

ALBERTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION ZONE 4
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Hosted by Red Deer Public Schools
held on February 25, 2019 at 10:00 a. m.

J. Rockwood	Alberta Education
L. Jess	ASBA President
Dr. V. Abboud	ASBA CEO
J. Kimball	Battle River School Division
C. Butler	Chinook's Edge School Division
J. Knispel-Matejka	Chinook's Edge School Division
K. Checkel	Clearview Public Schools
B. Scott	Clearview Public Schools
M. Hollman	Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools
C. Leyson	Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools
D. Lonsdale	Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools
S. Heistad	Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools
N. Buchanan	Red Deer Public Schools
D. Macaulay	Red Deer Public Schools
B. Manning	Red Deer Public Schools
C. Peacocke	Red Deer Public Schools
L. Woodward	Red Deer Public Schools
L. Axelsen	Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools
J. Pettifor	Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools
L. Ware	Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools
D. Scott	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
B. Milman	Recording Secretary

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a. m. by Vice Chair T. Bratland who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Land Acknowledgement was recited by Red Deer Public Trustee L. Woodward.

Approval of the Agenda

Additional agenda items were called for.

Birthday wishes were extended to B. Buchanan.

#14/19 Motion by L. Woodward to approve the agenda dated 2019 February 25 as presented. CARRIED

D. Macaulay provided a verbal update on the schedule of events for today for the Canada Winter Games being held in Red Deer.

Approval of the Minutes

A copy of the minutes of the 2019 January 28 Regular ASBA Zone 4 meeting were provided with the agenda.

#15/19 Motion by P. Hansen to approve the minutes of the 2019 January 28 Regular Alberta School Boards Association Zone 4 meeting as presented. CARRIED

Zone 4 Vice Chair Report

A copy of the report provided by Vice Chair T. Bratland was included with the agenda.

Zone Financial Report

A copy of the ASBA Zone 4 Financial Statement and copies of the bank statement as at 2019 January 31 was provided with the agenda.

#16/19 Motion by J. Knispel-Matejka to approve the Zone 4 Financial Report as at 2019 January 31 as presented. CARRIED

Zone 4 Director Report

D. Scott provided a verbal report. An ASBA Board meeting on Strategic Planning was held February 15, 2019. There will be more meetings held with no increase in this budget line. On February 20 there was a special meeting held on Advocacy. Two big program initiatives were included on the agenda for discussion. The MELT program for which a letter has been sent by ASBA to Minister Eggen regarding the MELT initiative concerns. Mr. Scott mentioned that the MELT program includes seat belts on buses and that parents assume that students on buses are buckled in all the time. This discussion needs to happen. The cost has been estimated at \$500 - \$800 per seat for buses that don't currently have seat belts. There was a comment from a trustee that a bus shared with them, from a driver point of view, how is a bus driver going to manage the seat belts. Another concern is that smaller children would require booster seats with a seat belt. It is expected that the MELT program will proceed. Some divisions are looking at selling their buses and going with contracted buses as a result of the cost of the MELT initiative. The cascading messages from ASBA will be shared with divisions today by email. Within two weeks, the ASBA website will be adjusted for access.

The ASBA Advocacy Committee will review the funding model and ASBA has put together a package. An email will come forward via email from Mr. Scott.

Partnering on Student Mental Health – possibly two students per division will be invited to attend the ASBA Spring General meeting.

Mr. Scott was asked how he is enjoying his new role and responded that there is so much happening with ASBA and that the conversations at the table are interesting.

#17/2019 Motion by D. Scott for the adoption of the Zone 4 Director report. CARRIED

ASBA Presidents Report

L. Jess commented on the Strategic Planning session that was held with the ASBA Board of Directors. The Advocacy Committee held a second meeting to develop a strategic plan. The Terms of Reference that were developed have been accepted. The ASBA President will be setting up meetings with party leaders.

Strategic Direction – position statements.

Two initiatives – MELT and funding, materials will be sent out this evening. ASBA key messages, sample new releases, key messages for rural, metro and urban boards. ASBA Advocacy committee funding materials will be sent out. Partnership with Headstrong was passed. A youth summit will be held on Student Mental Health at the SGM. By collaborating costs can be shared. More details will be coming forward. Boards were encouraged to complete the confidential **ASBA compensation survey by March 1.**

Proposed Bylaw amendments are due March 4.

