

Alberta School Boards Association – Zone 5
Friday, January 9, 2009
Coventry Hills Superstore
2nd Floor, 100 Country Village Road N.E.
Calgary, AB

In Attendance

David Woloshyn	Alberta Education
Carmen Somers	Alberta Education
David Anderson	ASBA
Jacquie Hansen	ASBA
Lynn Ferguson	Calgary Board of Education
Rosemarie Goerlitz	Calgary Separate School District
Kim Bater	Canadian Rockies School Division
Sheila Snowsell	Canadian Rockies School Division
Joanne Van Donzel	Christ the Redeemer Catholic
Francois Godri	CSCFSA
Anne-Marie Boucher	CSSA
Diana Froc	Foothills School Division
Jerry Muelaner	Foothills School Division
Jay Lyons	Foothills School Division
Doug Gardner	Foothills School Division
Larry Maerz	Golden Hills School Division
John Neill	Prairie Land School Division
Helen Clease	Rocky View Schools
Bruce Pettigrew	Rocky View Schools
Sylvia Eggerer	Rocky View Schools
Bev LaPearre	Rocky View Schools
Colleen Munro	Rocky View Schools

Call to Order

Jay Lyons called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Rosemarie Goerlitz that the agenda be approved as submitted.

Carried

Approval of Minutes

Moved by John Neill that the Minutes dated December 5, 2008 be approved as submitted.

Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the December 5 minutes.

Correspondence

Mr. Lyons advised of various correspondence received and will distribute the information with respect to Centennial Scholarships.

He also advised that there are 2 groups wishing to make presentations at future zone meetings. At the next meeting David Woloshyn will make a presentation on Capital Planning.

BOARD SHARING

Christ the Redeemer, Joanne Van Donzel

- The division is pleased that the government has eliminated health premiums.
- The new school in Canmore is now open and will be planning a grand opening in the spring.

Foothills School Division, Jay Lyons

- The Board is undergoing parent consultation with respect to assessment.
- Also preparing a community consultation process re visioning.
- A distributed policy with respect to the Division's Attendance Areas has been distributed to stakeholders for feedback.
- A draft plan for the new P3 school in Okotoks has been received from Alberta Education/Infrastructure and is being reviewed.

Golden Hills School Division, Larry Maerz

- A board retreat was held close to Christmas to discuss the declining enrolment.
- The Board is attempting to set a date for council of council meetings (not an easy process).
- Audit has been completed.
- Working on Westmount to put in full-time kindergarten program.

CSCFSA, Francois Godri

- The shortest board meeting in history was held this week.
- Have a great partnership with Canadian Rockies in Canmore.
- The other project in south Calgary is going through major renovations and is going as expected.
- The high school has put in a robotics lab and graphics lab.
- Looking to have a retreat within the next month or so.

CSSA, Anne-Marie Boucher

- Their school in NE Calgary consisting of modulars - received 9 submissions for the project which came in lower than estimated.

Prairie Land Regional Division, John Neill

- Will be placing the new CTS unit in Morrin-Delia for 2009-10. This unit will also be set up at the WorldSkills competition in August. Price of unit with all the contents is about \$2 million.
- Looking at purchasing a second CTS unit – county has offered \$250,000 towards it, however, it remains to be seen whether it comes to fruition.
- David Woloshyn mentioned that all the equipment used at the WorldSkills Competition will be available for disbursement to schools in Alberta following the conclusion of the competition. Will need to wait to hear from Alberta Ed as to how to apply for them.

Rocky View School Division, Bruce Pettigrew

- Have completed a Board self-evaluation.
- Received 2 additional portables quite unexpectedly and greatly appreciated.
- Can't 'respond' the health care premium money that has already been taken into consideration for CSI. It was incorporated into the collective agreement – they will be using those funds to enhance the benefit package. David Anderson indicated that these funds were to be used at the discretion of each board. David Woloshyn stated that Alberta Ed wanted to reiterate in the letter that this money was to be used to help with CSI or in other ways to help with tight budgets.
- Helen advised that the community town hall meeting (re private school funding) was postponed and will be rescheduled sometime in the end of January or early February. Everyone will be contacted as to the new date.

Calgary Catholic – Rosemarie Goerlitz

- Melra Awards were celebrated.
- Public participation meetings are being organized.
- A P3 Phase 3 community meeting has been scheduled.

Calgary Board of Education, Lynn Ferguson

- Are recruiting a new Chief Superintendent and special recognition was given to Dr. Croskery at his last board meeting. Have selected Conroy Ross Partners Limited to do the search. Deputy Chief Superintendent is acting as CEO for the time being.
- Estimated value of deferred maintenance is over \$600 million (see Lynn's report for details). It is estimated that CBE requires a minimum overall investment of \$40 million annually to maintain the 'status quo'
- Received two reports on closure of 'programs' (not schools) at 2 schools. Will now be going to the communities to share the reports. (David Anderson requested copies of the report).
- Discussion ensued re "economic stimulus package" – ASBA might help in lobbying government re infrastructure projects.

