

ALBERTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION ZONE 4

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Hosted by Battle River School Division

held on March 25, 2019 at 10:00 a. m.

Z. Hemperger	Battle River School Division
J. Kimball	Battle River School Division
V. Sims	Battle River School Division
L. Skori	Battle River School Division
H. Bilton	Chinook's Edge School Division
C. Butler	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
B. Scott	Clearview Public Schools
K. Smyth	Clearview Public Schools
M. Hollman	Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools
N. Buchanan	Red Deer Public Schools
D. Macaulay	Red Deer Public Schools
L. Woodward	Red Deer Public Schools
B. Johnson	Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools
R. Peters	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
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 10:04 a. m. by Chair C. Huelsman.

The Land Acknowledgement was recited by Battle River Trustee L. Skori.

Approval of the Agenda

Additional agenda items were called for. The Red Deer Career Fair was added to the agenda.

#25/19 Motion by H. Bilton to approve the agenda dated 2019 March 25 as presented. CARRIED

Approval of the Minutes

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

#26/19 Motion by L. Henry to approve the minutes of the 2019 February 28 Regular Alberta School Boards Association Zone 4 meeting as amended. CARRIED

Zone 4 Chair Report

C. Huelsman provided a verbal report.

Zone Financial Report

A copy of the ASBA Zone 4 Financial Statement and copies of the bank statement as at 2019 February 28 was provided with the agenda.

#27/19 Motion by B. Johnson to receive the Zone Chair and Zone Financial report as presented. CARRIED

Zone 4 Director to ASBA Report

M. Hollman provided a verbal report on the highlights from the last ASBA Board of Directors meeting. The highlights have not been sent out by ASBA yet.

Mr. Hollman reported that there will be no increase in the ASBA membership fees for 2019/20.

The ASBA conferences will be moving to the Delta South hotel in Edmonton. ASBA has signed a three year contract with this hotel.

The ASBA Strategic plan will be shared with boards. An update on the Youth Mental Health Summit was provided. An email has been sent to all Board chairs regarding the Summit. Sponsorships have been obtained for some of the costs for the Summit. Some private sponsorship is being reviewed. The Youth Mental Health Summit will be hosted at Red Deer College in conjunction with the ASBA Spring General meeting.

There was a question regarding the sponsorships for coffee breaks for large meetings. There was a question regarding the Youth Mental Health Summit sponsorship by boards. The cost for one student will be covered by ASBA and up to three students may attend from each board. There was a question regarding the supervision of students at the Summit. The PDAC committee has completed a review of the ASBA policies. ASBA will be hosting the CSBA conference the first week in July of 2020. A motion was rescinded by the ASBA Board of Directors in order to host the conference. The conference venue was discussed. The Leadership conference will not be scheduled in 2020 to allow for ASBA to host the CSBA conference.

There was a question regarding the details for student supervision for the Youth Mental Health Summit. M. Hollman will check on this.

#28/2019 Motion by M. Hollman to receive the Zone 4 Director to ASBA report as presented. CARRIED

Labour Relations Report

D. Scott provided a verbal report on the recent TEBA meetings.

Mr. Scott provided some background on the proposed agreement.

ATA will ratify the contract between April 5 and 7, 2019.

There was discussion regarding the weighted votes and the Francophone board vote.

There was a question asking how many boards have not ratified the previous agreement. There was discussion.

D. Macaulay attended the meeting at 10:20 a. m.

#29/2019 Motion by T. Bratland to receive the Labour Relations report as presented. CARRIED

#30/2019 Motion by J. Pettifor to move the meeting In Camera at 10:22 a. m. CARRIED

M. Hollman left the meeting at 10:23 a. m.

#31/2019 Motion by D. Scott to return to the regular meeting. CARRIED

M. Hollman returned to the meeting at this time.

CARC Report

L. Woodward provided a verbal update that the next CARC meeting has been scheduled in May.

Edwin Parr Report

C. Huelsman commented on the Edwin Parr nomination process. She has requested from Wild Rose School Division put their reasoning for not having a candidate in writing. The Wild Rose Board Chair will be sending a letter to the Zone 4 Chair. The loss of students is a large result of Wild Rose not having a candidate.

