

**Alberta School Board Association - Zone 5
Minutes: March 24, 2000**

Call to Order: Pat Stutz calls the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and welcomed those in attendance.

In Attendance: Pat Stutz	Canadian Rockies
John Neill	Prairie Land
Kathy Smith	Golden Hills
Chris Pollard	Southern Francophone
Richard Slevinsky	Southern Francophone
Odette Pettem	Southern Francophone
Nicole Buret	Southern Francophone
Janina Diodata	Calgary Catholic
Linda Wellman	Calgary Catholic
Dorothy Haines	Alberta Learning
Karen Sorensen	Canadian Rockies
Karen Harries	Golden Hills
Donna Engel	ASBA
Lorne Kosack	Rocky View
Michele Mulder	ASBA
Graham Sewell	Foothills
Jim Brandon	Foothills
Murray Lloyd	Foothills
Carolyn Kaiser	Foothills
Jerry Muelaner	Foothills
Maureen Munro	Rocky View
Colleen Brownlee	Rocky View
Wendy Metzger	Rocky View
Cindy Berry	Rocky View
Terry Patey	Rocky View
Garry McKinnon	Golden Hills
Shirley Reinhardt	Golden Hills
Lynn Nishimura	Calgary Public
Jane Cawthorne	Calgary Public
Sharon Hester	Calgary Public
Nancy Close	Calgary Public
Linda Blasetti	Calgary Catholic
Lynn Leslie	Calgary Catholic
David Pickersgill	Calgary Public
Arlene Dow	Prairie Land

Adoption of Agenda Jerry Muelaner moved that the agenda be approved as amended.
Carried.

Adoption of Minutes Shirley Reinhardt moved that the minutes be approved as presented.
Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Correspondence Chairperson Pat Stutz circulated the results of the Minister's Forum on Life Long Learning. Members can access the document on Alberta Learning's web site

Reports

Alberta Learning – Dorothy Haines

- Dorothy Haines summarized the content of the written report provided

Lorne Kosack – ASBA Zone Director

- Lorne distributed the Highlights report from the Board of Directors meeting of March 9-10, 2000
- A Communique from ACSTA, ASBA and PSBA of Catholic education was distributed. There will be information sessions held on April 3rd in Edmonton and April 4th in Calgary as well as a meeting of Board Chairs on April 14th in Edmonton (1:00 PM). It is hoped that the implementation date will be September 2001.
- ASBA is proposing a 5% fee increase
- Graham Sewell attended a meeting on Lorne's behalf dealing with the K-3 curricular process; a report will be forthcoming in the near future

Guest Speaker

Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Learning

(brief report attached)

Godfrey Huybregts, Marcomm Works

- Presentation pertaining to *Public Awareness of School Boards and Trustees Campaign*
- Trustees are invited to forward their thoughts or comments to Godfrey Huybregts of Marcomm Works – phone (780) 414-0525, fax (780) 437-7028 or E-mail ghuy@oanet.com

Lunch

Reports (Continued)

Michelle Mulder – ASBA Vice-President

- Michelle provided information on:
 - The Vision and Agenda for Public Education
 - Coterminous aspect of the Catholic jurisdictional boundaries
 - Supreme Court challenge
 - Pre-bargaining meeting
 - ASBA move
 - Spring presentations on budgets
 - The Telus Learning Connection project
 - Issues call for the annual meeting (fall)

Karen Harris - CLL

- April 10 dinner session – A view to Educational Ecology
- Request for feedback on themes, location, and cost

Lorne Kosack on behalf of John Murray - Labour Relations

- No changes from the last report
- ASBA reported that there are still openings in Interest Based Bargaining Seminar

Graham Sewell - Teacher Prep

- no meeting since last report

Kathy Smith - Regional Consortium

- Highlights of the February 23, 2000 meeting included:
 - Annual evaluation of Director of CRC was completed
 - The role of the CRC involvement in AISI was discussed
 - Round table sharing of Member Organization Updates took place
 - Annual meeting is to be held May 23 (1:00-3:00 PM)

Maureen Munro - Edwin Parr

- Trustees are reminded that submissions are to be in to Canadian Rockies, 335 Beaver Street, Banff, by March 31; members are asked to make sure that the guidelines are adhered to
- Candidate interviews will be held on April 7, starting at 2:00 PM at Rocky View School Division
- Shirley Reinhardt expects approximately 80 people to attend the banquet, including Dr Lyle Oberg
- Presenters and nominees will be held to a pre-determined speech length

Treasurer's Report – Dave Mackenzie

- attached

Sharon Nester moved that the reports be received as information.
Carried.

