

**Alberta School Boards Association – Zone 5**  
**Friday, June 20, 2008**  
**Calgary Board of Education**  
**Coventry Hills Superstore, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**  
**100 Country Village Road NE, Calgary, AB**

**In Attendance**

Jay Lyons	Foothills School Division
David Woloshyn	Alberta Education
Jacque Hansen	ASBA
Scott McCormack	ASBA
Larry Maerz	Golden Hills School Division
Lynn Ferguson	Calgary Board of Education
Bruce Pettigrew	Rocky View School Division
Sylvia Eggerer	Rocky View School Division
John Neill	Prairie Land Regional Division
Roy Goulet	CSCFSA
Rosemarie Goerlitz	Calgary Catholic Board of Education
Anne-Marie Boucher	CSSA
Don Thomas	Rocky View School Division
Sheila Snowsell	Canadian Rockies Regional Division
Doug Gardner	Foothills School Division

**Call to Order**

Don Thomas called the meeting to order. Round table introductions were made.

**Approval of Agenda**

“Proposed Directive Amendment to RVSD Resolution” was added to the agenda under “New Business”.

**The agenda was approved as circulated.**

**Carried.**

**Approval of Minutes**

On page 4 of minutes, under CSSA, point 1, “Princeton” was changed to “Prinson”.

On page 9 of minutes, under Edwin Parr, add “Changes will be made to the programs” at the beginning of point 1.

**Moved by Rosemarie Goerlitz that the minutes of May 16, 2008, be accepted as read with the above two changes.**

**Carried.**

## **Approval of Conference Call Minutes**

**Moved by John Neill that the conference call minutes be adopted as circulated.**

**Carried.**

## **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Don Thomas apologized for the need for the conference call. He will take notes to give to the incoming 2008-2009 Zone 5 Chair to ensure this does not happen again.

## **Correspondence**

Zone 2/3 sent a copy of their letter to M.L.A. Janis Tarchuk re their Advocacy Initiatives. This will be passed on to the Zone 5 Advocacy Committee.

## **BOARD SHARING**

### **Calgary Catholic Board of Education, Rosemarie Goerlitz**

- Bishop O'Byrne teacher, Kathleen Strother, was recognized June 4<sup>th</sup> for receiving a Certificate of Achievement for the 2007-2008 Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence, one of only 51 awarded across Canada. A physical education and leadership teacher, she was chosen for the award based on her innovative teaching style, her dedication to active living and leadership and her outstanding efforts in helping students excel. She will receive an award certificate signed by the Prime Minister and her school will receive \$1,000 to be spent under her direction.
- Marilyn Wickenheiser, a teacher at Monsignor E.L. Doyle School, was chosen as the Alberta recipient of the National CAHPERD/Wintergreen Phys-Ed Physical Education Teaching Excellence Awards. This award honours nine exceptional teachers (one from each province) for their excellence in teaching physical education and their ability to motivate children and youth to participate in physical activity and is the only national award to recognize physical education teachers for their hard work and dedication in helping to build strong, healthy and physically active children. She was chosen on a program she developed called "Health Busting Kids" designed to promote healthy choices among students and staff, an anti-bullying program, and an annual day-long Wellness Fair that reinforces healthy choices to students.
- The 2008-2009 proposed budget was presented at the May 28<sup>th</sup> Board meeting highlights a balanced budget, slightly under \$394 million, increase of approximately \$17.8 million, grants and \$4.1 million from Reserves, 49 new teachers, pupil-teacher ratio of 1:16.45, 2 new schools (Airdrie and Chestermere) and \$9.8 million in Accumulated Surplus and \$4.3 million in Reserves (total \$14.2 or 7.18 days). The budget was approved at the June 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- Bishop McNally High School will be offering the Filipino Language and Culture 3 Year Program for the 2008-2009 when approved by Alberta Education.
- The Board of Trustees has met with Calgary Caucus to bring forward issues and concerns of the district. They established three agenda topics – Need to establish Criteria/Guidelines for New Schools Capital Announcements; Deferred Maintenance, Modernization and High School Completions; Funding for Full Day Kindergarten.