L. Woodward commented that the committee has begun to set up appointments with the nominees.

It was suggested that the Edwin Parr criteria be revamped so that rural boards qualify to have a nominee. T. Bratland provided a verbal update from the discussion on the previous two Zone Chairs meetings she attended. It is felt that it is difficult to evaluate a shop teacher, an elementary school teacher and a high school teacher fairly. It was suggested that the Zone Chairs form a committee to review the Edwin Parr nomination process along with human resources representatives. It is important that each board is measuring the same criteria.

Zone 4 Award Committee Report

H. Bilton provided a verbal report on the awareness of Zone awards. She commented on the lack of nominations received for some of the awards. A list of the awards is being compiled and will be forwarded to Zone members.

Student Wellness Initiative Report

K. Smyth reported on the Healthy Schools Conversation that has been scheduled for May 7 at Crossroads Church in Red Deer. There will be an opportunity for boards to highlight what they are providing for wellness within their divisions. The theme for the day is "Internal Connections". Keith Hansen from Red Deer College will be the keynote speaker. Registration is not open yet.

The next meeting has been scheduled for April 12, 2019.

#32/2019 Motion by M. Tryon to receive the Student Wellness Initiative report as presented. CARRIED

P. Hansen left the meeting at 10:24 a. m.

Zone 4 Language Report

N. Buchanan provided a verbal update that the language presentation proposal has been accepted by ASCA for their conference. The proposal includes the benefits of second and third language learners. ASBA Board of Directors will

be discussing the Zone languages committee. N. Buchanan will be forwarding a short questionnaire regarding languages. Research on best practices is being conducted. Advocacy key messaging is being done.

#33/2019 Motion by J. Pettifor to receive the Zone 4 Language report as presented.

CARRIED

Career Fair Update

M. Hollman provided an update on the planning for the Career Fair on May 2, 2019 at Red Deer College. A sign-up sheet will be sent out to the membership. There will be two shifts for trustees, a morning shift and an afternoon shift. He reminded trustees to bring their division stand up banners to the April Zone meeting. He is working on a questionnaire for the students.

RECESS: 10:40 a. m.

RECONVENED: 10:48 a. m.

P. Hansen returned to the meeting at this time.

Alberta Education Report

As a result of the writ being dropped, *Alberta's Election Act* requires government employees to limit public communication activities during an election period, which includes the 28 days between the time the election is called and election day (March 19 to April 16, 2019).

At this time, trustees logged into the Zoom meeting for the ASBA Presidents report.

ASBA Presidents Report

The ASBA Presidents Report was presented via Zoom meeting.

ASBA President L. Jess reported that the Board of Directors approved the draft budget that will be presented at the Spring General Meeting in Red Deer.

The ASBA Budget will be presented at the April Zone meeting hosted by Wild Rose School Division.

The Advocacy committee has completed their plan and election tool kit.

The ASBA Executive team will be speaking with party officials. ASBA has a meeting scheduled with S. Mandel later in the week. The Advocacy committee will be soliciting feedback.

The partnership with Head Strong is involved with the Youth Mental Health summit. An email has been sent to Board Chairs and registration will open May 9. She commented on sponsorship for the Youth Summit.

The ASBA President and CAO presented on Governance at the CASS conference last week.

The newsletter will be coming out this week.

The Management Compensation survey report received low participation and therefore ASBA will not be putting out the results of the survey.

The 2020 CSBA conference will be hosted by ASBA in Alberta. The Leadership Academy will not be held in 2020.

There was a question regarding supervision at the Youth Mental Health summit. Who will be supervising and who will be chaperoning?

The ASBA Budget bulletin will be sent out April 4 for boards to review. Feedback on the ASBA Strategic plan was requested.

President L. Jess signed out of the meeting at 11:11 a. m.

