

**Alberta School Boards Association – Zone 5**  
**October 27, 2006**  
**Rocky View School Division**  
**2651 Chinook Winds Drive SW, Airdrie, AB**

**In Attendance**

Joanne Van Donzel	Christ the Redeemer
Lynn Ferguson	Calgary Board of Education
Nancy Close	Calgary Board of Education
Joe Frank	Alberta Education
David Woloshyn	Alberta Education
Jerry Muelaner	Foothills School Division
Sheila Taylor	Prairie Land School Division
John Neill	Prairie Land School Division
Don Thomas	Rocky View School Division
Serafino Scarpino	Calgary Catholic Board
Anne-Marie Boucher	CSSA
Faye Lippitt	Foothills School Division
Doug Gardner	Foothills School Division
Rhonda Longson	Foothills School Division
Sheila Snowsell	Canadian Rockies
Maureen L. Munro	Rocky View School Division
Christene Howard	Golden Hills School Division
Joyce Bazant	Golden Hills School Division
Wendy Metzger	Rocky View School Division
Trudy Hauser	Rocky View School Division
Heather Welwood	ASBA
Donna Engel	ASBA
Sylvie Pinard	CSCFSA

**Call to Order**

The meeting was opened by Joanne Van Donzel who welcomed everyone. Round table introductions were made.

**Approval of Agenda**

Under “Order of Reports”, change “ASBA Zone Director – Doug Gardner” to be first.

**Maureen Munro moved the agenda be approved as amended.**

**Carried.**

### **Approval of Minutes**

**John Neill moved that the minutes be approved with changes that were previously given.**

**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, Serafino Scarpino**

- Our Board is very quiet these days.
- Enrolment numbers are up to 45,000.
- Achievement tests – above the provincial average on 24 items.
- Transportation continues to be a problem with a \$3,000,000 deficit.
- Fund raising has been turned over to a task force. We have made an agreement with the Bishop. The task force will come up with ways to raise funds and will report to us in March.
- We had an interesting meeting with Mayor Bronconnier. He made a couple of presentations to our Board and we asked some poignant questions. We felt we didn't get good answers and we told him we would want tax monies returned to us, not to another governmental agency.

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

- We met with Mayor Bronconnier on September 19<sup>th</sup>, when he presented his initiative "A Plan for the Future – Property Tax Infrastructure Plan" which he noted was an important public policy issue that needs to be debated. We offered comments and observations and the Mayor fielded questions.
- We unanimously elected Pat Cochrane as new Board Chair and Carol Bazinet as Vice Chair on October 17<sup>th</sup>.
- "Education Matters" our public education trust, is hosting the first-ever Distinguished Alumni awards dinner on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> to honour CBE's leading public education graduates. The new 2006 CBE Distinguished Alumni is Dr. Martha

Cohen, a graduate of Central High School. A new fund, "Education Matters – the Future Leaders Fund", will be launched at this evening and proceeds will support enhancement programs and scholarships. Keynote address will be by Brian Keating of the Calgary Zoo and his nephew Steven, a recent CBE high school valedictorian.

- Student enrolment is up by 1,565 students over last year making the total 98,496 for this school year.
- Last year, CBE students exceeded provincial results on 83% of all achievement test measures. 17% of Alberta's students are from CBE and this is a strong testament to our continued commitment to excellence in public education.
- English as a Second Language students achieved 95% of all measures. CBE students make up 49% of all ESL students writing achievement tests in Alberta.
- CBE Diploma examination results were very good with up to 47% of students achieving the standard of excellence. These CBE students make up to 20% of students in Alberta writing diploma exams and is 10% above the mean.
- The Board will focus on "communication" this year with the trustees' website being updated and better on-line communication through a trustee e-mail magazine/newsletter to members of our communities, school councils and corporate partners.
- Our Chief Superintendent is consumed with succession planning because of high numbers of retirements.
- A grade 2-3 teacher at Prince of Wales Elementary School, Ms. Jennifer Johnson-George, was one of 6 teachers in Canada to receive the Governor General's Award for Excellent in teaching Canadian history.
- We believe our positions advocated by us re jurisdictional issue are correct and we believe the September 1 ruling must be appealed. Consequently, we have instructed our legal counsel to file the necessary court documents and an appeal on Sept. 20. We have also written to the Minister of Education asking him to respond to the following:
  1. Do you believe this fundamental alteration of a decades-old approach to public school board governance in our province is in the best interests of public education?
  2. Do you and your officials support the practice of school boards extending their governance role beyond their geographic boundaries as established by the Minister?
  3. Will you recommend an amendment to the School Act to clarify the jurisdictional parameters of publicly elected school boards such that the historic understanding and practice of school boards regarding sole authority to govern in their jurisdiction will be upheld?