Comment: We are requesting funding for students and we have about 10 right now. We piloted at Holy Cross. They were tracked from grades 1-6. The results are great and show the importance of helping these students. Now we are doing a pre-school program for ESL where they can go to learn language. We will also track this.

Comment: The Francophone boards start this in kindergarten as most of our students are at risk and really need to learn English before they start grade 1.

Comment: In many of Calgary Board's new schools we don't have the space to offer this program. We have 34 programs but would like to offer much more.

Comment: Calgary Catholic is getting results and shared them at their Board meeting. They should be on our website.

Comment: In "Education Today" there is an interesting article called "Teenage Brain" which suggests we might want to look at the teenage brain. This comes from very recent research.

Comment: If there are any differences in boys and girls, it should be a fascinating study.

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

- We held a groundbreaking ceremony for Connaught School on May 30<sup>th</sup> with all our stakeholders. This major renovation will update the building while preserving the sandstone legacy of the original building. It is nearly 100 years old and is the oldest operating school in the system.
- We held a second groundbreaking ceremony on June 6 for our new Education Centre at the site of the former Dr. Carl Safran School. In addition to preserving the sandstone school, a new high rise office space will be built alongside. This combination of old and new is reflected in the groundbreaking theme, "Honouring the Past, Creating the future". This new centre will host an open concept boardroom, media and learning spaces, and will be specifically designed to be a welcoming place for students, staff and the public.
- Students from 16 CBE schools participated in the third annual Entrepreneurial Adventure Showcase by the Learning Partnership and BMO Financial Services at

the First Canadian Centre on May 21, 2008. Participants eagerly explained their project and the charities they were supporting. Calgary area schools took home two of the ten national awards.

- On May 30 CBE received written notice from the Calgary Board of Education Staff Association advising that the General Support Staff are commencing strike action on June 2 for a period of 2 days. Also on June 10 and 11, all members of the association, main body and professional support staff, were off the job. We will keep schools open as long as we are able to serve the education needs of students, however, we will not be able to provide the same level of service as usual, especially for students with severe special needs. We will not compromise student safety and may need to make situationally-specific decisions about whether or not to keep programs or schools open.
- At the June 17 Board meeting, the Ten Year Facilities Plan 2008-17 and the Three Year Capital Plan was approved. We included six major modernizations in the first year plan only and we are asking for \$38 million for Chinook Learning Services which is a part of the Urban Campus Initiative and a downtown campus. We would be sharing some of the space. The funding we requested would be for upgrading. This is to try to improve high school completion. If this does not go ahead, we will have to look at another place to use these services because it is now in seven different sites and very difficult to administer. We also offer summer tutoring and adult ESL. We feel this is a very innovative project. The University of Calgary has been the major push on this. It is in the East Village area and capital funding will be required. There are retail spaces included which may bring some funds in.
- At the June 3 board meeting, the Board approved the amended 2008-09 Preliminary Operating Budget and its submission to Alberta Education.
- The Board reviewed and approved the Three Year School Capital Plan (2009-12) which will be submitted to Alberta Education.
- At the May 20 Board meeting eleven teachers and principals who were chosen as semi-finalists for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Excellence in Teaching Awards were recognized by the Board.
- The Board received the minutes of the April 16, 2008, public meeting re Consideration of Closure of the Junior High Program at Piitoayis Family School for information and for the record. Our Chair reviewed the questions and concerns received following the public meeting and the following motions was made and approved: "That the Junior High Program at Piitoayis Family School be closed effective June 30, 2008.

Comment: We hope to open the new building in 2010.

Comment: We can't provide the level of services for the more vulnerable students because of the strike. We have deployed some of the teachers from the schools that are closed to help in other schools.

