

**Alberta School Boards Association – Zone 5**  
**February 2, 2007**  
**Rocky View School Division**  
2651 Chinook Winds Drive SW  
Airdrie, Alberta

**In Attendance**

John Neill	Prairie Land Regional Division
Sheila Taylor	Prairie Land Regional Division
Maureen Munro	Rocky View School Division
Nicole Buret	CSSA
Anne-Marie Boucher	CSSA
Donna Engel	ASBA
Heather Welwood	ASBA
David Anderson	ASBA
Joyce Bazant	Golden Hills School Division
Christene Howard	Golden Hills School Division
Diane Boutin	CSCFSA
Robert St-Onge	Alberta Education
Don Thomas	Rocky View School Division
Kim Bater	Canadian Rockies Regional Division
Sheila Snowsell	Canadian Rockies Regional Division
Sylvia Eggerer	Rocky View School Division
Lynn Ferguson	Calgary Board of Education
Greg Bass	Rocky View School Division
Trudy Hauser	Rocky View School Division
Jerry Muelaner	Foothills School Division
Bev LaPeare	Rocky View School Division
Rhonda Longson	Foothills School Division
Doug Gardner	Foothills School Division
Joanne Van Donzel	Christ the Redeemer School Division
Wendy Metzger	Rocky View School Division
Sylvie Pinard	CSCFSA

**Call to Order**

Wendy Metzger called the meeting to order. Round table introductions were made.

**Approval of Agenda**

**Moved by Sheila Taylor that the agenda be approved as circulated.**

**Carried.**

## **Approval of Minutes**

Change “John Neill” to “Jerry Muelander” on Labour Relations Report.

**Moved by Jerry Muelander that the minutes be accepted as amended.**

**Carried.**

## **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

## **Old Business**

Zone 5 members were reminded to hand in their Field Services Survey.

## **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence received.

## **BOARD SHARING**

### **Calgary Catholic Board of Education**

- No report.

### **Calgary Board of Education, Lynn Ferguson**

- Attended the official opening of the new Tuscany School and made a presentation.
- Attended an in-school settlement workers program. We have two settlement workers as a pilot. They are trained to connect with new Canadians.
- Role of religion in public schools – we have developed two courses, one for high school and one for junior high, to gain a better understanding for our students. We recently provided this to the Palliser School Division.
- Student fees policy – we passed first reading of a School Fees Government Policy report.
- We are looking at EL15 on transportation to see if we can modify it re students attending programs of choice.

### **Canadian Rockies School Division, Sheila Snowsell**

- We are preparing for a planning retreat next weekend. We do this twice a year. We would be interested in any ideas from other boards. As well, we will be looking at schools of the future.
- We are developing a school calendar for the next three years. We surveyed our teachers with ATA involvement as well, then we received a principal proposal for a ½ day every 12 days. Hopefully, this will enable schools to share ideas.
- We had a presentation by our architect regarding our new school, as well as a presentation of Leed certification. This certification started with our Banff school. Leed will have a major impact on all building on the site. Our new school should use 60% less energy. We are looking for Gold certification on Lawrence Grassi.
- We also had a major disagreement with Alberta Infrastructure regarding costs of our new school. There is a balancing of costs and savings.
- Sod turning will be March 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Christ the Redeemer, Joanne Van Donzel**

- We held a Board meeting last weekend. The Audit Committee (two years old) has been a great experience for our trustees. We approved interim transfers to the operational budget.
- We evaluated the learning pillar. Early literacy professional development and teacher support were also discussed.
- Gifted and Talented Pilot Project for grades 4 to 6 – identified students will have programs created for them.
- We approved AISI cycle for 2006-2009. We have five projects and involve everyone in our schools.

### **Golden Hills School Division, Joyce Bazant**

- We have hired a new Human Resources person and we are working on a Strategic Plan.
- The Reaching and Teaching Conference is May 3 and 4.
- Our Annual Report is completed. We have 100% compliance.
- We had a retreat last week and made some difficult decisions on our small schools.
- We received the Mayor's Award of Excellence re the Tyrrell Museum.
- We are still bargaining with our teachers for last year and for this year.

