

8a Alberta School Boards Association – Zone 5
May 19, 2006
Rocky View School Division No. 41
2616 – 18th Street, Calgary

In Attendance

Terry Patey	Rocky View School Division
Joanne Van Donzel	Christ the Redeemer School Division
Wendy Metzger	Rocky View School Division
Trudy Hauser	Rocky View School Division
Bev LaPeare	Rocky View School Division
Mary Stengler	Christ the Redeemer School Division
Faye Lippitt	Foothills School Division
Serafino Scarpino	Calgary Catholic Board
Nancy Close	Calgary Board of Education
Maureen Munro	Rocky View School Division
Doug Gardner	Foothills School Division
Jerry Muelaner	Foothills School Division
Drew Chipman	Foothills School Division
Nicole Buret	CSSA
Carrol Plummer	CSCFSA
Elaine Horner	Prairie Land Regional Division
Sam Vogel	Prairie Land Regional Division
David Woloshyn	Alberta Education
Joe Frank	Alberta Education
Donna Engel	ASBA
Maureen Kubinec	ASBA
Maureen Emond	ASBA

Call to Order

The meeting was opened by Terry Patey, Chair, who welcomed everyone.

Round table introductions were made.

A minute of silence for held in memory of Nichola Goddard.

Condolences were extended to Nancy Close.

Approval of Agenda

Add “ASBA Committed on Drug Awareness:

Faye Lippitt moved the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried.

Approval of Minutes

Serafino Scarpino moved the minutes be approved as read.

Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence arising from the minutes.

BOARD SHARING

Calgary Catholic Board of Education, Serafino Scarpino

- The courts have made a “Memorandum of Decision” re the defendant’s action and have disqualified our trustee. They say he “placed a private interest before a public duty”. We were very surprised with the time limit that was included in the decision.
- Children’s Services Minister visited one of our schools and launched “Team Bowling”.
- Transportation problems continue to be with us. We are anticipating a large deficit.

Comment: We as boards need to point this out. Fuel has gone up 16% and our grants have gone up 2%. Something must be done.

Comment: At the ASBA Board of Directors meeting, areas identified were Infrastructure and Transportation. The ASBA will take these issues forward very doggedly.

Calgary Board of Education, Nancy Close

- Lynn Ferguson is meeting with Gary Mar today.
- Our Capital Plan was approved at our last Board Meeting.
- After a long process, we have ratified the agreement with our Staff Association which will expire in 2007. Increases are 3%, 3% and 3.5% and Alberta Health premiums go to 100%. More information is available on our website.
- We have a \$6,000,000 deficit in Transportation. Fees have been increased by \$20 and service delivery has been changed, i.e. collector points for some routes.

- Palliser School Board is in agreement with a private school in Calgary. What is the School Board's role? How are trustees then representing their community? It should be brought forward as an emergent issue with ASBA.

Comment: It is the same thing with Home Schooling and on-line learning. Do school jurisdictions have the authority to offer programs in other divisions?

Comment: Rocky View School Division is in the same situation. The Board felt it would not be to our advantage to take this school in at this time (e.g. they will not allow disadvantaged students to enroll in their school). We need to think how we are going to act at public boards.

Comment: The issue is not a faith issue. Calgary Board of Education's first plan is to send a letter to the Minister and ask if this is legal.

Comment: Rocky View School Division doesn't have a policy and doesn't have room in our schools for this program as well as having no time to look for another solution.

Comment: What is going to happen to the thousands of Muslim students?

Comment: Alternative school is the issue. Foothills School Division also had an experience, but the private school didn't like the Foothills conditions and turned Foothills down.

Comment: Red Deer has a situation that works.

Comment: This is an important conversation to have. There are examples where it works. Boards have to agree how they are going to accommodate these needs. There needs to be a spirit of working together.

Comment: Rocky View School Division found out about the private school in our area by reading it in a newspaper. We had no conversations at all.

Comment: Have concerns about disabled students being left out, but still receiving funding. When we were elected, we needed to live in the area where we are the trustee. You can't be a trustee for the parents where they don't live in the jurisdiction.