Comment: Press coverage has not been quite right re the strike. The Calgary Herald has been cutting the stories of the reporter responsible for schools. We have decided to pay for ads around the offer made on May 28<sup>th</sup> (5%, then 4.53 plus an \$800 signing bonus, upped health benefits and vacation benefits and put in flexibility in their 12 month pay). The major issue seems to be flexibility of management rights. The staff association wants a committee to approve potential new hires. It is too difficult for us to be able to do this.

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

- We required that the Waldorf School be financially sound. It will not be happening for the next year and we will continue later.
- Our budget is based on 65 less students in our district.
- We are having difficulty getting personnel. We received no applications for our last executive assistant advertisement.

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

- No report.

### **Foothills School Division, Jay Lyons**

- We are experiencing pressure in our NE area and in Okotoks in particular.
- Percy Peglar School modernization is proceeding. We are evaluating the use of a Sprung structure as an alternative as we could get a facility in quickly. Alberta Education is open-minded on this. Compliments to everyone for looking at alternatives. This would be a partnership with Sprung to explore further. These facilities go up and come down very quickly. They are not permanent, but temporary relief. They have aluminum frame structure and 6-8 inch walls. Heating and lighting bills are less. The wind factor is 12 and snow blows off.

Comment: Notre Dame is bringing a Sprung structure in for their band.

Comment: The usage would be for classrooms and gyms. It may be a challenge to sell to parents and we would need to get parents to look at it.

Comment: Communications may be the key here. Grasslands is using two structures. They remove the students from the area being modernized. It speeds up progress and will provide ancillary gym space later. Sprung has a 25 year warranty.

Comment: This is a very innovative idea. Parents would need to have a guaranteed time that these structures would be in place. Alberta Education is looking at this as a temporary “bridge the gap” solution.

Comment: Portables are a much higher standard.

**Golden Hills School Division, Larry Maerz**

- A new alternative school, Trinity Lutheran Christian Academy”, has been approved for Strathmore. This will alleviate some of the pressure in our Strathmore schools.
- We held a meeting with officials from the RCMP concerning a School Resource Officer to be located at the Three Hills RCMP detachment. We don’t have the money for this in our budget.
- We met with the newly-elected MLA Hayden and MLA Doerksen, who are our local MLA’s.
- We are all busy attending graduations, awards and retirements.
- We have a school policy on school closures that needs to be updated. We looked at the recommendation of the committee and sent it back to them. Our Acme stakeholders are unhappy.
- Enrolments are going down. We need to cut the number of associate principals which will be difficult.

Comment: It costs \$125,000 to fund a School Resource Officer.

Comment: It is very difficult to close a school.

**CSSA, Anne-Marie Boucher**

- We have received approval for the nomination of our new Superintendent. He comes from Manitoba and was Superintendent of Manitoba schools for the last 5 years. He spent four days with us last month. We are very confident that we have found the right person. We have also nominated a new Deputy Superintendent who is also a very good person.
- We will be renting some space across from Chinook Center for our office.

**CFCFSA, Roy Goulet**

- We held our official opening of our south Calgary school last week. Everything went well with over 100 people attending. Construction will start immediately to modernize.
- Our Canmore School is right on schedule. Many people have come to visit. Our MLA brought us a cheque for \$465,000 for basement construction. Construction is estimated to be about \$1,100,000, so this is a good start. There will be a pre-kindergarten in there.

**Prairie Land Regional Division, John Neill**

- We have been attending a number of graduations, there is one left.

- Schollie Survey Results 2007-2008 – results for this school year were presented to the board and there was a detailed discussion. They were also discussed in-depth with the principals. There are very few changes. Stakeholder opinions basically indicate a high level of satisfaction with the school, the division and the general operation of the school system. Areas of concern have been noted and will be addressed by the specific school or by senior administration. Principals will be reviewing the results related to their schools with their staff within the next few weeks. A results summary will be posted on our website within the next few weeks for public review.
- Superintendent/School Board Evaluation – a discussion ensued. A date, which will probably occur in September after the Board has received the Superintendent’s Annual Report, will be set for these evaluations at the next board meeting.
- Proposed Bus Routes 2008-2009 – proposed bus routes for the upcoming school year were presented to the Board. They were requested to review these routes over the next two weeks and contact the Coordinator of Transportation with concerns. After this review, the drivers will be consulted and the bus routes will be finalized.
- Divisional Utilization Plan – Moving Forward - Veteran School Council and the Board will hold a meeting to consult with the community on the future of Veteran School if and when a decision has to be made to reduce teaching staff because of student and funding decline. This is the first of a number of community consultation meetings the board and school councils of each school will be holding with their schools to seek input based on the issues identified in the above-noted report. A similar meeting will be held in Altario on June 11. Future meetings will be held in the upcoming fall and winter. Interested individuals can leave their opinion on our website.
- The Prairie Land Regional Division “InFocus” was passed around.