ASBA Website Review

H. Bilton, L. Woodward and N. Buchanan provided assistance to trustees for review of the ASBA private side of the website at this time.

Trustees felt that the majority of the information on the private side of the ASBA website should be posted on the public side of the website. Trustees felt that the learning/training courses of the ASBA website should be available to trustees only. Division Support Staff cannot access the calendar from the ASBA website to know when registrations are open for events as the calendar is hosted on the private side of the website.

#34/2019 Motion by P. Hansen to direct the Zone 4 Chair to express the Zone 4 concerns regarding the information on the private side of the ASBA website. CARRIED

C. Huelsman asked the membership about having B. Kahall attend a Zone meeting to review Roberts Rules of Order. Some of this information is listed on the private side of the ASBA website. It was requested that B. Kahall present on Bourinot Rules rather than Roberts Rules. It was suggested to hold a session from 10:00 to noon at the May Zone meeting. C. Huelsman will check on availability and the cost. It was hoped that at least 15 trustees would attend the session.

C. Huelsman thanked H. Bilton, L. Woodward and N. Buchanan for the assistance with the ASBA website.

C. Huelsman requested input from the membership for trustee professional development sessions. She suggested to hold a few professional development sessions in the afternoon on a couple of Zone meeting days.

Moving forward, C. Huelsman commented on the Zone 4 October Annual General election and that the position for Zone Chair and support will be open.

It was mentioned that World Café discussions are felt as beneficial for the Zone 4 membership.

David Grenier spoke at the ASEBP conference in Florida, he represents Stand Up for Mental Health and is stand-up comic who is bipolar. He was recommended by H. Bilton.

David Irvine spoke at Rural Symposium and highly recommended.

<https://www.davidirvine.ca/the-other-everest/>

It was suggested that this information be forwarded as suggestions to the ASBA Board of Directors for keynote speakers.

RECESS: 11:54 a.m.

N. Buchanan left the meeting at this time.

RECONVENED: 12:45 p. m.

C. Huelsman asked Executive Committee members to discuss with their boards and report back at the April Zone meeting on the Edwin Parr process - who in your district chooses your nominee?

There was a question asking why the Edwin Parr award is a trustee award? This is a trustee driven award as Mr. Edwin Parr was a school board trustee. CASS doesn't feel that trustees should play a role in this award.

World Café Discussion - ASBA Bylaw 15.4 Objects of Zones

Zone 2/3 held their generative discussion of the role of Zones. In addition of using Bylaw 15.4 to frame their discussions they have come up with some additional questions that would certainly feed into the question around the role of Zones.

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.

L. Henry left the meeting at 1:02 p. m.

Trustees broke into three groups to discuss the following questions.

What do you value the most from attending Zones?

- In depth conversations that are more open and transparent
- The networking, wisdom of other school divisions, truly building relationships
- Allow each other to understand each other
- Getting eight boards on the same page is easier than 61 [school boards]
- Asking specific questions
- First place for trustees to get their eyes open to what their role is
- Opportunity for trustees to consult with other boards the issues they are facing, best practice sharing
- Opportunity for new trustees to learn, for boards to consult other board on issues
- Sharing of best practices, what is working for students
- More informal discussions and that is appreciated
- It is good to have the Alberta Education rep at Zone meetings, they take concerns back to the department
- The ASBA presence in person is valued. Perhaps coordination between the ASBA president and the Zone Director report can be coordinated.
- Pre-emptive work, making sure we use the wisdom of others to the benefit of all boards. We can learn from others.
- Hearing how other boards are doing specific things – International work at Wolf Creek, what is happening in some divisions with ESL, how different boards are working together and how we could continue to work together.

How do you think ASBA could leverage the work of Zones?

