

**Alberta School Boards Association – Zone 5**  
**April 20, 2007**  
**Rocky View School Division**  
**2651 Chinook Winds Drive SW**  
**Airdrie, AB T4B 0B4**

**In Attendance**

Wendy Metzger	Rocky View School Division
Roy Goulet	CSCFSA
Anne-Marie Boucher	CSSA
Maureen L. Munro	Rocky View School Division
Sheila Taylor	Prairie Land Regional Division
John Neill	Prairie Land Regional Division
Larry Maerz	Golden Hills School Division
Don Thomas	Rocky View School Division
Sylvia Eggerer	Rocky View School Division
Faye Lippitt	Foothills School Division
Lynn Ferguson	Calgary Board of Education
Joe Frank	Alberta Education
Jerry Muelaner	Foothills School Division
Bev LaPeare	Rocky View School Division
Marge Belcourt	Calgary Catholic School Division
Diane Boutin	CSCFSA

**Call to Order**

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

**Approval of Agenda**

**Moved by John Neill that the agenda be approved as circulated.**

**Carried.**

**Approval of Minutes**

**Moved by Roy Goulet that the minutes of February 2, 2007, be accepted as circulated.**

**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, Marge Belcourt**

- In less than three days, the Calgary Catholic Board employees collected over one thousand blankets for the homeless and delivered them to the Calgary Drop-In Centre, the Calgary Mustard Seed, and the Inn from the Cold.
- The Calgary Catholic Board was honoured as the recipient of one of 15 awards presented at this year's Alberta Business Awards of Distinction celebration held in Edmonton on February 21. Calgary Catholic was awarded the "Workers Compensation Board Alberta Safety Turnaround Award of Distinction" for its efforts in developing and implementing a district-wide Occupational Health and Safety program.

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

- A number of our students in grades 11 and 12 went to Vimy Ridge this year to partake in the ceremonies. Each student researched a different fallen soldier. They were very impressed.
- The Calgary Board of Education met with the Minister of Education on April 13<sup>th</sup> at their Centre for Excellence.
- The Board held a presentation on English language to give them a more complete knowledge. They invited a number of guests to share in this presentation and found it a very valuable meeting.
- The Board is involved in consideration of school closures. Greenwood School English and French programs were closed, and Highwood School has been left open. The Board will be involved in still more closure issues.

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

- No report.

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

- No report.

### **Golden Hills School Division, Larry Maerz**

- The Golden Hills Board has done much soul searching on the issue of the Huzzar High School closure. A number of our trustees have received considerable pressure and abuse. We have been involved in one-on-one meetings with the families of the 21 students who are affected.
- The Reaching and Teaching Conference will be held on May 3-4, 2007.
- The Board has settled with the teaching staff and has a three year contract. This contract included a \$400 per year health spending account and no new working conditions were included.
- We are waiting for the provincial budget and we think it doesn't look good for us.
- We formed a number of accommodation committees. It was especially needed in Strathmore. We are now working on Trochu and Three Hills.
- Our international program is growing. Some of our people feel there are too many international students.
- A number of our students went to Vimy Ridge for the ceremonies

### **Foothills School Division, Jerry Muelaner**

- We had a wonderful grand opening of our Heritage Heights School. The displays were remarkable. The MLA's attended and we had an open discussion with them later.
- Okotoks has grown at a great rate and we have asked for a new school or else for 19 portables.

### **CSCFSA, Diane Boutin**

- We have restructured our administration and now have added a Deputy Superintendent who will start in September.
- Construction in Canmore has started and we are ready to go.

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

- We have been trying to establish a common schedule for all our schools. We have now decided not to continue this year as it appears to have insurmountable problems. We thought it would bring our community of learners together. Next year, we will try this again.
- There was an article in the Globe and Mail on our Brooks' principal re immigrant populations in our school. The article highlighted the fact that the principal personally assisted one of the students to get a job that would work for him along with attending school.
- We are working on hiring a Deputy Superintendent.
- Our video conferencing is set up and next Board meeting will be by video conference.
- CSSA has two high school groups in Europe right now.

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

- Prairie Land Regional Division has joined the EBA.
- We held a stakeholders meeting on Wednesday night and discussed our utilization plan. Our stakeholders were pleased to hear the information and be involved.
- Our entire school division rolled out our campaign re drugs and tobacco. 80% of our students are not users.