**Rocky View School Division, Bruce Pettigrew**

- We passed our Three Year Education Plan. We are still desperately struggling, as are many other boards, with crisis facilities, but not getting a lot of response.
- Our P3 in Langdon won’t open until 2012. We do not have a constructor yet.
- We are requesting to move 4 portables to Langdon to accommodate current students and we may need to move boundaries to continue student accommodation.

Comment: At our last Zone 5 meeting, Heather Welwood suggested boards send their building requests to her. This may have prompted meetings with the Minister. We thank Heather for taking this project on.

Comment: She has been very vocal and has told everyone that Zone 5 is in difficulty.

**Moved that the Board Reports be accepted as shared.**

**Carried.**

## REPORTS

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

- The June ASBA Board of Directors' meeting was conducted via conference call. There was one main topic for discussion, that was to review the policy and directive for action submission from the zones for possible consideration at the 2008 Fall General Meeting. It was agreed to have the Policy Development Advisory Committee continue to work with sponsoring boards to fine tune all 11 policies or directives before the FGM.

### A.S.B.A., Jacquie Hansen

- Heather Welwood sends her regrets She is at Zone 2/3 at the Edwin Parr luncheon today.
- The Spring General Meeting was a great success. Evaluations so far are very good. Thank you to everyone for your participation and good discussion.
- Policy review is on-going, the PDAC task force has met once and will meet again in October with Leroy Sloan doing some leg work in-between. We hope to present to the assembly a more streamlined version of our policy handbook by next spring. There are policies on the book that perhaps would be better as directives for actions, and there are policies on the book that are too old and should likely be deleted. There are D for A, that have definitely lived their lifespan. This will all be looked at in an effort to have a more manageable policy handbook for the association. Also, the task force is looking at ways we could engage zones on a more regular basis around policy, since, as elected people, we run our business through policy.
- Closing the Gap in Aboriginal Education continues to be an action priority for the ASBA and with that in mind, the follow-up for the conference will be held on June 25, 2008, at the Glenora Club in Edmonton. Eric Newell will be there to chair the day with us. Please call David Anderson with the names of the trustees on your board that wish to come to this workshop.
- Details and supports on community engagement for the spring 2009 Summit will also be worked on and available for the fall.
- Please do not forget to continue work on the advocacy fronts – transportation, infrastructure and high school completion.
- The Toronto Catholic Board members were in contravention of the Act in terms of giving themselves benefits. They were told they were in contravention, but continued lavish spending. They have been taken over by the Ministry. ASBA Legal is reviewing the case to ensure that we as board members know the parameters of what we can give ourselves as benefits. This is a really interesting case. For more information, go to <http://www.thestar.com/article/422817>.
- School Bargaining – after the unfunded pension liability deal and 5 years of labour peace began, the ASBA said that we would start to delineate the aforementioned process and see where we, as school boards, are at with collective bargaining. With that in mind, we have contacted Patricia McKenzie (ACOL) to

begin this review. A letter was sent out on June 17 to board chairs. The review will have two purposes, 1) to identify key views, opinions, concerns and benefits experienced in conducting the 2007/2008 collective bargaining, and 2) to identify any lessons learned regarding the 2007/2008 negotiations which could be taken into account in any future challenge.