Comment: This is a much larger issue. Public boards cover the entire province. The Government should be asked how this will work, but boards should work together first.

Christ the Redeemer, Joanne Van Donzel

- Okotoks Holy Trinity High School is ready and will start classes after the long weekend.
- The Board will review the Capital Plan at next Board meeting.
- Staff were recognized at our Awards Banquet.
- Our Oyen School of 40 students celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

Foothills School Division – Faye Lippitt

- Our first year teacher, Shelby Couvier, was the winner of the Edwin Parr Zone 5 award. All 6 of our entrants were superb.
- Canada's Governor General, Michael Jean, visited our Millarville K-8 school. This school has won the Governor General's Excellence in Teaching award twice in the last 3 years.
- Our Celebration of AISI projects held a "science fair for teachers" with 17 schools and one colony sharing in the event.
- Field Trips policy was redone.
- Heritage Heights School, which should be open in September, is requiring portables.
- Red Deer Lake School has gone to tender. Delays have more than doubled the cost, although \$4,000,000 will be covered by the M.D. for grading work. Proceeds from the sale of the old land and original school must be applied to the new school construction. "Team Challenge", the buyer, has been turned down by the M.D.
- We have started a news pamphlet.

Golden Hills, Larry Maertz

- Bargaining has started again with teachers.
- Reaching and Teaching was good although numbers were down. There was a very good speaker.
- We are all involved in a number of graduation exercises.
- Still working on the budget. First draft has been presented to the Board.
- The latest "Link" is out and we are circulating it to various stakeholders.

CSCFSA, Carrol Plummer

- Finalizing our Three Year Plan, Capital Plan, and budget. Anticipating a thorough policy review next year as well as the development of partnerships with a range of organizations.

- Have a large transportation problem and are looking at changing our policy from door to door service to point to point service. Have reviewed this with our parents.
- Are holding talks with Public Francophone board looking at ways to coordinate some solutions, e.g. exploring the possibility of establishing a shared high school in Calgary.
- Approved next year's academic calendars.
- Not getting portables for next year is very frustrating.
- Registration numbers are significantly higher than last year.
- Have hired a new Secretary-Treasurer, Ms. Suzanne Bedard.

CSSA, Nicole Buret

- Glad Infrastructure and Transportation are the two issues for ASBA.
- Very frustrated with Alberta Infrastructure. Getting answers is very difficult. Thank you to Foothills School Division and Rocky View School Division for their help. Have been working 4 years to get a CBE school transferred and have now been turned down. We have lost 3 years on this project. We now have to give two priorities to the Minister.
- Held year-end celebration for retiring Superintendent and teachers.
- Completed our calendars. They vary from board to board.
- Will approve our budget in June.

Prairie Land Regional Division, Elaine Horner

- Finalized our school calendar and will start this Fall after Labour Day weekend. We may still need to make changes.
- Will be doing video-conferencing for some core subjects, e.g. Math 31 and French.
- Transportation is a huge problem. We are negotiating with bus drivers. We have no imposed fees and do not want to as we will feel the impact from people sending their children elsewhere.
- Finished our Three Year Plan. Trustees on the Committee will present it to the Board.
- Had to cut 6 probationers last year, but this year are hiring one more. We are reducing a number of educational assistants.
- Continuing to advocate about economy of scale of our small schools. Have started conversations with neighbouring boards to work on "MAP". A lot of work came from Clear View. The number of small schools in Prairie Land is the

second in the Province, but our high school completion rates are some of the best in the Province.

- Using video-conferencing a lot. Next year, some schools may do every subject by video-conferencing with some teacher support.

Rocky View School Division, Wendy Metzger

- The great Edwin Parr event really confirms why we do this job.
- Working on our budget with lots of issues including transportation. Will start double busing in Cochrane, staggering school start times, raising fees by \$25 per student, and cutting two service days.
- Moving our Central Office to Airdrie on June 23rd.
- Our Superintendent has resigned and we are looking at hiring a new one with an interim superintendent in the meantime.
- Ralph Klein visited our Ralph McCall School in Airdrie.
- Working on our Three Year Capital Plan.
- Attending a number of graduations.
- Three of our teachers had nominations for provincial awards.
- Continuing our Wellness session and looking at absenteeism issues.

