

Agenda
ASBA Zone 5 Meeting
May 21, 2010
Coventry Hills Superstore
2nd floor, 100 Country Village Road N.E.
Calgary, AB

Chair: Jay Lyons
Foothills School Division
(403) 651-7701 (cell)
E-mail: lyonsj@fsd38.ab.ca

Vice-Chair: Helen Clease
Rocky View Schools
(403) 650-2716 (cell)
E-mail: hclearse@rockyview.ab.ca

Zone 5 Website: www.crps.ab.ca/zone5/index.htm
ASBA Website: www.asba.ab.ca

Secretary/Treasurer:
Drew Chipman/Rita Janzen
Foothills School Division
(403) 652-6502 (Business)
(403) 652-4204 (Business Fax)
E-mail: janzenr@fsd38.ab.ca

Zone 5 Boards

Calgary RCSSD No. 1
Calgary School District No. 19
Canadian Rockies Public Schools
Christ the Redeemer CSRD No. 3
Foothills School Division No. 38
Golden Hills School Division No. 75
Greater Southern Franc. (Catholic)
Greater Southern Franc. (Public)
Prairie Land Regional Div. No. 25
Rocky View Schools

9:00 Coffee

9:30 Call to Order

Introductions
Approval of Agenda
Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 9, 2010
Correspondence
Business Arising from the Minutes - ASBA Policy / Directives for Action

9:45 Reports

- ASBA Zone Director *(Anne-Marie Boucher)*
- ASBA Executive or Staff *(Heather Welwood)*
- Alberta Education *(David Woloshyn)*
- ASBALE *(Jennifer Avery)*
- Advocacy *(vacant)*
- CLL *(Carol Bazinet)*
- Coalition for Healthy Schools *(Mary Martin)*
- Edwin Parr Committee *(Diana Froc)*
- Field Experiences Policy Advisory Committee *(vacant – Jay reporting)*
- Labour Relations *(vacant)*
- Regional Consortium *(Joanne Van Donzel)*

Acceptance of reports as information

10:30 Presentations

Linda Akers and Heather Rodgers - ASBA Budget

11:00 Board Sharing

- Questions from Board Sharing
- Acceptance of Reports

11:45 New Business

12:00 Adjournment

Lunch

Future Meeting Dates

June 4, 2010 (Executive Meeting)
Sept / Oct Meeting Dates ?

Future Presentations

Proposed ASBA Resolution: Funding Framework to Address Costs of Grid Differences

That the Alberta School Boards Association urges Alberta Education to provide differential funding that addresses the differences between boards for the grid costs associated with experience and education/training.

Background:

The salary grid for teachers is based on experience and education. It takes approximately 11 years for a teacher to achieve the maximum salary on the experience grid. Further, over the last few years more and more teachers are entering the profession with at least six years of education. As teachers gain experience and / or education, the cost to the board increases substantially. The current funding formula does not include a differential to address these rising costs which vary considerably among the boards. Boards that have the majority of their teachers at maximum on the salary grid have substantially higher costs than boards that do not have the majority of their teachers at the maximum. A differential funding formula would address this difference.

Submitted by Golden Hills School Division to the Alberta School Boards Association

Proposed ASBA Resolution: Return of Reserve Funds to Boards

That the Alberta School Boards Association urges Alberta Education and the Province of Alberta to consider all reserve dollars taken from Boards during the 2009-2010 fiscal year as a repayable loan that will be returned to member Boards following the provincial economic recovery.

Background:

A budget update was provided to School Boards on August 27, 2009 identifying various adjustments to grants that were to be received during the 2009-2010 year. One of the strategies employed by the Government of Alberta to mitigate the impact of the provincial fiscal correction on Albertans was to access surplus funds set aside by school boards. The province did recognize that in some cases these funds had been set aside for specific purposes, but believed that under the current situation it was time to delay some school board plans and access these surplus funds.

The amount to be contributed by each public jurisdiction to address the fiscal correction was based on the amount of accumulated operating surplus reported by each board at August 31, 2008. A deduction of 3.25 per cent of each board's reported total expenses off of its accumulated operating surplus amount was made for calculation purposes to ensure that a board's contribution did not place a jurisdiction into an unhealthy financial position. Subsequently, a percentage was applied to each jurisdiction's remaining accumulated operating surplus amount to calculate the amount each board will contribute to the correction. Although no jurisdiction's contribution exceeded 11 per cent of its accumulated operating surplus there were some jurisdictions that were not impacted by this decision.

These amounts were deducted from the applicable board's monthly funding payments over a seven-month period (September 2009 to March 2010).

Timeline for Proposed Policy Position:

March/April Boards to submit proposed policy positions for FGM 2010 to zones; timelines and process at discretion of zones.

April/May Zones to identify a maximum of three (3) proposed policy positions to be submitted to the ASBA Board of Directors for consideration for the Fall General Meeting.

May 31, 2010 Zones to submit a maximum of three (3) proposed policy positions to ASBA for FGM.

Proposed ASBA Resolution: Province-Wide Standards to Assess Competency of Bus Drivers

That the Alberta School Boards Association urges Alberta Education and the Province of Alberta to establish province-wide tests and standards of competency to replace the mandatory age of retirement.

Background:

Many boards require bus drivers to retire at age 65. As individuals age, their eyesight, hearing and reaction times tend to deteriorate and they are at increased risk for any health issues.

Boards have a responsibility to provide safe transportation and therefore have established mandatory retirement for bus drivers in order to reduce safety risks for students. Until recently, mandatory retirement for bus drivers was considered allowable age discrimination because of the significant burden of responsibility for safety of students. However, mandatory retirement is no longer an allowable discrimination under Human Rights legislation.

Therefore boards must rely on other means of assessing driver competency to ensure all drivers, regardless of age, have capacity and skills to meet safety requirements. Since this matter affects all school boards, province-wide standards and tests, need to be established. The cost of assessing bus drivers in a non-discriminatory and reliable way needs to be recognized and funded by the Province of Alberta.

Submitted by Golden Hills School Division to the Alberta School Boards Association

Proposed ASBA Resolution: Provincial Funding to Support AAWE Index

That the Alberta School Boards Association urges the Province of Alberta to fund the AAWE index every year until the end of the agreement.

Background:

The provincial government negotiated a salary agreement with the Alberta Teachers Association. The salary agreement was then imposed on all boards by the provincial government. The provincial government promised to pay for the agreement based on the annual AAWE index.

In the first year of the agreement, the provincial government funded only part of the agreement on the basis that the calculation processes to establish AAWE index were changed by Stats Canada. Through arbitration, the provincial government was required to pay the AAWE index as calculated by Stats Canada. Clearly, an agreement is an agreement.

The agreement was also to fund the boards for the index. Boards do not have the option of taking the provincial government to arbitration, but the principle of fairness is the same. Currently, the problem has simply been downloaded to school boards who were not even consulted when the agreement was made between the Province of Alberta and the Alberta Teachers Association.

Submitted by Golden Hills School Division to the Alberta School Boards Association