- Centennial Scholarship – this will be for BEd students. Presentations will be at the Fall General Meeting in November. Each zone should determine its own criteria and some costs will be covered by the ASBA.

Comment: A suggestion was made to nominate top student teachers.

### **Alberta Education, David Woloshyn**

- “To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing was not boring – it was peace.” Milan Kundera.
- Child Care Connections with Education – the April 2008 provincial budget included \$252 million over 3 years to support the creation of 14,000 new child care spaces by 2011 and introduce a new subsidy for low and middle income families which will expand accessibility and affordability of quality care. A new strategy, “Creating Child Care Choices, A Plan to Support Alberta’s Families” provides details on how the ministry will work with partners, including local school boards. \$42 million over 3 years has been allocated to build modulars that can be located adjacent to school buildings. In 2008/2009, \$8.4 million will be available through CFSA as part of a regional partnership fund to support new space creation and sustainability. School boards and their local Child and Family Services Authority can work together to determine the best locations for the modulars and identify operators to run the programs. Parents of children in Grades 1 through 6 can apply for a provincial subsidy to help with the costs of child care effective Sept. 1, 2008. Maximum subsidy is \$310 per month per child. It is too early to send in requests, but you can call your CEO of your regional authority. The classrooms could be shared by others.
- Certificate of School Completion – will be awarded to students with significant cognitive disabilities. The first recipients are being recognized at commencement ceremonies this year. The certificate will be accompanied by a congratulatory letter from the Minister. Schools must complete a nomination form for each qualifying student and submit them to the department between May 15 and June 30, 2008. A pilot process has been developed for creation of a Transcript of Student Competencies for implementation 2008-2010.
- Student Population/Teacher Workforce Projection Tool – a model forecasting Alberta’s student population and then calculating how many teachers will be required has been developed. It is able to project student population and teacher workforce demand scenarios to the year 2022. It is expected to be available to school authorities via the Extranet in Fall 2008.
- Alberta Learning Information Service Web Site - has been redesigned for easier and quicker access. It now clusters specific information and services relevant to various groups.

- Technology and High School Success Initiative – 24 jurisdictions, including over 70 schools, will be participating in this initiative in the next two years with more than 14,400 students benefiting from the infusion of technology. These technologies include electronic whiteboards, laptops, videoconferencing, online courses and other specialized hardware and software.
- Videoconferencing Programs to Support Student and Educator Learning: a Summary of Final reports is now available on the Learning and Technology web site.
- Emerging Technologies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Summary of Final Report – now available on the Learning and Technology web site
- Elevate 2008 Update – an international educational videoconferencing event, August 24 to 27 in Banff which focuses on educational applications for videoconferencing and related technologies.
- Literacy Update – at the Alberta literacy forum, “Literacy: Never Too Early, Never Too Late”, participants were invited to provide feedback on the beginnings of a provincial literacy framework. Results are scheduled to be available on the Council of Ministers of Education of Canada web site by the end of June.
- Wellness Programs Update Alberta Education conducted focus groups in January and February of 2008 with teachers and administrators to discuss wellness programs/models in the context of Alberta schools. The scope of changes and a project plan will take into consideration focus group input, a literature review and First Nations, Metis and Inuit perspectives. Further consultations will occur.
- Support and Curriculum for Career and Technology Studies - \$32.5 million per year for the next three years has been committed to expand and support these studies. Also an additional \$14.3 million was provided to school jurisdictions through a Skills Canada Alberta grant that will support equipment upgrades to 54 CTS labs and will be directed to school jurisdictions based on their submissions. The CTS curriculum will be restructured in clusters to support greater options for students.
- High School completion includes receiving an Alberta high school diploma, an IOP Certificate, high school equivalency, entering a post-secondary level program at an Alberta post-secondary institution, registering in an Alberta apprenticeship program, or earning credit in five Grade 12 level courses, including four diploma examination courses.
- About one-fifth of students who are considered in the drop out rate return to high school.
- Private colleges are not considered in the High School Completion rate.
- 33% of parents respond to yearly mail out surveys.
- Jurisdictions will not do their own surveys as Alberta Education has more comparative data of the whole province if it administers the surveys. Jurisdictions can supplement the provincial survey with questions at the local level.
- The transition rate is changing on the Accountability Pillar reports from four to six years. The four year transition rate will remain in the detailed pages of a jurisdiction’s Accountability Pillar results.
- The Accountability Pillar results are based on a cohort basis rather than students who write to prevent the encouragement of students who might not pass

examinations to stay at home instead of writing the examinations, which could lead to false results.