Board Sharing

Linda Wellman – Calgary Catholic

- Board has sent a letter to the Minister regarding applied math and recommends other Boards do the same
- Calgary Catholic has reviewed the Vision and Agenda for Public Education and has concerns regarding proposed class size in K-3 resulting in adding 265 teachers and 20 new schools in their jurisdiction
- The Reading Recovery program will not be selected as part of their district's Early Literacy program because the Board wants to meet as many students needs as possible
- The Catholic Conference 2000 had 1,800 registrants and 200 volunteers; it was very successful and district personnel did an excellent job

Sharon Nester – Calgary Public

- CUPE is working to rule.
- The board is examining options in response to the Labour Relations Board's ruling on parent run lunch programs
- Will start budgeting process in two weeks
- Began an Open Minds program at city hall with students learning how the municipality works
- Pathfinding Teams have had high parental involvement and approval; the Board will be receiving all Teams on April 20 and will report back on April 25

Karen Sorenson – Canadian Rockies

- The Board is holding Public Awareness meetings dealing with questions that came out of their satisfaction survey; a meeting is held in each school with a division-wide meeting scheduled for May 8

Graham Sewell - Foothills

- The Board is preparing their response to AISI funding and have identified 10 projects; two are division wide
- Labour Relations committee is quite busy with all contracts coming up this year
- Site-specific school calendars have posed problems so the Board is moving back to a division wide calendar
- The Board has some concerns regarding the Council of School Councils

Shirley Reinhardt – Golden Hills

- Five AISI proposals have had Board approval and have been submitted to Alberta Learning
- Established a practicum partnership with UofC and developed a brochure for prospective students
- Meeting with School Councils in two weeks to go through think tank summary, which will form the basis for their 3-year plan
- Ron Taylor from the Regional Alberta Learning office presented information on Suspensions and Expulsions

Chris Pollard – Southern Francophone

- Hired a Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer
- Presented an interim planning document with feed back from three locations
- Lethbridge has agreed to transfer a school July 1
- Continuing to work with Calgary Catholic and Calgary Public in regard to the transfer of schools

John Neill – Prairie Land

- Resignation of a Trustee will result in a by-election
- Working on staff negotiations with Central Office staff

Lorne Kosack – Rocky View

- Involved in a re-organization in their central office
- Approved BQRP for \$800,000
- Planning 60th anniversary celebration and have designed a new logo and mission statement which reads: *We strive to provide a quality education in a caring and innovative environment*
- The Board supports the extension of Catholic boundaries
- Meetings have been held with School council and student councils.
- School Councils to debate on whether or not they need a Council of School Councils

New Business

- Chairperson Pat Stutz asked for suggestions regarding guest speakers. Members are asked to contact Pat with ideas
- ASBA will be making a budget presentation in April
- Meeting dates are tentatively scheduled for the last Friday of the month for 2000-01 with the possible exception of March 2001; further discussion at the April meeting

Adjournment

Carolyn Kaiser moved to adjourn at 2:30 PM
Carried

A Brief Overview of Dr. Oberg's Presentation

- Special Education problems with funding and assessment - looking at better ways and hoping to institute changes this year
- Math Standards Guide will be coming out soon with slightly lowered standards; Universities are looking at transferability; Applied Math is designed as a mid-stream program and the problems may really stem from the lack of preparedness in junior high; The department has identified problems with bridging between Applied Math and Math 14; where do kids go who don't want to go to university but need something more than Math 14?
- Status of school councils - report coming out in a couple of weeks with Alberta Learning agreeing to most recommendations; Whether or not teachers/principals vote will be up to each council
- Catholic Jurisdictions – there is no solution that is entirely painless; Boundaries will be up to Catholic school boards; Alberta Learning will be putting forward a report of final recommendations; Students have a choice as to where they go
- Overcrowding – Infrastructure is looking at the utilization formula, with members of ASBA sitting on the committee
- Transportation and rising fuel costs – anticipates the price will drop over the next couple of months; Those Boards that have prepared reports are asked to forward them to Dr. Oberg; Reviewing the walk limit of 2.5 kilometers for K-6 students
- A final recommendation on Charter Schools is due in about six weeks
- On questioning from Chris Pollard of the Southern Francophone Board, it was noted that either separate or public boards can run francophone programs.
 - The Minister will continue to study the question.
- The Growth & Density report is being finalized in the next couple of weeks (end of April); Problems with scope were identified
- Achievement testing will remain as it is due to the necessity of measuring achievement – teachers are asked to downplay the exams
- Health curriculum Lifestyles 10– still time to put in recommendations The human sexuality module is under further review
- In response to Canadian Rockies and the establishment of Catholic school – the Ministerial order has been signed because planning needs to be done and it would have been unfair to hold off
- Targeted funding – there will be no changes to funding framework in April;

The solution may be accreditation so the Department may focus on those boards that require assistance

- Bill 206 – since this is a Private Members Bill, Dr. Oberg suggests Boards await the outcome
- Creditional creep – anticipates a teacher shortage within 5-10 years; Alberta Learning will be accepting all provincial accreditations; The Department can't tell universities the length of their programs

Boards are encouraged to feel free to send correspondence directly to Dr Oberg