Canadian Rockies School Division, Sheila Snowsell

- Canadian Rockies has formed a community partnership with Banff high school music department and Banff Centre. Last year 2 principals and Board chair approached the Banff Centre with the problem of a minimal music program in the high school. The director at the Banff Centre has done a wonderful job of working with the high school music students.

John Neill moved the reports were accepted as shared.

Carried

REPORTS

ASBA Director's Report, Doug Gardner

- *Putting the Public Back in Public Education* - ASBA's community engagement initiative is proceeding well.
- *Setting the Direction for Special Education* – moving into phase 2 and will be asking for board input on various issues.
- *Inspiring Education* – this is the new name for the Minister's 'visioning' exercise. ASBA is very much involved in this.
- This year's satisfaction survey results indicated that members were satisfied with the association's performance in most areas.
- Chair, Heather Welwood, is willing to visit Boards at their board table at their request.
- Still wanting to hear back from boards as to recommendations or comments on the *Fair Bargaining for a Better Future* document.
- Audited Financial statements concluded as a 'clean audit'.
- Drew Chipman, Foothills' Secretary-Treasurer, has been appointed to the ASEBP board as well as Lance Miller, Westwind's trustee.

Comment: Noticed that the work that boards were doing wasn't even mentioned (at the last meeting *Setting the Direction for Special Education*). David Woloshyn apologized for the oversight. Jacquie suggested that there should probably be a designated person from each board in on these discussions.

Question: Understand that there are 3 phases in *Fair Bargaining*.

Answer: Pat MacKenzie brought forward 3 options. Boards are asked to submit their preference out of those 3 options. Want to be careful how to approach this. Please let Doug Gardner know what your Board thoughts are.

Question: When does the government want our input on this?

Answer: Do know that we have a pressure cooker scenario and that by 2012 we need to come up with a recommendation. Need to sort out a new model before then.

Comment: Believe that framework needs to be in place by September 1, 2011.

ASBA Executive Report, Jacquie Hansen

- Heather sends her regrets.
- Community Engagement process scheduled for March 13 & 14. Great work being done and it is exciting to receive the responses. Hoping that some time can be taken at the next zone meeting to talk a bit more about what kind of community engagement is happening in your jurisdiction.
- Strategic Planning Session next Thursday & Friday. Important for boards to take their time in reviewing this document. If boards have already discussed this, would like your comments.
- Labour Relations department has submitted its Student, Teacher, Staff Counts bulletin.
- Thanked boards for responding to the satisfaction survey. Will be reviewing the suggestions.
- Doing a lot of work at Policy Development Advisory Committee. Looking at various aspects of policy development. Will be doing a presentation at Zone 5 April meeting.
- Was involved at a zone chair meeting. Deadline for Edwin Parr nominations is March 27.
- Friends of Education Award – one of the criteria is provincial level involvement which is sometimes difficult to fulfill. Perhaps each zone could set up its own award in this category and recognize them at a special meeting.
- As to Heather, David and herself coming out to board meetings, could even have a couple of Boards come together to meet.
- Minister's dialogue – a chance for school councils to air some of their concerns.
- NSBA – ASBA is associate member and has extended an invitation for NSBA to come and see Canada. Have invited them to Banff in July 2010 and they have accepted. ASBA will be hosting the NSBA regional meeting (like a provincial meeting).

Comment: There was a request at the last meeting whether some of the research that *Fair Bargaining* referred to be made available.

Answer: David Anderson said he would look into it.

Comment: Could put it on the website and let us know when it's available.

David Anderson provided details of the **Summit exercise**. How to involve community in public education (specifically beef up the work in the 70% of the public not directly connected to schools). Producing a best practices document; looking at boards to contribute success stories. He suggested that Boards share their best practices at the next zone meeting.

Will be asking how the public can be involved. An online survey will be developed. Will also do a stratified random survey of 800 Albertans; have about 12 focus groups taking place throughout the province. A Board chairs email will be sent out next week as to this process. The Summit will take place on Friday evening (March 13) and all day Saturday. Asking for 2 members from each board to participate as well as 4 reps from the public from each board (keep in mind people who are not directly connected to schools). Hoping to have the public doing the engaging and the boards listening. It will be the jurisdictions' responsibility to pay the costs.

Minister's dialogue – very ambitious exercise. The minister wants to engage all Albertans in what the public wants to see in education (skills and attributes of graduates). Out of that a new

policy framework and a *School Act* will be developed. The deputy was very reassuring as to the role of school boards during that process.

Comment: Starting to low (what graduates should look like). Need to look at where we are at the level of democracy (private school funding).