- The ACOL measures in the Accountability Pillar continue to be reported in the provincial survey, but not in the Accountability Pillar results.
- In October, 2008, the first version of interactive reports from the Accountability Pillar results will be sent to school jurisdictions as a single report. In May, 2009, capability for jurisdictions to select sub-groups of students will allow an identical set of reports to be produced.
- Jurisdictions can look at their own jurisdiction reports and those of the schools in their jurisdiction but only at other schools and jurisdictions as a special case, given the approval of the appropriate superintendents.
- About 2% of the population have a life threatening allergic reaction known as anaphylaxis.
- A school has a duty of care towards its students and staff which are legal and ethical reasons for school boards to adopt policies and practices that create a safe environment for all individuals.

Comment: Re Work Force Presentation – felt it was really a powerful presentation by Randy Clarke but there seems to be a disconnect. - This presentation was originally designed for the province which recommends the shortfall is a concern. We are trying to address the issues. Janis Tarchuk will be looking at this.

Comment: Small school staffing is becoming difficult. Teachers cannot seem to be able to handle all the different classes they have to do. Is there anything we can do about this at the university level? - They are trying to place student teachers in rural areas for the experience.

Comment: The Calgary Board has 80 new teachers that they are retraining to handle diverse classroom management.

### **CLL, Larry Maerz**

- No report.

### **Teacher Preparation, Sheila Snowsell**

- No report.

### **Field Experiences Policy Advisory Committee, Roy Goulet**

- No report.

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

- No report.

**Edwin Parr Committee, Anne-Marie Boucher**

- We have distributed the programs with the correct names.

**Labour Relations, John Neill**

- No report.

**ASBALE, Joanne Van Donzel**

- No report.

**Professional Development**

- No report

**Advocacy Committee**

- Could start setting things up for the Fall.
- Suggestions:
  - Merla Bowens, lead for CTS projects, would be available to speak.
  - the fiscal program was appreciated this past year.
  - should concentrate on the “Role and Responsibilities of Trustees”.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Meeting Dates for 2008-2009**

**Moved by Lynn Ferguson that the following dates be accepted by Zone 5 as the meeting dates for the September, 2008 to June, 2009 term:**

**September 5, 2008  
October 3, 2008  
November 7, 2008 (not at Coventry Superstore)  
December 5, 2008  
January 9, 2009  
February 6, 2009  
March 6, 2009  
April 3, 2009  
May 15, 2009  
June 19, 2009.**

**Carried.**

**Chair, Vice-Chair Reimbursement for 2007-2008 Term**

**Moved by Anne-Marie Boucher that the Chair, Don Thomas, and the Vice-Chair < Joanne Van Donzel, be reimbursed their yearly stipend.**

**Carried.**

**Alcohol and Drug Awareness Committee of ASBA**

- This committee is working with AADAC. There would be 2 to 4 meetings per year. The meetings would probably be held in Edmonton.
- A volunteer is needed to sit on this committee.

**Moved that Roy Goulet be acclaimed as the volunteer to sit on the Alcohol and Drug Awareness Committee of ASBA.**

**Carried.**

**ASBA Resolution from Rocky View School Division**

Rocky View School Division requested approval to change the wording of the resolution.

**Moved by Bruce Pettigrew that Zone 5 support the amendment of the Rocky View School Division Resolution re the Clause 4.D.28.**

**Defeated.**

**Awards Discussion**

This discussion was intended to stimulate discussion and competition. It is now postponed to another time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Roy Goulet that the meeting be adjourned.**

**Carried.**