### **Foothills School Division, Rhonda Longson**

- Our Career Fair is coming up on February 15<sup>th</sup> from 5-9 p.m. It is the largest Career Fair in Alberta. Everyone is welcome to attend. It will include all secondary institutions in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

- Our Millarville principal has been chosen as one of the outstanding principals in Canada.

### **CSSA, Anne-Marie Boucher**

- Our school in Airdrie finally moved to its new location. Students had their first day in the new school on January 9<sup>th</sup>. Eight modulars make up the school, and as there isn't a gymnasium, the students use the Airdrie Recreational Centre for part of their physical education program.
- Our Board approved the architect's recommendation to use a site in the neighbourhood of Martindale to establish our NE Calgary elementary school next September. They studied three sites. As in Airdrie, modulars will make up this school. The process is on-going to obtain all necessary approvals and permits.
- Our Board will be requesting permission from the Minister of Education to move the K to 6 programs out of l'Ecole de la Rose Sauvage in Calgary because the school is above capacity. The urgency of the situation does not allow us to do the school closure process described in the School Act. The original school is presently a K to 12 school and will become a secondary school (7 to 12) next year. Elementary students will be divided in Jerry Potts School in the north west and most likely in the Martindale school in the north east.

### **CFCFSA, Sylvie Pinard**

- Following the public meeting held in December in Calgary, the new infrastructure plan was elaborated on and sent to the government in mid-January. This new plan will address the accelerating growth of our jurisdiction in Calgary. We need a solution for September, 2007. If the trend continues, we will not be able to provide services to the students.
- We contacted both the metro boards of Calgary to let them know of our need for schools in different quadrants of the city.
- The plan also takes into account the inappropriate facilities for our students in Cochrane, and the delay in the construction of the new Canmore school because of costs related to construction on the side of mountains.
- Parents are anxious to know how we will correct this situation by September, in order to prepare their children and themselves for the changes.
- Our Superintendent has successfully passed his first year approval.

### **Prairie Land Regional Division, Sheila Taylor**

- We are continuing to hold public meetings on utilization plans. We still have one meeting to go before we are finished.

### **Rocky View School Division, Maureen Munro**

- Each trustee has toured their schools with our new superintendent, Greg Bass.
- We have hired two new communications persons.

- We are partnering with Chinook's Edge School Division on a Student Leadership Conference. Leadership students from across Canada will attend.
- Attended the Mayors Excellence awards. Congratulations to the boards for recognition of their partnerships. Two of our Rocky View School Division students participated in the entertainment.
- We have now reintroduced our Rocky View at a Glance pamphlet.

## **REPORTS**

### **A.S.B.A., Doug Gardner**

- The Board of Directors will proceed with a review of the ASBA's governance focusing on: (i) membership, including voting methods, allocation of weighted ballots and how fees are assigned; (ii) role and structure of the board of directors and zones; (iii) how the association's policy is set at AGM's. Other items school boards wish to see will be collected in a "parking lot" package. The board of directors will respond to all issues. The feedback process draws on: local boards will discuss and review key areas; Zone and Metro directors will facilitate discussion at zone meetings; zone meeting dialogue will allow individual school boards to get clarity on any topic before they submit to ASBA; no attempt will be made to formulate a zone position. There is no time pressure, the hope is by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Board looks at items, then goes to zones, returning to board. Zone 5 discussion will take place in March. All trustees are welcome.
- ASBA rep's have been working with AUMA rep's to develop a joint position re how revenues from property taxes should be shared between municipalities and school boards. At its December meeting, the ASBA Board of Directors adopted the proposed agreement, and suggested some minor revision in the wording be discussed with AUMA. AUMA then proposed their own minor suggestions and when the proposed agreement came back to the ASBA January meeting, the Board of Directors considered the proposed revisions to the document but did not approve them. See [www.education.gov.ab.ca/funding](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/funding).
- If the Zone Director and the Zone Director's alternate is unable to attend the ASBA Board of Directors meeting, the Zone Chair will be appointed to attend.
- The ASBA Board of Directors met January 19 to 21 to develop the ASBA's 2007-2010 strategic plan. The next step will see the Board of Directors considering the finalized wording for the Association's strategic plan at its March meeting. Pending acceptance of the final document, more details will be available.