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

- Our Division is now publishing “Board Shorts” which can be found on our website.
- We are working on our Field Trip policy.
- We have completed an incremental increase on Board fees.
- We moved our Board meetings to one Thursday a month.
- We will be doing a community planning meeting as well. We have found this very valuable. We have two more meetings to hold and then will try to collate all the information we have received. We will use this information to try to shape our Division around the issues we feel are most important. We will then try to stay on this course.
- We will be offering new courses in September.
- We have established a policy to now include pre-kindergarten.
- We redid our superintendent policy and are now bringing that into effect.
- We went to our Administrators Association Meeting last night. Dr. Charlie Webber and Matt Brown were speakers.
- George McDougall high school students are putting on a play in school violence which made the international news last night.

Comment: When closing schools, you need to look at the catchment areas of the schools involved.

Comment: Some groups are going on field trips without permission which is very dangerous for the boards.

**Moved by Faye Lippitt that the board reports be accepted as read.**

**Carried.**

## **REPORTS**

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

- ASBA is requesting that feedback on the Governance Review be returned before May 1.
- Karen Holloway, Director Zone 4, will provide information about the proposed ASBA 2007-08 budget at the regular Zone 5 meeting on May 18. School boards will be asked to approve a budget that includes a 1% increase in membership fees

and an increase in fee-for-services rates. The budget proposed by the ASBA Board of Directors will see the ASBA's total annual budget increase by \$286,193 (6.6%). School boards will vote on the budget at the Spring General Meeting, June 4, 2007. Details available at [www.asba.ab.ca](http://www.asba.ab.ca).

- A brochure titled "Become a School Trustee" and a handbook outlining strategies for promoting the 2007 election will be sent to school board offices. School boards are asked to create a link to the School Board Election information site. Materials posted on the ASBA web site will include newsletter articles, speeches for service clubs and school councils and a letter to the editor, which school boards can adapt for local use.
- ASBA 2007-2010 Strategic Plan identified five key results to focus on:
  - i) ASBA members will accept the proposed governance model that emerges from the governance review.
  - ii) ASBA will give school boards resources to help them raise public awareness of and support for the role of trustees and school boards.
  - iii) ASBA will address three advocacy areas: high school completion, transportation and infrastructure.
  - iv) School boards will come to a shared understanding about how choice is and might be delivered in Alberta.
  - v) School boards will understand their responsibilities with regard to finances.

The second quarter report detailing progress on the 2006-09 strategic plan is available.

- ASBA labour relations consultant, Dave Johnson, has accepted a position as Associate Superintendent of Human Resources with Sturgeon School Division.
- Reminder: ASBA is hosting the CSBA convention in Calgary on July 3-5. This is an online registration only and the link will close 4:30 p.m. on June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Calling Zone chairs in for a meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>. It's our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. The granite apple will be on display.
- Thanks to Don for his report. The committee is shaping up well.
- There will be a pre-conference on "Metro Matters". Registration is available on-line.

Comment: Have heard that Justin Trudeau can't make his Saskatchewan date, so have arranged to have a contingency plan in case he is unable to make our July congress date.

Comment: Should we, as a Zone, be sending a letter to the Minister re his budget comments?

Comment: We don't have a lot of information on how this aligns with the AUMA agreement. Jerry Muelaner will be speaking with them today.

A discussion ensued on the Provincial budget.

### **Alberta Education, Joe Frank**

- “Two barriers to realize human potential are resignation and dependency.” – Dennis Sparks.
- Alberta Children and Youth Initiative – a resource kit has been developed that contains selected strategies and information to assist parents and communities to create and promote language rich environments. They will be distributed through Parent Link Centres. Two different Talk Boxes have been developed, one to target families and those who work with preschoolers (ages 0-5), and the second to target families and those who work with elementary children (ages 5-12).
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Showcase 2007 will be held May 2 in Edmonton and May 4 in Calgary.
- The Alberta Mental Health Board received funding from Alberta Health and Wellness to provide training in Mental Health First Aid in Alberta’s schools. There is sufficient funding to provide training to one person in every Alberta school by 2009. Schools and/or school jurisdictions will identify people to be trained, replacing them at work if necessary, and paying travel costs. It can be delivered over two full days or four half days. This relates to reducing family violence and preventing bullying. The program teaches people how to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health problems, provide initial help, and guide a person towards appropriate professional help. One in three Albertans will have a mental health problem in their lifetime. Half of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by the age of 14. The earlier a problem is detected and treated, the better the outcome.
- Re the ASBA Results Survey – most respondents are “very satisfied”. Concerned about #4 and #5. Some found the questions difficult to answer. Perhaps the questionnaire was built for all groups but should be more specific. The French version arrived very late.
- Sharon Kimmell has retired and Sylvia Munch is taking over.

### **CLL, Larry Maerz**

- The next board meeting comes up May 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The Reaching and Teaching Consortium will be May 8<sup>th</sup>.

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

- No report.

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

- The student-led conference was very well run.
- Will be out of town for the next meeting.