The ASBA Newsletter will be coming out soon.

Edwin Parr nominations are due to the Zone Chair by March 15.

Indigenous Shining Star Award nominees will be announced on March 29.

#18/2019 Motion by M. Hollman to receive the ASBA Presidents report as presented. CARRIED

ASBA Presentation

T. Bratland introduced ASBA CEO Dr. V. Abboud.

Dr. Abboud commented on the informal conversations she has had. Many things come together under the three guiding principles – responsive, quality work and transparency. The ASBA vision is that ASBA is seen as a thought leader.

K. Pasula attended the meeting at 10:36 a. m.

Dr. Abboud wants to ensure that ASBA is a learning organization and the central voice for boards. She highlighted the three values – impactful, collaborative and influential. ASBA want to be impactful on the education system. There are targeted plans to achieve the work. She spoke about the learning community, the people outside the learning community. Students, the direct connection with youth is needed therefore the Headstrong program has been entered into.

Mental Health – school boards asked ASBA to focus on mental health. She commented on the federal, provincial and municipal responsibilities of student mental health.

Youth Advisory Council – different advisories with different boards. ASBA understands the importance of this

Board of Directors – important to be on the same page as Boards need to have the most up to date information

Zone Chairs –the ASBA Vice President is leading the work with Zone Chairs and is reviewing the ASBA Awards

Board Chairs – work done at the local level, in the newsletter there will be a section on Directors and success stories will be shared. Board Chairs are working on appointments of Superintendents and ASBA will be providing an appointment information package.

Superintendents – ASBA and CASS are working together on this and will come up with a recommendation that makes sense.

Trustees – opportunities for trustees through the on line courses

Government – worked on key messages and now realize that the learning community is going in circles. ASBA is keeping an eye on initiatives with consultation.

Organizations and Programs – ASBA owns three programs – ASEBP, ASBIE and SiPP. There is an opportunity to benefit more from these programs. Government needs to be aware of these programs.

Post-Secondary Institutions – there are seven competencies that Superintendents need to meet

Educational Organizations – connecting with all the organizations, this puts ASBA in a leadership role on behalf of school boards

School Boards – ASBA is trying to collaborate on behalf of school boards

Indigenous communities – ASBA played a leadership role in the Indigenous Advisory Circle. ASBA is looking to support Boards with this initiative.

Staff – working to ensure there are processes in place for ASBA staff

Parents and Diverse Communities – there are things we can share with boards. Create tools for the education system through conversations.

Members Outside the Learning Community – what is the role of the trustee? ASBA could do this on behalf of trustees. Raise awareness of trustees.

ASBA responding to the needs of boards – with services, support, value and resources

Suggestions – interactive platform for outside people, bring this opportunity for trustees at a provincial level

Awards – the process needs to be updated

Sponsorship – a means to save ASBA money

Governance – there aren't enough resources, ASBA to create the impact of good governance in Alberta

Inter-jurisdictional Comparison – this needs to be available to ASBA and boards

Action Plan of Responsiveness for Trustees – what is the action plan, targeted action plan for the best PD

The Red Deer College guests attended the meeting at this time.

TLC Revenue – support boards in the province to generate revenue

Education Services – the Superintendent matters have been approved, Dr. Abboud will be speaking with all board chairs and providing support

Superintendent Proposal – new Superintendent Quality Standards. Teacher policy includes the Superintendents.

Advocacy Strategies – lead by the ASBA President and Vice President – the Advocacy will focus on specific initiatives

Engagement Strategy - targeted plan will be shared with boards

External and Internal Communication – ASBA will be sharing information through the newsletter

ASBA Website – ASBA will be adjusting the audience for the website

Communication – ASBA will be in front of the media with positive messages, understanding the platforms of the leaders and let them know the impact of learning

Catalogue – more interactive, more responsive, a connection with the platform

ASBA Consultants – adding more consultants that will be assigned to difference areas of the province

Comprehensive Leadership Plan – plan in place

ASBA staff – have different expertise to offer

Budget Strategic Plan – new targets

Grants – ASBA could benefit from available grants

Committees – ASBA has about 25 committees, how can ASBA be most impactful to shape decisions and bring the voice of the boards

Policy Development and Workshop – bring this forward in a different way.