- Received a fairly large number of e-mails after the B.C. school fees decision was announced. Would like to know what kind of response the other boards have had to the announcement?
- Teacher transfer hearings issue – how many do other boards have and what are the issues?

Comment: PLSD has very few but did have one this year and ended up paying a moving allowance.

Comment: One of the reasons CBE is asking is that we allow teachers to appeal, but have found not everyone does this. CBE is seeing some arising, but it seems there are a few issues about this.

Comment: Regarding the B.C. decision, parents are very interested in school fees.

Comment: Calgary Catholic has had no interest shown.

Comment: The Minister sent out an e-mail a few days ago which encouraged us to speak to our public, but perhaps we should “let sleeping dogs lie”.

Comment: CBE is involved. School fees are always a big deal with us. We have a group that feels very strongly that there should be no school fees at all.

Comment: RVSD has a few. There is always an undercurrent of public opinion. About 3 years ago, we decided to only raise fees by 2% and we haven't heard too much since.

Comment: This is a legislative question and the School Act allows board to charge fees. Work is still being done at the provincial level. The Minister's letter was sent to ensure fees are reasonable.

Comment: There are always parents who do not pay.

Comment: We have a waiver system, but find some of the schools with the poorest parents have the highest rate of being paid.

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

- Enrolments are up and we are planning to hire 3.5 teachers and 3 T.A.'s.
- We announced our settlement with the teachers on October 17<sup>th</sup> and we are very happy to have this finished. We can now go to an alternative carrier for benefits.
- We met with our school council chairs on October 10<sup>th</sup>. We have built up a relationship with them.

- We had a Board retreat on October 21 and focused on public awareness. PLC is our no. 1 item. One result is our success at Exshaw School (literacy initiative through AISI funding). We are now applying these principles to other schools. This is where we see our PLC going. A goal is to create a common PLC time. In the past, we had every Friday afternoon to work on this. This year, we are having meetings with everyone to come up with something that works.

Comment: After the Fraser Report came out and Exshaw was not at the top of the list, it was agreed that someone would invite the Calgary Herald to come out and do a review. This turned out to be a very good idea.

Comment: It all came from the Fraser Report that says, "We want to report all successes."

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

- Mary Stengler remains our Chair.

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

- We held our Organizational Meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup>.
- We are still dealing with a lot of bus issues from our motion in June. We stopped all grandfathering in June.
- We held a ground breaking at our Red Deer Lake School.
- Our achievement results were good.
- We held an Admin Retreat in Banff in October.
- Our board has discussed the ASBA policies.
- We have found Outward Bound a very exiting program.

#### **Golden Hills School Division, Christine Painter**

- We elected a new Board Chair, Christene Howard
- We held a by-election in Strathmore.
- We are working with Christ the Redeemer re solutions for Drumheller.
- Enrolments are up in Strathmore.
- We are in a remediation process at the moment.

Comments: We are looking at swapping schools with Christ the Redeemer and doing some modernizations in Drumheller. The flood plain there restricts us somewhat.

**CFCFSA, Sylvie Pinard**

- Carrol Plummer resigned as she is moving to Europe. We regret losing her and are now down to 2 trustees to try to attend all the meetings. It was already very difficult with 3 trustees. We now have 3 new trustees (Banff, Cochrane and Calgary).
- We have not had an organizational meeting yet.
- Enrolments are up by 13% which is welcome but gives us a lot of headaches. We are hopeful that the government will help us.
- We held a ground-breaking ceremony with Christ the Redeemer last Wednesday in Canmore.
- Transportation continues to be an issue. We increased bus drivers' salaries.
- We are following Calgary Catholic's lead in fund raising.

