

**Alberta School Boards Association – Zone 5  
January 5, 2007**

**Calgary Board of Education**

Coventry Hills Superstore  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 100 Country Village Road NE, Calgary, AB

**In Attendance**

Maureen L. Munro	Rocky View School Division
Sheila Taylor	Prairie Land Regional Division
Anne-Marie Boucher	CSSA
Larry Maerz	Golden Hills School Division
Sheila Snowsell	Canadian Rockies Regional Division
Christene Howard	Golden Hills School Division
Joanne Van Donzel	Christ the Redeemer School Division
Lynn Ferguson	Calgary Board of Education
Donna Engel	ASBA
Doug Gardner	Foothills School Division
Jerry Muelaner	Foothills School Division
Bev LaPeare	Rocky View School Division
Sylvie Pinard	CSCFSA
Roy Goulet	CSCFSA
Carol Bazinet	Calgary Board of Education
David Woloshyn	Alberta Education
Wendy Metzger	Rocky View School Division
Faye Lippitt	Foothills School Division

**Call to Order**

Wendy Metzger opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.  
Round table introductions were made.

**Approval of Agenda**

**Jerry Muelaner moved the agenda be approved as circulated.**

**Carried.**

**Approval of Minutes**

Add to CSSA Report with new bullet, “Nicole Buret has been elected President of the Fédération des Conseil Scolaires Francophones de l’ Alberta.  
On Golden Hills report change “Christene Howard” as reporting to “Larry Maerz”.

**Anne-Marie Boucher moved that the minutes be approved as amended.**

**Carried.**

### **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

### **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence received.

### **BOARD SHARING**

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

- No report.

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

- We have a new Facilities and Environmental Services Superintendent, Mr. Frank Coppinger, joining our Board February 12, 2007 and coming from the Toronto District School Board.
- Held two Board Development Sessions in December with Calgary MLA's, City Aldermen, a representative of the Faculty of Environmental Design at the U. of C., and parent advocacy groups as guests. On December 5<sup>th</sup>, the focus was on new school construction and major modernizations along with an overview of City of Calgary growth, as well as city population projects and issues Calgary Board faces such as classroom shortages and the growth of existing and possibly new alternative programs. Also looked at were potential issues that the CBE will face over the next ten years in terms of new school construction and the impact of not having schools in the "right places" re transportation. On December 19, the focus was on new and/or innovative ideas that CBE administration has investigated to ensure new schools/major modernizations can be built and their successes or failures, as well as other jurisdictions' undertakings, both in Alberta and out of Alberta, in terms of capital funding. Next steps will discuss possibilities to engage the public surrounding the infrastructure issues as outlined in this session and the December 5 session.
- Received the Facility Condition Report re age of buildings, construction materials used, estimated lifespan and issues that may affect future viability of the facility. This information will be used to plan and allocate future IMR money and other maintenance funding. The total value of deferred maintenance is estimated at \$466 million compared to \$322 million in 1999. In the absence of facilities-related maintenance work undertaken by the CBE in the past year, the value of deferred maintenance would have been \$475 million.

**Canadian Rockies School Division, Sheila Snowsell**

- We were very happy to have Minister Gene Zwozdesky sign off on our new school before he left.

**Christ the Redeemer, Joanne Van Donzel**

- We are in the planning stage of construction of a new board office in Okotoks. We have been getting very crowded, but now have land adjacent to the high school.

**Foothills School Division, Jerry Muelaner**

- We are continuing with our Vision 20/20 and will hold public meetings the end of this month, continuing into February.
- The lawsuit re not grandfathering busing children continues with a court date in April/May. We are being sued because we don't follow a policy that we don't have.

**Golden Hills School Division, Larry Maerz**

- We are looking to relocate a number of things from our office in our school in Strathmore.
- Golden Hills will host our Zone 5 June 1 meeting.
- Our Strathmore Accommodation Committee is working very seriously as we are expecting many more students.
- We are asking for more land in Drumheller by the high school as we need more space.
- We regret that we have lost a student to a car accident.

**CFCFSA, Sylvie Pinard**

- Our Calgary school held a public meeting re gym crowding, transportation issues, etc. with some of the ideas we had to enlarge. We are now preparing a new plan for the government. It was a good information night and very informative. Parents are still concerned about portables, day care, better access to school, long term usage, etc.