Comments: All Rocky View School Division students transported pay fees. We also transport Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School students in our Division.

ASBALE, Joanne Van Donzel

- Working with Gary Hicks re May 29th workshop in Lethbridge. All trustees and administrators are invited.
- Workshop will be planned when symposiums are being held. This will give more time for visioning and planning.

REPORTS

Alberta Education, David Woloshyn

“Building extraordinary, high-impact boards is a team activity” – Doug Eadie

- Bouquets:
 1. for the wonderful Edwin Parr event, to the Foothills’ winner – congratulations, and congratulations to the Planning Committee.
 2. to Foothills School Division for the visit from the Governor General.
 3. to Foothills School Division for the Celebration of AISI.

4. to CRCSSD re Bridges Program for Refugees funded by Advanced Education.
 5. to Terry Patey for her graciousness and hospitality.
- A report was submitted to the Minister by the province's High School Completion Task Force. This will be followed up by a series of youth roundtables and a symposium September 24 and 25.
 - Accountability Pillar – appreciated the feedback we received. Re: the Nine Key Themes: a website and fact sheets are being developed; Survey Measures are looking at the survey questions to see how they can be improved; Non-Survey – have set up a committee; Need More Data - will be working on securing more data; Change Deadline - done; Flexibility - open, transparent and consistent reporting is the key, we want it done in a consistent manner; Phase In – will be done in one format; Remove – will continue; Provide: will prepare a supplemental page.

Comment: From Jerry Muelaner: Attended “IPAK” conference. They state class size is a myth, it is a working condition not a learning condition. Complying to the class size initiative is a struggle for boards. We need off the hook on compliance. We also feel our administrators should have attended with us.

Response: We are still working towards achieving these targets. 18.5 is the target on K-3 and hold the line on the other levels.

- Pandemic Planning – ASBA is holding a session in September in Edmonton. Alberta Education, in consultation with Alberta Health and Wellness has prepared a question and answer document and a quick overview to assist stakeholders.
- Teacher Development and Certification Branch – symposium to be held May 31, 2006 at King's University College in Edmonton. Each jurisdiction is invited to send its superintendent and two guests, one of whom is to be a beginning teacher.
- Efficacy of Teacher Preparation and Beginning Teachers' Professional Development – document is ready to be published and should be distributed to jurisdictions, etc. in Summer 2006.
- Stakeholder Technology Branch – Alberta is the first Canadian province to be featured at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival to be held this summer in Washington, D.C.
- Governance and Program Delivery – revisions to the Information Bulletin 3.5.1: Review by the Minister has been approved.
- Stakeholder Technology Branch – “Provincial Approach to Student Information (PASI)” has been initiated to explore and evaluate the collection of student information across the province. Phases One and Two are now complete and Phase Three is scheduled to be completed March 2007.

- Video-Conferencing (VC) Best Practice Videos now have six resources available that deal with best practices in a video-conference classroom and provide advice from educators.
- The Renewed Funding Framework is expected to be a model. Presently four sub-committees have been formed to review Transportation Factors, Social Factors, Jurisdictional/Environmental/Other Factors and Plant Operations and Maintenance. All issues will be examined from a province-wide perspective to ensure funding continues to be allocated equitably.
- All boards must have an off-campus education policy and all off-campus sites must be approved each year.

Edwin Parr Committee, Trudy Hauser

- It was extremely hard to pick a winner this year.
- Felt the evening was a great success.
- Thanks to Terry, Wendy and Maureen for putting the event together.
- Recommendation: Set up an alternate person for next year for the committee.