**CSSA, Anne-Marie Boucher**

- Our registrations are up more than 35%. Therefore, we have revised the ways in which to meet our infrastructure priority in Calgary and held a public meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup> on this matter.
- On October 24<sup>th</sup>, both southern francophone boards met with the Mayor of Calgary to discuss his plans for the City and also to give him some information on Francophone boards; who we are and what our needs are.
- At our organizational meeting, Anne-Marie Boucher from Calgary was re-elected president and Lise Piché-Moor from Medicine Hat was elected vice-president.
- At the AGM of the Fédération Nationale des Conseils Scolaires Francophones (FNCSF), the francophone equivalent of CSBA, Nicole Buret, trustee with our board, was re-elected 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president of the association.
- On October 4-6, all our elementary teachers received the level 1 training from the primary program (K-6) of the International Baccalaureate program. This program's philosophy is a great fit to our vision and mission and our board has chosen it as a means to attain our objectives.
- This year, the CSSA will hold its retreat in Canmore in December and will review the elementary program.

Comment: What happens to students who don't want the International Baccalaureate program?

Answer: Implementing the program is more about philosophy and really is for everyone. We don't see a problem with this. We feel this is the best way to get students to reach their potential.

Comment: This program could be in every school at the primary level. However, why pay an outside organization to do this?

Answer: We paid for the PD for the training. Our goal is to get this program in and see an increase in student learning. It is a good way to get excellent PD for our teachers. This is a board decision. Now teachers have had training, they are really getting on board.

Comment: Great way to enhance learning and PD.

Comment: We send special teachers out and they bring it back.

Comment: Millarville is using AISI money to do this for K-8. Teachers are very excited about it. We are trying to get away from the elite part of this program and make it for all students.

Comment: CBE is trying to do an in-house model based on the same.

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

- Held our organizational meeting and John is still the Chair.
- Our enrolment is up by 10 students.
- We sent each PC leadership candidate a list of 9 questions we would like answered to help determine which candidate to support. These have been published in our local papers to aid our stakeholders when they have opportunities to address the candidates. Trustees hope to attend some of the forums.
- We have released our utilization study and it is available on our website.
- Our Board and school administrators spent a productive weekend learning new methods of assessment. They left very enthusiastic and ready to share and implement these strategies in the division schools.

Comment: We would like to hear what answers you get from the leadership questions.

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

- We are having many changes in our division and are holding by-elections for Wards 3 and 5 on November 13<sup>th</sup>.
- We have appointed Greg Bass as Superintendent of Schools effective January 1, 2007. He comes from Buffalo Trails Public Schools and has been an educator for 18 years, first at Northlands and Elk Island, then Buffalo Trails. Terry Gunderson very capably guided us through the search process.
- We have approved a new Calendar Development Process that allows for more opportunities for parents and the school community to provide input.
- We are presently trying to allocate the IMR funds – we have a significant backlog of urgent projects that the funding provided will not cover.

- We held our Long Service and Retirement Dinner in this room and it was a very enjoyable evening.
- We held our organization meeting and Trudy Hauser remains Chair, with Wendy Metzger as Vice-Chair and Maureen Munro as Zone 5 representative.
- Our Results Report was very favourable.

## **REPORTS**

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

- Representatives are encouraged to attend and participate in the ASBA Governance Review. The next meeting is being held during the FGM on November 21 from 9 a.m. to noon.
- Please discuss with your board the 12 proposed issues and the 64 directives for action that will be debated at the FGM. This info will be e-mailed to boards by October 29<sup>th</sup> and is on the ASBA website.
- Please communicate to ASBA your board feedback re CASS as a Profession.
- Please follow the progress of the Ministers Task Force on high school completion
- Input Opportunities:
  - a) Boards are asked for input into ASBA's policy advisor process. Current policies under review: 1. Anaphylaxis – individuals with severe allergies; 2. School Fees.
  - b) Small Urban Boards Study and the Metro Board Study (Phase 2) – report is posted on the ASBA website.
- ASBA Committee on Drug Awareness – committee organized into 2 groups; the drug awareness visioning group and the project working group. ASBA and AADAC are the only two organizations supporting the committee. AADAC is helping through financial grants to the pilot projects, plus 2 staff members give guidance on alcohol and drug issues and programs, and ASBA is helping in a supportive fashion by paying for the expenses of the trustees on the committee and for an outside facilitator. One person from Alberta Education will be involved with the project working group. The committee needs a broader representation with organizations that are prepared to sponsor projects. They have adopted the following Vision Statement: "Create a proactive stance against the misuse of drugs through education and community partnerships". Currently, the Better Together Schools Project has 6 pilot projects underway located at schools in Lethbridge, Legal/Morinville, Brooks, Peace River, Wainwright, and Drumheller.