**CSSA, Anne-Marie Boucher**

- We had a retreat in Canmore in December and amongst the subjects that were discussed were the continuing implementation of our high school program and infrastructure, which were identified as our top priorities. We also had a presentation on the Middle Years Program (MYP) of the International Baccalaureate (IB).
- The Fédération des Conseils Scolaires Francophones de l'Alberta (FCSFA) has received funding for a Professional Development Consortium. The Conseil Scolaire du Sud de l'Alberta is the Agent Board for this consortium.
- The Board approved a slight increase in the school fees for next year, with elementary students set at \$80, up from \$75, and junior and senior high students going from \$125 to \$130.

**Prairie Land Regional Division, Sheila Taylor**

- We are continuing our utilization meetings with all our schools. We have 4 to go.
- Have brought some Video Conferencing information and will show it at lunch time.

**Rocky View School Division, Maureen Munro**

- We had some Christmas celebrations with our staff.
- One newly-elected Trustee has resigned. She was a bus contractor and she felt, because of this, that she would not be able to speak on many areas. She didn't feel the School Act was clear enough. We won't have another by-election but will wait for the regular election in October.
- Our new superintendent, Greg Bass, began January 1<sup>st</sup>. Our Acting Superintendent, Mel Sly, will stay on for a short period of time for transition. In the coming weeks, trustees will tour schools with Mr. Bass.

Question: Any advice we could take as trustees re the resignation?

Comment: Perhaps we should seek provincial clarification and put this information front and centre for all. It is a matter of public information.

Comment: Those wanting to run should get legal advice on their eligibility. Perhaps the ASBA could supply information as well.

Comment: The board approved her contract, but when she understood all the difficult areas, she made a decision to step down. Had she been just a bus driver, it would have been different. You can't have a pecuniary interest.

Comment: It seems to be quite clear from the School Act.

Question: Was any process used re orientation for trustees?

Answer: Usually there is a process used for a general election. This time they had a session with the Secretary-Treasurer.

Comment: A case is still at the Supreme Court re a teacher wanting to run.

Comment: Sometimes people have to give up some things because of a conflict of interest.

**Moved by Sheila Snowsell to accept the reports as presented.**

**Carried.**

## **REPORTS**

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

- A reminder about initiatives your board would like the ASBA Board of Directors to consider while developing the ASBA's Annual Strategic Plan. Please submit to Heather Rogers as soon as possible.
- The Governance Review will remain suspended until the Board has had time to discuss the process in more detail. The Board does want to engage school boards in some fundamental decisions re what approach and process should we take?, should we continue on the path we have set out?, do we make a correction change?, and do we make a fresh start? Very little has happened because we will go into in-depth next week.

Comment: Often it is more successful to address particular issues rather than the whole system at once.

Comment: One thing discussed was feedback on hearing from smaller committees like the zones and letting them have impact. If you think the system we have now really isn't working, do you have an alternative?

Comment: Is there some way to list the "main pains"? We need to know where it is hurting.

Comment: This is something that is done routinely every few years, so there aren't necessarily any issues. The last one was conducted in 1996. Zone 2-3 had an issue on voting re metro study. There are a number of questions that

have started to come up now and we need to spend some time on this. It seemed to be distressing that we weren't going anywhere fast and no conclusions were being made.

Comment: It appeared some were trying to derail the process. Some boards did an outstanding job and some boards didn't speak.

Comment: Board Chairs don't know each other. The process works best when you know each other.

Comment: Hope that most of the Board Chairs and members realize that the ASBA exists because of the ASBA Act.

- Trustee representatives are needed for the following committees:
  - a) Careers the Next Generation Advisory Committee
  - b) Knowledge and Employability Skills Courses
  - c) Primary Programs (K-3).
  