Red Deer College Presentation

T. Bratland welcomed the Red Deer College group and introductions were made.

Red Deer College Board Chair M. Flewelling provided opening remarks and commented on education and governance.

Red Deer College President J. Ward thanked the Zone boards for their support regarding Red Deer College receiving university status in 2021.

Red Deer College transition to a university will include an animation degree and a visual effects degree that have already been announced to begin in 2021.

Vice Chair J. Henderson spoke about the outcome for the meeting.

L. Jess left the meeting at 11:30 a. m.

S. Ralston asked each of the three groups to discuss the following:

Question 1 – In a K – 12 sector, over the next five to ten years what are the most significant challenges that you will face.

Question 2 – in 2029 looking back what is the biggest difference that Red Deer College made?

Question 3 – what are the important changes that Red Deer College can make?

S. Ralston thanked the Zone members for their input. The group from Red Deer College were invited to join the trustees for lunch.

RECESS: 12:02 p. m.

RECONVENED: 12:52 p. m.

Red Deer Public Schools Presentation – Valuing Mental Health

L. Woodward introduced Red Deer Public Superintendent S. Henry, Associate Superintendent People Services C. Erickson and Coordinator Student Services B. Madill.

Red Deer Public is focusing on student mental health based on feedback from teachers, educational assistants and school counsellors.

Statistics were provided from 2011 to 2018. School counsellors reported that they are seeing over 1100 cases each year.

Promotion, Prevention, Treatment, Follow Up and Early Intervention are all areas of the goals for the Division.

The District Goal for mental health is Equity.

B. Madill, Coordinator Student Services was hired to oversee this initiative. He provided an update on mental health within the division. He commented on the evolving role of the position. Red Deer Public is trying to partner with other divisions and Alberta Mental Health.

Identity and Presence: a valuing mental health initiative has been established. A banner has been established for the information that is sent out regarding mental health. He spoke about the ripple effects of mental health.

The portfolio includes and focuses on mental health and wellness, physical health and wellness, staff wellness, staff training and parent education.

Mr. Madill outlined the common language to describe states of:

1. Mental Health – no distress, no problem, no disorder
2. Mental Distress – happy healthy and well students, staff to be able to manage this,
3. Mental Health Problem – structures and supports in place, beyond what every day teachers deal with
4. Mental Disorder/Illness – depression

All the issues thrown together describe “mental health” as a loose term.

Core Trainers – people that can teach people this common language. Present “Go To Educator” training for all school staff (secretaries, custodians, etc.) and bus drivers. School staff is trained in the “Go To Educator” program, a one day training program. Staff commented that they were afraid of saying the wrong thing to a student. School staff is trained to know their limits and when to refer students up to a higher level.

Red Deer Public has established a K-5 Mental Health Curriculum. The grade 6 to 8 mental health curriculum is being written along with Edmonton Public. The grade 9 to 12 Mental Health Curriculum has been written and needs to be rolled out in schools.

A parent information evening has been scheduled in the 2019/20 school year. Everyone at Red Deer Public is involved with mental health.

Red Deer Public used the 8 realms that ASEBP uses.

Mr. Madill commented on the staff wellness training and the school wide support.

There is a \$27,500 grant available to divisions to create healthy connections.

360 Fitness in Red Deer raised over \$16,000 to support 40 Red Deer Public students.
Move Your Mood Challenge – involves over 12,000 students, staff and families.
What are you doing that has the greatest potential for positive, long term effect?

S. Henry commented on the partnerships formed for this initiative. The mental health therapists, six of them work in Red Deer Public schools rather than the provincial building downtown Red Deer.

T. Bratland thanked the group for their presentation.

The group left the meeting at 1:37 p. m.

Labour Relations Report

No report.

Alberta Education Report

J. Rockwood spoke on the following:

Alberta Election Act – Alberta Election staff will be training Alberta Education staff, once the writ is dropped Alberta Education staff are not able to participate in meetings.