- Personal opinions, the ASBA Advocacy committee is new, they missed the boat on the provincial election. It will get better in the future.
- Advocacy committee sharing their ideas at the Zone level increases our awareness. Helped me understand why this is an issue with other boards. We are on the same team.
- Zoom call for the Presidents' report worked fine
- Process to bring issues that pertain to zone forward to SGM
- Learn what each of us bring to the table
- World Café format works well, to have conversations
- Pick an issue – send it to the Zone meetings and have the Zone have the bare bones discussion about how it will impact them
- ASBA website is locked down too tight
- The Advocacy committee should be using the Zone to know what to advocate for. In our opinion, they missed the boat on advocating for local autonomy in the upcoming provincial election.

- Should we be looking at what boards are doing to share at the provincial level
- Advocacy committee sharing their ideas at the Zone level increases understanding for individual trustees, as we hear how specific issues are impacting other jurisdictions. This makes for better discussion locally. So keep sharing materials with us.
- Take our suggestions seriously. We have recently seen this and feel it is quite refreshing
- Ask us specific questions that they are looking for discussion on and we can bring information back. Then it can go to their board with the added information.

What do you believe the role of zones is or should be?

- Pushing up issues and questions to the provincial level from our Zone. Advocacy for your region.
- Easier to have boards in a Zone to come together
- Bring forward issues that pertain to this Zone to the provincial level
- Getting to know and learn what each of us bring to the table from outside of our trustee role
- World Café format – an opportunity for boards to have conversations
- Finding like issues – MELT, Superintendents, etc. Like at Rural Caucus, the transportation issues started at the Zone level where we shared the impact on divisions
- If individual jurisdictions don't have something to share at meetings, could we fill that with PD learning for everyone
- To allow for local discussion so we understand each other as boards. Even when something may not be an issue for a single board, we come to understand why it is for other boards. It allows u to work together better.
- Interpreting provincial issues locally and knowing how to respond to them.
- Could the province (ASBA and government) come to our Zones to get input before enacting policy. Specifically if the government used Zones (they are already sending a rep) maybe their decisions would better reflect our realities.

Does ASBA bylaw 15.4 reflect what you see as the role and purpose of the Zones?

- Yes
- Equity in responding to Zones – Zone 2/3 is the largest so should get attention but also other Zones are important too. What is an equitable way of doing this?
- Zones support our work as individual trustees as we work with the public
- Advocacy of boards, equitability,
- Zones do support the work of individual boards
- We think that 15.4 really does reflect the role and purpose of our Zone. We are really doing the items in the list with the exception of “public”.
- We don't know if we are doing much with the PUBLIC from Zone 4
- Idea – we would like to have a statement on ASBA Zone 4 to put on a press release...then each area would do a press release about what happened at the meeting the month it was in their area.
- How would we better work to engage public through ASBA Zone 4?

From the discussion, the question was raised about whether or not the Zone should look at having a press release go out after each meeting. The press release could include what Zone 4 does and what it is about, how many students it represents. It was suggested to send this out to the local papers also.

After each meeting send out a press release outlining concerns from the Zone membership, etc.

P. Hansen left the meeting at 1:44 p. m.

The press release could talk about the resolutions. The writing is the easy part, talk in advance about the two or three points that come up during the meeting and include these points. It is hard to write down something fast enough. Discuss at the meeting and send out after the meeting.

L. Henry left the meeting at 1:55 p. m.

#35/2019 Motion by H. Bilton that ASBA Zone 4 request L. Woodward help with the process and format of a Zone 4 press release. CARRIED

A press release could cover who Zone 4 is and how many miles we travel. The format should contain that the eight boards meet annually and the locations.

L. Woodward will come up with a format and bring something to the next meeting.

Executive Committee members were asked to discuss with their boards their top items for a new government.

The Zoom presentation worked well today but there are benefits to have someone in person attend the meeting. Zoom is a second choice.

It was suggested to ask ASBA to choose four Zone 4 meeting dates that the President will be attending in person. ASBA needs to be aware of the zone agenda timelines.

#36/2019 Motion by J. Knispel-Matejka to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 p. m. CARRIED

Mrs. Connie Huelsman, Zone 4 Chair

Mr. Shawn Russell, Zone 4 Secretary-Treasurer