- KPMG gave ASBA's 2005-2006 financial statements a clean audit report. In 2000, ASBA's assets, liabilities and fund balances totaled \$3.6 million. Operating revenues totaled \$3.848 million and operating expenses totaled \$3.849 million resulting in an operating deficit of \$1,235. The ASBA ended the year with an overall surplus of \$12,269. The audited financial statements are posted on the ASBA website or contact Heather Rogers for more information.
- Carol Bazinet, CBE's representative to the ASBA Board of Directors, will represent the ASBA on the Program and Assessment Advisory Committee. This committee advises the Department of Education about the graduation requirements, provincial tests and K-12 education goals.
- Richard Van Ee from Buffalo Trail Regional Division has been reappointed to the ASEBO Board of Trustees for a term that will expire June 30, 2007.
- The ASBA Committee on Drug Awareness has been monitoring the first 3 pilot projects approved for 2005-06 this past year. They are Lethbridge Public and Catholic Schools (working together), Grasslands School District in Brooks and the Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools in Morinville-Legal. Three more projects have been approved for 2006-07 and are Holy Family Catholic Schools (Peace River area), Buffalo Trails School Division (Wainwright area) and Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools (Drumheller area). The committee developed a vision statement which emphasizes community partnerships and advocacy and is meeting with the original pilot project steering and planning groups (Better Together Schools committee).

**A.S.B.A., Maureen Kubinec**

- The Awards Booklet for 2007 has been sent out to your boards.
- We are reminding Zone Chairs to review the “Awards”.
- Discussions continue on property tax. There will be a joint announcement when a decision is reached.
- Maureen and David have met with the new Minister and have a good first impression.
- There has been a good response to the July 3-5 Congress. If anyone would like to contribute anything, let us know. Also, any thoughts on what you would like to contribute as a zone, let us know. Justin Trudeau will be our speaker. We are adding an urban board session. The Westin Hotel is the host hotel.

**Alberta Education, David Woloshyn**

- “Good is the enemy of Great.” There are so many wonderful things that boards can do but if you try to do too many things, you may defeat the purpose. Sometimes we can get too involved in one thing, but we must be aware if this is the most important issue.
- Accountability Pillar Update – criteria for Rutherford Scholarships has changed retroactive to April 1, 2006. The number of Gr. 12 courses that are considered has been expanded. These new courses are in subjects that are considered for Rutherford Scholarships in Grades 10 and 11. There should be little impact on the rate but will be an increase in the dollar amount eligible students receive, as well there will be an increase in the number of students qualifying in grade 12 courses. A handout was passed around.
- Accountability Pillar Jurisdiction Surveys – in January, parents of students in grades 4, 7, and 10 will receive a mailed survey to be returned by February 16. Students and teachers will complete online surveys between Feb. 12 and Mar. 2. Superintendents will receive an email of all documents and an update with a confirmed fielding schedule. All Francophone students will receive theirs in French and other languages will be made available to parents who contact their principal. Jurisdictions can link jurisdiction-specific online surveys (teachers and students) directly to the Accountability Pillar surveys. All recommended changes suggested by the commissioned contractor to Public Satisfaction Survey questions have been made to the provincial public survey administered by telephone. A provincial satisfaction survey will be administered again this year in Jan/Feb. The provincial summary for the Accountability Pillar is now posted on the Alberta Education website and provides a snapshot of applying the evaluation methodology to provincial Accountability Pillar results. This will provide school level reports.

- International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) – 500 Albertan grade 4 students will participate. This study investigates student achievement in math and science in over 60 educational systems. 150 Alberta schools have been contacted
- Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP) replaces the School Achievement Indicators Program (SAIP) and every 3 years, they will assess the knowledge and skills of 13-year-old students across Canada in reading, math, and science
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit Services Branch – developing a series of resources to provide practical ideas for improving programming. Will study Bishop Routhier School of Northland School Division and Cardston Junior High School of Westwind School Division.
- FNMI Education Monograph is being developed to support improving outcomes for FNMI learners.
- Learning Together for Success Conference is sponsored by FNMI Services Branch of Alberta Education and the United Way and Facilitated by CRC and will be held March 21, 23, 2007.
- Implications of the Revised Student Record Regulation and Francophone Education reaffirms that student records must contain a notation as to whether a parent of the student is eligible to have the student taught in the French language pursuant to the Charter and a notation to indicate whether the parent wishes to exercise that right. A major revision stipulates that a board, at the written request of a regional authority for a Francophone Education Region, disclose all pertinent information of a student whose parent has been noted as being eligible to have the student taught in the French language pursuant to the Charter. The Board must also disclose the name, address and telephone number of the student's parent to the superintendent or alternate for the purpose of contacting the parent of the student and advocating for minority language education rights. Student registration forms must clearly indicate what constitute Francophone Education eligibility.
- On Nov. 15, 2006, Industry Canada and Alberta Education announced a four-year collaborative agreement to enhance science education through a video-conference session with the Canadian Space Agency.
- Eligible employees who wish to participate in the Work-at-Home Rights program re Provincial Microsoft License Agreement are required to pay a media cost of \$12 for the software and will remain accountable for their use of the software and license at home.
- The Provincial Approach to Student Information advocates a new approach to the management of student information and will explore opportunities to provide tangible benefits to the entire education system including evaluating technology.
- Information sharing sessions are being organized by EverActive Schools for teachers and administrators from grades 9-12 schools to provide an opportunity for teachers and administrators implementing Daily Physical Activity with grade 9 students.