Comment: Regarding the CASS discussion, a satisfactory solution has been achieved. They are just about ready to send out to boards. Everything is worked out and it should be out before Christmas.

**ASBA, Heather Welwood**

- When you get the policies and the Directive for Action policy report, you will find it quite large with considerable background in it and will take some time to go through. A bus motion will be on the floor again. Some things we will ask you to keep because they have a time frame; some things will be deleted because they are finished. Amendments or reassigned motions can be changed a little or there can be a change to policy statements, e.g. Minister of Education signing off on new superintendents.
- Governance Review – if you cannot attend the meetings, please ensure that your voice will be heard. There will be a broad range from complete review to no changes.
- Teacher Prep is dealing more with institutions that are preparing our teachers. They are talking about teacher graduates and what they need. They are discussing K-12 method curriculum. Boards will be surveyed again about their teacher graduates and things you feel we need to see. The Director of Curriculum may come out to speak. Any changes to curriculum must be coordinated.
- The Auditor General of Alberta gave an emphasis on education in his Annual Report. It can be accessed at [www.oag.ab.ca](http://www.oag.ab.ca), then click on “Reports – Volume 2” and go to page 61. It is a little controversial but some good things came out of this report. He looked at 13 boards and the whole budgeting process. He recommended school boards do a second report and talks about kinds of qualifications and reports needed. Therefore, ASBA will do a paper report available in the spring.
- FGM registration is on line.
- Candidates Forum didn’t go as well as we thought. We were hoping to have an online forum but candidates weren’t comfortable. We may try this out again with something else.
- Please recognize and thank the MLA’s because we received a considerable amount of money this year.
- We are working with Home School Councils and the ATA re junior kindergarten for students at risk. If boards are offered this, they should be funded.
- Long service awards from the ASBA went to Karen Harries and Larry Maertz. Congratulations from the ASBA.

**Alberta Education, David Woloshyn**

- The quote, “Keep on, never give up. That has been the policy of most of those who have succeeded.” is apt. Keep doing the great things you are doing.
- Congratulations to all the boards for such a smooth start.
- Accountability Pillar Update – in May, jurisdictions will receive school level reports with evaluations on all measures for which there are data. The evaluation methodology will be the same as that used for the jurisdiction measures. School

level evaluations are for the use of the jurisdictions and there is no requirement for reporting these evaluations. No fall release of the assessment of priority schools, instead the school level evaluations of the Provincial Achievement Test and the Diploma Examinations will be used as the basis for determining priority schools and will be provided in May. The reports received in May will feature a “drill-down” capability to allow jurisdictions to move from the overview of jurisdiction results to the school level and into the specific pieces of information making up the data.

- School Councils Regulation has been extended from June 30, 2006 to June 30, 2007 which allows Alberta Justice sufficient time to draft the revisions.
- School Council Resource Manual is being distributed to all public, francophone and charter schools this September and replaces the School Council Resource Manual (1995) and the School Council Handbook (1999).
- The CAA initiative is progressing according to schedule, and this year computer-based assessments and field tests for the overall courses and units of instruction for the four core subjects from Grades 3-12 will be completed.
- Alberta Education conducts surveys every 5 years regarding the efficacy of teacher preparation institutions’ programs and the professional development opportunities for beginning teachers. Principal and teacher surveys are being conducted.
- AISI Annual Conference is February 12-13, 2007. Details to be announced.
- Policy 1.2.1 – Locally Developed/Acquired and Authorized Junior and Senior High School Complementary Courses revisions are not yet completed
- Outcomes related to CPR becomes part of the PE 10 Program of Studies this fall. Instruction of CPR requires qualified personnel and instructor certification must be maintained and renewed every three years.
- Mandatory implementation of daily physical activity from grades 1-9 began in September, 2005. Two resources, Daily Physical Activity: A Handbook for Grades 1-9, and Creating a Desire to Participate are available.