Alberta Government website – alberta.ca – if you can't find something, let Alberta Education know

Office of Student Attendance and Re-engagement (former attendance board) – moving away from attendance board, more of wrap around services

Math bursary program - \$1000 per course available for teachers

On line learning guides – to assist students and families with on line learning

Disaster Recovery Resources are available on website

Education Satisfaction Survey – phone conversation survey that is being completed

Guidelines for supporting students with Type 1 diabetes are now available

There were many questions regarding the CEU cap (45 CEU's) and the department is seeking direction from the Minister.

There has been some confusion regarding the 45 CEU cap. Funds were clawed back and are now being returned to boards.

Seclusion rooms – A Ministerial order will come out this week regarding seclusion rooms.

#19/2019 Motion by P. Hansen to receive the Alberta Education report as presented. CARRIED

CARC Report

The recent CARC meeting was held on February 12, 2019. There was discussion regarding the ATA withdrawing their participation in CARC. The CARC Board has discussed this and have discussed expanding the group. There is a CASS representative are at the table. CARC has provided First nations kits each school division. The CARC CEO is meeting with curriculum staff in school divisions. The Implementation grant for CARC has not increased in 12 years. It was noted that presenters costs have risen 300% from \$600 per day to \$1800 per day.

L. Ware left the meeting at 1:47 p. m.

The next CARC meeting is scheduled in May 2019.

#20/2019 Motion by M. Tryon to receive the CARC report as presented. CARRIED

Zone 4 Edwin Parr Committee

No report today.

Zone 4 Award Committee Report

No report today.

Student Wellness Initiative Report

B. Scott reported a verbal update on behalf of K. Smyth. An invitation to the Healthy Schools Conversation day was emailed out. Clearview Public Schools recently held a staff wellness day that was well received. The day was open to all staff. Staff commented that it was good to have in February when staff felt they needed a break.

#21/2019 Motion by L. Woodward to receive the Student Wellness Initiative report as presented. CARRIED

Zone 4 Language Report

N. Buchanan reported that there is a Zoom video conference at 3:00 today. The presentation proposal has been accepted by ASCA for their conference.

#22/2019 Motion by M. Hollman to receive the Zone 4 Language report as presented. CARRIED

Career Expo Sponsorship

At the January Zone meeting, trustees were asked to discuss with their boards the request for sponsorship of the Career Expo day and report back at this meeting.

#23/2019 Motion by P. Hansen that Zone 4 support Career Expo as a silver sponsor in the amount of \$1250.00 (one thousand two hundred fifty dollars) with one booth. CARRIED
In favour: Chinook's Edge, Clearview, Red Deer Catholic, Wetaskiwin, Wild Rose, Wolf Creek
Opposed: Battle River, Red Deer Public

The Career Expo day will be held on May 2, 2019.

P. Hansen nominated M. Hollman to coordinate the Career Expo booth on behalf of Zone 4. Mr. Hollman accepted the nomination.

#24/2019 Motion by B. Buchanan to supply the Career Expo committee with a budget of up to \$150.00 (one hundred fifty dollars) for incentives for the Career Expo. CARRIED

Reminder for Executive Committee members to bring their Division banners to the April Zone meeting.

M. Tryon, N. Buchanan L. Axelson volunteered to help M. Hollman.

World Café Discussion - Advocacy Issues

P. Hansen, S. Heistad, K. Pasula and J. Rockwood left the meeting at 2:03 p. m.

Trustees broke into three groups to discuss advocacy issues.

Group 1 – local autonomy is an important priority, protection of local decision making as much as possible.

Group 2 – funding model, cost of the burden on senior administrations with regulatory overload, more balance approach in the Ministry

Group 3

- Superintendents pay, tell the Minister to get out of the system and leave this decision to boards
- the MELT program / seat belt issue has not had enough consultation and needs more time
- the Guidelines for supporting students with Type 1 Diabetes – what is this an issue?
- Funding grant – stop envelope funding and go back to the per pupil grant – we are elected and let us have the authority
- Maintenance/facility funding – should be by square foot and the age of building
- Inclusion needs more money
- Dismantling of Seclusion rooms is a knee jerk reaction.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p. m. by T. Bratland.

Mrs. Connie Huelsman, Zone 4 Chair

Mr. Shawn Russell, Zone 4 Secretary-Treasurer