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

- No report.

### **Edwin Parr Committee**

- One committee representative has a conflict as her son's teacher has been nominated. A discussion ensued. Consensus is that she should withdraw from judging on this committee.
- Please get your cheques in as soon as possible. Numbers are needed.
- Have 6 teachers nominated for the Edwin Parr award.

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

- EBA is up and running and now has 12 members. A committee of three has prepared a collective agreement culled from the 12 agreements. All the boards were faxed by Barnett House. It is felt they want to carve away individual boards.
- Concerned about the Minister's statements. We will not be able to complete more than one year deals. He also has commented in the bargaining process and we will pursue this.

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

- No report

### **Professional Development**

- No report.
- Nancy is no longer on this committee.

**Moved by Maureen Munro that the reports be accepted as read.**

**Carried.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **July CSBA Congress Update, Don Thomas**

- The Stampede Breakfast will be held the morning of Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, just outside the hotel. They will allow an outside group to prepare the food. It will run from approximately 7 -8:30 a.m. with cleanup commencing around 8:30 a.m.
- A preliminary list of volunteers has been prepared. Thank you to those volunteers already on board.
- A preliminary rotational schedule for breakfast duties (flipping pancakes, pouring juice, keeping supplies ready for delegates to fix their breakfast, etc) has been prepared.

Rotation One (7-7:45 a.m.)

CBE  
Calgary Separate  
Catholic Francophone  
Christ the Redeemer  
Greater Francophone  
Foothills  
Golden Hills  
Prairie Land  
Rocky View

Rotation Two (7:45-8:30 a.m.)

CBE  
Calgary Separate  
Catholic Francophone  
Christ the Redeemer  
Greater Francophone  
Foothills  
Golden Hills  
Prairie Land  
Rocky View

It could work well if one person wanted to take the whole shift as well. It will be necessary for us to try to arrange French speakers to accommodate our delegates from Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

- The western “shoot-out” has been determined to be too costly (\$1,200).
- Southland Transportation has agreed to sponsor all the busing from the Westin Hotel to Simons Valley Ranch on the evening of Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Cardinal Coach has agreed to a \$500 sponsorship for entertainment at the function at Symons Valley Ranch.
- ZyTech Industries Ltd. has agreed to a \$500 sponsorship for the breakfast or other function as needed.
- Still need:
  - arrangements for the supplies and burners are not finalized. Any help or contacts would be appreciated.
  - a cost for hats has not been determined or sponsored.
  - more volunteers to help serve on the morning of Wednesday, July 4.
  - more sponsors for food and entertainment.
- The \$4,000 we have will not be enough. We are looking for help to defray some of the costs. Donna Engel is working on this.
- Will be holding 2 French sessions in the afternoon.
- Lieutenant Governor will attend the banquet. Extra tickets are \$75.00 each.
- Suggestion was made to get Jesse Fowler from Cochrane High School for extra entertainment, perhaps for the morning. Buddy Gayle, a cowboy poet, could also be approached.

**Call for Issues**

- An issue, “Alberta Education Budgeting Process”, from Rocky View School Division was presented.

**Moved by Faye Lippitt that the Zone 5 Board accepts this issue and sends it on to the A.S.B.A.**

**Carried.**

### **Zone 5 Handbook**

- Copies are available. Please make the insertion.

**Moved by Don Thomas to accept the Handbook as amended.**

**Carried.**

### **A.S.B.A. Governance**

- Please complete and return to A.S.B.A. by the first part of May.

### **Rural Alberta's Development Fund Presentation, Mr. Bob Clark**

The Province put together a committee four years ago with a Task Force that involved all departments and 15 groups in rural Alberta. They put together a publication and made a number of recommendations. Some were accepted. Costs came back at \$2.4 billion.

Now, \$100,000,000 has been put into a rural fund. A Chapter 9 non-profit company was formed and has \$100,000,000 which is invested. There is a 12 member Board of Directors with strong rural community links. Operating costs will be less than the interest being earned. We have had about 140-150 capital oriented requests which were all turned down. Projects need to have a reasonable chance to be successful. They should be innovative, have community support, and be collaborative. For example, we have now approved funding for a medical student rural apprenticeship program. This program has been tried in Australia and New Zealand and has worked well. To begin, we need a ¾ page "Expression of Interest" and we will get back to you in 4-6 weeks. You will then have 2-4 months to get back to us with a more specific proposal. They are usually 3-4 year pilots. Outcomes for rurals are better educational opportunities and better help to aboriginal people, etc. There is funding available for expansion of your idea. You have to get approval first. There is no guarantee that the money will be evenly distributed across the province. We do want community and regional collaboration. We will not deal with the supernet.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Carried.**