### **A.S.B.A., Heather Welwood**

- We see it as a very positive sign that the Minister met with Maureen on the day he was elected.
- Thank you to all boards that provided input to the strategic plan. The new process was very helpful.
- There was a question on motion values. They were voted on and ratified by the general membership in 2000. The final framework will come out next week.

- Letters have been sent to board chairs re time lines on policies.
- The Policy Committee is meeting on items from the FGM.
- Governance Review – making it a more “rigid” thing. The AMA and taxing issues came down to a governance problem re process.

### **A.S.B.A., David Anderson**

- We are entering the final throes on two issues: a) fees and fund raising, and b) anaphylaxis. We have policy advice and background research done. It will come out in March.
- Property taxes – discussion on whether or not we should be going at this at this time. We have been involved in discussions for the last 18 months. The AMA and AAMBC have policies that say nothing to school boards. We feel we have found some common ground. The AMA adopted the principles behind the agreement. Our board will meet next week. If we can all go to the school board with a solution, it should stand us in good stead.
- Municipalities feel they need more funding. The government is reluctant to give up money for school boards. There will be no elimination of property taxes in that agreement. Money to fund education must come from somewhere.

Question: Will we be able to get some of that money?

Answer: No, it is for municipalities, who have been playing catch-up for some years. The new Minister of Municipal Affairs is very well versed in these subjects.

### **Alberta Education, Rob St-Onge**

- Bouquets go to Golden Hills for Drumheller Composite High School, Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology and ATCO for best curriculum support in developing, enhancing and presenting curriculum in specific content areas; to the Calgary Board of Education for the Pathways, Media Services and Southland Transportation for best school-to-work transition program to assist students in identification and development of skills as they apply to employment or post-secondary training, and a partnership with the Centre for Excellence in Homebuilding and Land Development for best small business program, to the Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School District for St. Anne Academic Centre and Bow Valley College partnership for programs developed to enhance or support the development of literacy skills, and to both CBE and CRCSSD who were jointly involved in the Epcor Centre for the Performing Arts, First Calgary Savings multi-sector partnership; and to a number of individual school based partnerships.
- Outreach Program approvals should be submitted by March 31, and authorized by a board motion.
- Diversity Programs Branch – Governance Support: Section 7(6) is a new requirement under disclosure of information requiring boards to report students

attending their school to the resident board, as well as notifying resident boards of home schoolers.

- Daily Physical Activity Implementation Study – AE will be developing and distributing surveys to school authorities re implementation in grades 1-9 by the end of March with follow-up focus groups in Spring 2007.
- Literacy and Numeracy: development of a framework has been initiated including a review of the literature by the Language Research Centre, University of Calgary, to provide background for defining literacy with the Alberta context. Participants for three focus groups have been chosen.
- Guidance and Career Counselling: the policy is being divided into two interconnected policies and discussion papers on these two policies were taken for consultation in June 2005. AE has also been considering the role of ministry policy in the education community and looking at developing outcomes based policy. Another round of consultation will probably occur before the policies are adopted.
- Second Language Instruction: school jurisdiction will continue to be encouraged and supported in making second language programs available where possible and practical. AE will continue to develop and/or authorize programs of study, teacher support materials and student learning resources on a phased-in basis for Grades 4 – 9.
- Section 23 Francophone Education Eligibility Declaration forms for use by school jurisdiction have been prepared. Disclosing this information does not violate the FOIP Act.

#### **CLL, Larry Maerz**

- No report.

#### **Teacher Preparation, Rhonda Longson**

- Next meeting will be soon.