ASBA, Maureen Kubinec

- Have spent a full week in Calgary lately celebrating teaching.
- NSBA and CSBA – we have information on this and a session set up this spring following the General Meeting for you to come and learn.
- Will be hosting CSBA in Calgary next July and will be soliciting support from zones. We have secured Justin Trudeau as our opening speaker. It is the 100th anniversary.
- The ATA, CASS, Home & School and ASBA met on Early Intervention Initiative. Are looking to advocate on this. It affects high school completion.
- The Deputy Minister held a “visioning session” – planning for 20 years in the future.
- Sent a letter to the Minister on bargaining issues. We haven’t heard anything since March.
- Asked about a regional association – 38 contracts expire in 2007.
- Governance Structure Review: starts with a Board Chair meeting in September. Everybody has the issue of “voice”. Will think about the fact that new chairs are elected in October. Hopefully, by-law changes are ready by June 2007.
- Taxes: working to come up with something to take to the Government.
- ASB Funding Sufficiency Report: talks about what it is costing us, how increases have occurred, etc. Hoping to be ready for the SGM.
- A special thank you to Terry and Maureen.
- Elections are in June.

- SGM – registrations have begun. Elections are Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. Monday night's "Dine Around the World" is being changed a little.
- Doug Gardner was given an award – he is the only trustee to receive this award.
- Zone 5 would like to extend their thanks to Maureen Munro.

ASBA Zone Report, Maureen Munro

- Heather Wellwood will run for Board chair.
- The Board appointed Jerry Muelaner, Catherine Jensen and Orville Borys to the ASBIE Board of Directors for a term to expire August 31, 2009.
- The Board appointed Pat Aitchison as the ASBA representative on the Teacher Salary Qualifications Board for a two year term to expire June 30, 2008.
- The Board of Directors adopted an approach for Governance Review.
- The Board of Directors adopted Terms of Reference for Small Urban Boards study.
- The Metro Study Terms of Reference were clarified.
- ASBA will take no further action re benefits for trustees not covered by health plans.
- ASBA proposed a new approach to credit enrolment units.

CLL, Serafino Scarpino

- Next session is this summer at the University of Calgary, July 7-9.

Teacher Preparation, Rhonda Longson

- No report.

Field Experiences Policy Advisory Committee

- Meeting held May 1st at the U of C.
- The Faculty of Education as a whole will undergo a formal review this year. The last one was in 1992. One of the elements is a conference in November that everyone is encouraged to attend. It will be co-hosted with McGill University and will be held at the Sheraton Eau Claire. Attendance will be limited to about 200.
- Re Alberta Education's request, the U of C will ensure that all students graduate with a course in Special Ed. The 4th year of the program will include tutorials on Special Ed and Inclusive Practices beginning 2007/08 year.
- Applications are up a bit with 1100 being received and 550 being accepted. This year 406 teachers will graduate.

- Students will be encouraged to gain an understanding of teaching in rural areas. In year two, the Faculty will look at putting a cohort of students in rural areas.
- U of C uses an inquiry based technique of teaching while some schools want them to train teachers for particular methods (i.e. the Traditional Learning Centres). U of C believes they need to be responsible for leadership, trying to educate on a broader basis with the future in mind. Statistics show students having inquiry based learning opportunities do far better than average on provincial tests and are better problem solvers.

Calgary Regional Planning Consortium – Joanne Van Donzel

- The Symposium has been moved to January from October.

ASBA Committee on Drug Awareness, Doug Gardner

- See handout.

Moved by Joanne Van Donzel to accept the reports as read.

Carried.

Election of ASBA Zone 5 Director

Nominations were called three times for the ASBA Zone 5 Director.

Jerry Muelaner from Foothills School Division nominated Doug Gardner.

Maureen Munro moved that nominations cease.

Doug Gardner from Foothills School Division was acclaimed as the ASBA Zone 5 Director.

Nominations were called three times for the ASBA Zone 5 Alternate Director.

Wendy Metzger from Rocky View School Division nominated Maureen Munro.

Faye Lippit moved that nominations cease.

Maureen Munro from Rocky View School Division was acclaimed as the ASBA Zone 5 Alternate Director.

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Nominating Committee for October 20, 2006, Elections

Nicole Buret and Carroll Plummer were appointed to the committee.

PRESENTATIONS

ASBA Budget Presentation by Heather Rogers and Karen Holloway.

Presentation by Dr. Hans Smits – University of Calgary.