

ASBA is required to give members 60 days notice of Bylaw changes/amendments.

T. Boymook left the meeting at 2:12 p. m.

#12/2019 Motion by L. Henry that Wolf Creek Public Schools will second the resolution regarding Rural Caucus becoming Zone 10 under the ASBA umbrella at the Spring General Meeting. CARRIED

G. Doll and J. Rockwood left the meeting at 2:17 p. m.

H. Bilton commented on the goal of the Rural Caucus Association. This resolution is meant to be solution based and not to fragment ASBA.

G. Thompson left the meeting at 2:22 p. m.

L. Henry left the meeting at 2:40 p. m.

World Café Discussion

At this time, trustees were divided into three groups to discuss their top three or four election questions or issues for candidates.

Group 1 reported back on their top issues:

- Encourage government to create a Ministry of the Child that would include the current Ministries of Health, Education, Justice, etc.,
- Transportation
- Funding of inclusive education
- More cooperation between jurisdictions
- Funding Review – government to carry through and do something.

Group 2

- Transportation – why restrict local jurisdictions, pay per kilometre not the number of kids on the bus
- Give back authority to Boards to hire Superintendents and sign off and approve their contracts
- Long term budgeting - create policies that do not cost boards (infrastructure and maintenance).

Group 3

- Local autonomy
- Remove the CEU cap
- Predictable non-enveloped funding that would address transportation and inclusive education.

It was mentioned that the messaging needs to be directed to the appropriate target group – either the public and/or politicians.

It was asked what the Zone will be doing with these messages. The messages will be forwarded to the ASBA Advocacy committee.

An example was cited regarding the ATA messaging that targets kids not teachers. The Zone needs to be really clear on the messaging. Trustees were encouraged to find a way of speaking to people that they understand the messaging.

It was asked if ASBA can utilize L. Woodward’s expertise to run the FAQ’s by.

J. Pettifor left the meeting at 2:57 p. m.

It was suggested to target the public so that they understand when trustees speak.

#13/2091 Motion by T. Bratland to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p. m. CARRIED

Mrs. Connie Huelsman, Zone 4 Chair

Mr. Shawn Russell, Zone 4 Secretary-Treasurer