- A Second Language CD was passed out to everyone at the Zone 5 meeting. We are trying to make this available to schools and school authorities as a resource.

**CLL, Larry Maerz**

- Next meeting will be February 7<sup>th</sup> followed by a March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Teacher Preparation, Rhonda Longson**

- No report.

**Field Experiences Policy Advisory Committee, Faye Lippitt**

- There will be a report next month as there has been no meeting.

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

- Have distributed some handouts on upcoming conferences.

**Edwin Parr Committee**

- No report, however, submissions are to be in by March 31. Please send to Lynne Castle at Rocky View School Division, 2651 Chinook Winds Drive SW, Airdrie, Alberta T4B 0B4. Information has been sent to all superintendents already.
- Banquet will be May 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Labour Relations, John Neill**

- Aspen View is the only settlement (slightly lower) so far.
- Nothing in Zone 5.

**ASBALE, Joanne Van Donzel**

- We are connecting with the new Minister to introduce ourselves and consolidate.
- We will take our new display and flyers to the conference on January 29-30.

**Professional Development, Wendy Metzger**

- We have thought about zeroing in on transportation and high school completion. We are still at a very preliminary stage.
- We also thought about bringing in MLA's for a luncheon. We need to talk to Zone 2-3.

- Comment: Having someone from a university faculty might be a good topic.
- Comment: Field Advisory would be very keen to come here and do a presentation.
- Comment: May want to consider the Minister's priorities.
- Comment: No one knows about the new Minister. He is from Calgary and is planning to meet with some boards and perhaps some zones. The Administrative Assistant to the Minister is the son-in-law of Doug Gardner.
- Comment: Getting the Minister to meet on the Friday before Edwin Parr might be a good idea (May 18<sup>th</sup>). This could involve up to 30 MLA's.

**Moved by Maureen Munro to accept the reports as information.**

**Carried.**

### **Budget**

**Moved by Faye Lippitt to accept the budget for September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2007.**

### **Discussion**

Think the zone should pay for the presenter and the nominee (usually the principal) at the Edwin Parr awards.

Would like to increase CSBA. CSBA Hosting Costs of \$2,000 to be added below CSBA.

**Moved by Maureen Munro to add a note (#4) to read that there be an allocation up to \$3,000 to support the CSBA Congress 2007 Hosting Costs.**

**Carried.**

**Moved by Maureen Munro that the budget be accepted with the following amendment, that one more person per nominee be a Zone 5 guest at the Edwin Parr banquet, that person being the presenter of each nominee.**

**Carried.**

The Financial Statement is deferred to the next Zone 5 meeting.

**Location of Next Zone 5 Meeting**

The location of the next Zone 5 meeting to be held on Friday, February 2, 2007, will be at Rocky View School Division, 2651 Chinook Winds Drive SW, Airdrie, AB.

**Moved by Larry Maerz that the meeting be adjourned.**

**Carried.**

**Meetings and Hosting Boards**

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|---------------|---|
| March 2, 2007 | - Calgary Board of Education, Coventry Hills Superstore, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor,<br>100 Country Village Road NE, Calgary |
| April 20      | - Rocky View School Division, Airdrie   |
| May 17        | - Edwin Parr Awards and Banquet, Greenwood Inn  |
| May 18        | - Greenwood Inn, 3515 – 26 Street NE, Calgary   |
| June 1        | - Golden Hills School Division  |