Comment: Do we have our end in mind already? The community engagement is the foundation of education.

Comment: How can the public get the information?

Answer: There will be an active communication process. How do we deal with the people who have dropped out of the public education system? Just one of the questions that will be reviewed.

Comment: Do not agree with the comment that the system has failed them. These people have made a choice. The word ‘failed’ conjures up a very negative view of public education. Need to think of how we phrase that.

Discussion continued as to the community ‘priority’ and the definition of community.

Comment: What’s the timeline?

Answer: Will begin shortly; forum in October so communication will begin shortly.

David: If you have any thoughts as to how your school board wants to see the process, please let us know (before the end of January).

Alberta Education, David Woloshyn

- Safe Communities/Innovation Fund – provides support to community-based pilot projects and community –police partnership pilot projects.
- Alberta Children & Youth Services Community Incentive Fund – supports initiatives that increase the awareness of and response to family violence and bullying and address topics such as abusive relationships, cyberbullying and abuse of older adults.
- Paving Health Pathways: A Health Services Strategy – the call for proposals closing date is today (January 9).
- CTS Sports Medicine and Health Services Course Validation – a new CTS sports medicine pathway has been formulated to replace the locally developed Sports Medicine 15, 25, 35.

Comment: What is the status of Paving Health Pathways?

Answer: Piloting a number of health pathways proposals. The deadline is today and will be reviewing the applications.

Comment: It appears that all the money referred to in the report seems to be designated outside of the actual education programming.

Comment: Is there a strategy for dealing with “wraparound” services?

Answer: Recognize the need to working together more effectively and it will be addressed.

Best wishes to boards in planning for the new year.

CLL, Larry Maerz

No report. Next meeting January 29.

Teacher Preparation

No report

Field Experiences Policy Advisory

Jay advised that the U of C is looking for a rep from Zone 5 to sit on their committee. Bruce Pettigrew will assume that role with Rosemarie Goerlitz stepping in as an alternate.

Calgary Regional Planning Consortium, Joanne Van Donzel

Next meeting on January 22.

Edwin Parr Committee, Anne-Marie Boucher

Have the date of deadline for nominations (March 27) and the date of the banquet has been set for May 14. Jay will forward the information.

Labour Relations, John Neill

No report

ASBALE, Diana Froc & Joanne Van Donzel

There will be a short questionnaire distributed (within the next month or so) to get some feedback from Boards as to ASBALE's direction.

Advocacy, Bruce Pettigrew

Have contacted the Calgary Caucus office to set a date – nothing set as yet. One topic is modernization and the other portables. There are two thoughts: host the luncheon on the Calgary Caucus day or another day (probably a Friday). As soon as a date has been set, then we can talk about the budget.

Discussion continued with respect to the value of arranging such a meeting with the Zone 5 MLAs. Prairie Land and Golden Hills already meet a couple of times a year with their MLAs. Some indicated that they didn't believe anything would be accomplished by meeting in this way. A good question to ask is "is it a worthwhile event to host... will it be effective?" The Advocacy stated that the role as trustees is to be advocates and when this committee was formed, this was a suggestion that was brought forward. Referred to what Zone 2/3 did. Need boards to be involved in this and willing to work at bringing forward the issues and develop a proper presentation. The Chair suggested that perhaps the discussion should be about "should we be advocating what is important to the zone as a whole?" We need to build a consensus. Question: how effective was zone 2/3's meeting? Last year we brought forward our submissions that were important. Infrastructure was one of them. Do you think the most effective way to bring this to our MLAs is through a dinner? The Chair commented that Zone 5 is relatively complex; need to find an effective process. David Anderson offered to bring back

some information for discussion. Jacquie Hansen advised that Zone 2/3 feels their connection with the MLAs is strong and they have good participation in their annual meeting. (February 27 is the next MLA luncheon at the legislature). The Chair will pull the pieces together. A comment was made that what works for Zone 2/3 does not necessarily work for us. Perhaps do a PD session at one of our zone meetings? Another suggestion made was to perhaps invite the Minister of Infrastructure to one of our zone meetings as it seems that infrastructure is a common issue with our boards. David Woloshyn stated that Alberta Education does not really want to take up zone time at their meetings so will be holding 'information sessions' with the department. A meeting in Calgary to which trustees and administration can come is being arranged (March & October). Will have more detail in the next Director's report.

Coalition for Healthy Schools

No report

Sheila Snowsell moved the acceptance of the reports.

Carried

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

PRESENTATION

Futures Planning

Kim Bater, Chair of Canadian Rockies gave a presentation on their Futures Planning process and participation in an OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operating and Development) Partnership for the Innovative Learning Environments Projects. If Boards want more information about OECD, please contact Kim. Website for OECD is www.OECD.org

Discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Bruce Pettigrew moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Carried