#### **Field Experiences Policy Advisory Committee, Rhonda Longson for Faye Lippitt**

- Committee members met at the U of C on January 24<sup>th</sup> with representatives from CASS, the ATA, the community/workplace, two assistant deans, the FEPAC coordinator and Faye Lippitt representing Zone 5.
- The faculty is just finished an extensive review that is done roughly every 5 years, The report should be available online later this month.
- They received good feedback from their October, 2006, conference “How Might Teacher Education Live Well in a Changing World?”. Copies are available. One of its highlights was feedback on what students and teachers viewed as the program’s strengths and weaknesses. Strengths included the fact that the program was field oriented, inquiry based, and student focused. Students saw teaching as a form of practical wisdom. Weaknesses were that frustration arises when the students experience a conflict in philosophy. There can be a certain disconnect

with what (and how) they are learning, which is based upon inquiry, and those schools that are traditional learning centers. There is also a diversity of learning styles just within a school itself. It was noted that CBE has a course that those students, who find themselves in a traditional learning center, can take to bring them up to speed with those methods of teaching.

- U of C has attempted to follow their students to find out where they are going. U of C graduates 400 students per year, whereas Edmonton and area graduate 2,000. There is about a 70% retention rate of new teachers. It should be noted that the U of C has the highest retention rate, which is at 90%. Upon graduation the 30% go into industry, particularly the oil and gas industry which looks at an education degree as a good all around degree.
- The faculty will be holding their annual student conference entitled “Celebrating Inquiry” April 3 and 4 at the U of C. Students’ work will be showcased, and there will be keynote speakers from the field. They extend an invitation to boards to attend. More information will be online in mid-February.
- Field Notes bulleting are available for all board representatives and they contain an update on what the Faculty of Education has been doing this year.

#### **Calgary Regional Planning Consortium, Joanne Van Donzel**

- The January board meeting reviewed its by-laws and plans.
- The Francophone school board is now a part of the CRC.
- We saw completion of the Second Language Conferences.

#### **Edwin Parr Committee**

- Communication has begun.
- Nominations should be in by March 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The Greenwood Inn has us booked for May 17 and invitation should go out soon. The same format will be used as was used last year.

#### **Labour Relations, Jerry Muelaner**

- Northern Lights has settled for this year and next. It is now sitting with the ATA at Barnett House. We are waiting to see what the ATA will do.

Comment: Our teacher reps accepted our contract after much negotiation, but their representatives turned it down. The teachers haven’t seen it yet.

- Buffalo Trails has tried to come up with a group. They will meet next week.

#### **ASBALE, Joanne Van Donzel**

- Reviewing marketing strategies and would like to acquire funding from book publishers.
- Want to inform the public on the advantage of Second Language Initiatives.

Comment: Where is the choice of a second language, re children choosing Spanish over French? Is there a grey area here?

Answer: The Department is thinking about “mandatory”. Resource developments will continue.

### **Professional Development**

- No report.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **1. July 3-5 Congress**

Brochure will be out next week. Opening ceremonies will be at 4 p.m. July 3 and development sessions will be on July 4. July 5 will be keynote speakers, closing with a banquet. Zone 5 is asked to participate in, e.g.: a) entertainment, b) rodeo, c) delegates to Symons Valley, d) Stetsons, e) pancake breakfast, etc.

Permits need to be secured as soon as possible. Are expecting 350-400 delegates. Individual boards will not do this, it will be Zone 5.

**Moved by Don Thomas that Zone 5 sponsor a Pancake Breakfast, to be held on July 4<sup>th</sup>.**

**Carried.**

**Pancake Breakfast Committee** – Don Thomas, Jerry Muelaner, Doug Gardner, Wendy Metzger, John Neill, and Maureen Munro.

Don Thomas offered to head the committee. He will coordinate the Pancake Breakfast, as well as a gunfight at Symons Valley Ranch

Maureen Munro will look into corporate sponsorship for Stetsons (will need 400 to 500).

#### **2. Financial Statement**

Bob Willson was introduced and spoke on the Financial Statement and budget. The Financial Statement will be brought to the next meeting with descriptors.

#### **3. Zone 5 Handbook**

The Zone 5 handbook was discussed.

Questions: Re closure of K-6 school – were you asking for an exemption? It seems interesting that the School Act is not really working for you as well as for Calgary Board. It is also interesting that schools on military bases don't need an exemption to be closed. Perhaps this could be an issue that we as a board could collaborate on.

**Moved by Anne-Marie Boucher that the meeting be adjourned.**