### **CLL, Serafino Scarpino**

- Unable to attend year-end meeting but have the package from the meeting.
- October 19 session is presented by the Superintendent of CBE.
- Next upcoming sessions are November 31, February 7, and March 14.

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

- No report.

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

- No report.

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

- See attached meeting minutes
- The Calgary Regional Consortium is the sole distributor of professional development funding for the Dept. of Education of Alberta. The CRC also manages money for professional development from other sources.
- They are presently focused on social studies. Delivery methods depend on geographic locations and needs. In-service clients stay on topic for 5 years as research shows that affecting change takes 5 years from introduction to implementation. Future focus will be leadership development.
- Please submit feedback from Zone 5 re program needs, delivery process and designation of funding to me at next Zone 5 meeting or e-mail to [jvandonzel@shaw.ca](mailto:jvandonzel@shaw.ca).

**Edwin Parr Committee – Trudy Hauser**

- It is important to have a 4<sup>th</sup> member on this committee as backup.
- Need clarity on what Zone 5 Chair does and what documentation is provided to Edmonton. We need some guidelines. The Committee does the interviews and the Chair does everything else. We need some post winner forms filled out. A report will be filed at the next Zone Meeting by the Committee.
- An Edwin Parr dinner is being held in November for the Chairs and the winner.

**Labour Relations, John Neill**

- Canadian Rockies recently settled with a 3.13% increase and an added Health Spending Account.
- In 2005-2006 nine boards settled. So far, in 2006-2007, 8 boards have settled. See attachment.

**ASBALE, Joanne Van Donzel**

- Please ensure you have a delegate to the November 19<sup>th</sup> ASBA General Meeting, to be held in the Yukon Room from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- Next meeting will be held January 29-30 Strategic Planning Symposium, put on by the CRC.

**Moved by Faye Lippitt that the reports be adopted.**

**Carried.**

**Financial Statements**

- The Financial Statements were presented.
- The budget needs to be decided by the new executive

**Moved by Sheila Taylor to accept the Financial Statement as presented.**

**Carried.**

**Elections**

**a) Nominations for Chair of Zone 5**

Wendy Metzger was nominated by Trudy Hauser.  
No other nominations were presented.  
Gerry Muelaner moved the nominations cease.

**Wendy Metzger was acclaimed the Chair of Zone 5.**

**b) Nominations for Vice-Chair of Zone 5**

Joanne VanDonzel was nominated.  
No other nominations were presented.

**Joanne VanDonzel was acclaimed the Vice-Chair of Zone 5.**

**The meeting was turned over to the new chair, Wendy Metzger.**

**Appointments to Committees:**

**CLL**

Decision to be made at next meeting.

**Teacher Preparation**

Rhonda Longson

**Field Experiences Policy Advisory Committee**

Faye Lippitt

**Calgary Regional Planning Consortium**

Joanne VanDonzel

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**Edwin Parr Committee**

Rhonda Longson  
Sheila Snowsell  
Lynn Ferguson  
Anne-Marie Boucher, Alternate

**Labour Relations**

Jerry Muelaner

**ASBALE**

Joanne VanDonzel

**Moved by Nancy Close to strike a PD Information Committee with Terms of Reference.**

**Carried.**

**PD Committee**

Nancy Close  
Serafino Scarpino  
Joanne VanDonzel

**Presentation**

Presentation by Dr. Jim Dueck “And the data says...”

The meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.

**Meetings and Hosting Boards**

December 1, 2006 - at Calgary Separate School Board, 1000 – 5 Avenue SW, Calgary  
January 5, 2007 - Calgary Board of Education, Coventry Hills Superstore, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor,  
100 Country Village Road NE, Calgary  
February 2, 2007 - at Ecole de la Source, 360 – 94 Avenue SE, Calgary  
March 2, 2007 - Calgary Board of Education, Coventry Hills Superstore, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor,  
100 Country Village Road NE, Calgary  
April 20 - at Ecole de la Source, 360 – 94 Avenue SE, Calgary  
May 17 - Edwin Parr Awards and Banquet, Greenwood Inn  
May 18 - Greenwood Inn, 3515 – 26 Street NE, Calgary  
June 1 - Planning Meeting at Calgary Board of Education, Coventry Hills  
Superstore, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 100 Country Village Road NE, Calgary