

Alberta School Boards Association - Zone 5
Meeting Minutes – March 4, 2005
Meeting held at
Lord Beaverbrook High School, Calgary, AB

Call to order: Terry Patey, Chair, at 9:36 am

In Attendance:

Faye Lippitt	Foothills School Division
Don Thomas	Rocky View School Division
John Neill	Prairie Land
Carrol Plummer	Catholic Francophone
Lynn Ferguson	Calgary Board of Education
Serafino Scarpino	Calgary Catholic
Doug Gardner	Foothills School Division
Joanne Van Donzel	Christ the Redeemer
Trudy Hauser	Rocky View School Division
Terry Patey	Rocky View School Division
Terry Muelaner	Foothills School Div.
Suzanne Lundrigan	ASBA
Maureen Emond	ASBA, VP
Sheila Snowsell	Canadian Rockies
Carol Bazinet	Calgary Board of Education
Nicole Buret	CSSA
Larry Maerz	Golden Hills
Corey Fisher	Golden Hills
Rhonda Longson	Foothills School Division
David Woloshyn	Alberta Education
Maureen Munro	Rocky View
Pat Cochrane	Calgary Board of Education
George Lane	Calgary Board of Education

Terry Patey welcomed everyone and made introductory remarks.

A moment of silence was observed for the Four Slain RCMP Officers. Mr. Serafino Scarpino led the group in a prayer.

Introductions of those present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Doug Gardner

That the agenda be approved as amended with the addition of a discussion session before lunch.

Carried

Lynn Ferguson from the Calgary Board of Education left the meeting to meet with Lyle Oberg, she returned just before lunch.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Carol Plummer

That the minutes of the February 4, 2005 Zone 5 meeting be approved as circulated.

Carried

Business arising from the minutes:

None.

Correspondence: None at the Executives level

Board Sharing:

Serafino Scarpino – Calgary Catholic

- The board heard a presentation from Administration on the Future Utilization of Inner Schools. The presentation included a definition of "inner city" schools, identification of the schools involved, and specialized programs that have opened between 1979 and 1984. Administration also reminded the Board of the four inner city schools that are currently utilized for non-program purposes.
- The Board passed a motion dealing with the approval of recommendations made by a Trustee Task Force on Elections. The Board directed Administration to implement the recommendations of the task force by February 2006.
- Technology Vision – Presentation.
- The technology vision of the Calgary Catholic District is to integrate technology throughout all District instructional programs and day-to-day operations in order to :
 - enhance student learning and productivity
 - enhance instruction and increase teacher efficiency and effectiveness
 - refine and improve the productivity of all technology systems that support instruction and administration
 - improve communication and provide greater access to information

- On February 22, 2005 in the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta one of our own trustees filed a Statement of Claim against the Board of Trustees and the Chief Superintendent Jeremy Simms.
- During the regular Board meeting of March 2, 2005 The Board passed a resolution asking for the resignation of the claimant due to the fact that the Statement of Claim puts him in adverse interest to the Board.

Calgary Public – Pat Cochrane

- Lynn Ferguson will replace Pat Cochrane as the Zone 5 liaison.
- In the past month we have been dealing with strategic planning issues. Alternative programs are really growing and they are placing strains on some of our facilities. Our focus is to try to get a long term plan in place.
- Facilities issues – hoping to learn what kind of funding will be in place by Alberta Infrastructure. There is a definite need for more facilities. There have been a number of major modernization projects on the go; we are trying to do preventative maintenance on schools.
- Trustees have been reviewing and revising policies with the National School Board Association.
- Looking at instituting more kindergarten programs. Currently have 16 programs in place. There is a need for more.

Canadian Rockies –Sheila Snowsell

- During the month of January and February we spent meeting with Stakeholders.
- We have been under taking the modernization of our Middle School.
- Money that was funded has been decreased.
- Need more funding and have given recommendations to the Learning Commission.
- Stopped our recycling program in January because of health and safety issues. We now contract out our recycling, it costs money, but we have improved the way that recycling was done by reducing and reusing.
- February we met with the Minister of Education.
- School Council Chairs – we wanted feedback on things that they felt were important.
- Had a retreat in February and used that to plan our goals for the coming year.
- Signed a 2 year contract with our teachers for last year and this year.

Joanne Van Donzel – Christ the Redeemer

- Junior High School opening in Okotoks. The parents, staff and students will engage in a visioning session for the founding of their new junior high school. An appropriate name will be selected at that time. The school will go into operation as of September 2005. Since the new building for Holy Trinity Academy is not yet finish the accommodation for the junior high is not yet finalized.
- Careers the Next Generation presented the scope of their services to the principals and guidance specialist in the school division. In the coming year,

CRSD hopes to expand student opportunities for work experience, rap and job shadowing.

- Faith days were two days of retreat for teachers, staff and support staff of the whole division. Two inspirational speakers were, Alwin Law and Rev. Dale Lang. During a P.D. workshop the discussion focused on the topic of virtues and how to integrate these in daily teaching.

Doug Gardner – Foothills School Division

- FSD has negotiated a memorandum of agreement with our ATA local.
- As a joint effort FSD and Christ the Redeemer School Division held a very successful Career Expo. 3000-4000 people attended this year. The event happens every second year.
- Capital Projects:
 - Heritage Heights School – we went to tender for the 2nd time and tenders still closed 5.7% higher than the cost consultants had predicted or 17% higher than our approved amount. We have contacted Alberta Infrastructure to request additional funds, as we have done all we can to keep costs down. We are now just waiting for a note from the Minister to allow us to begin construction.
 - Red Deer Lake School – we are still working with the MD and the donor – regarding the site.
- As a safety measure the Board is implementing mandatory ID in all our schools next fall for teachers and visitors.
- FSD is implementing a pilot project on Preschool Programming – the purpose of the program is to meet the Special ED needs of 4 year olds with identified mild/moderate disabilities.
- We had a delegation at the last Board meeting talk to us about a neat program called the Roots of Empathy. It is a program for elementary school children that reduces aggression and fosters the development of empathy. Some of the schools in the Division are currently offering the program.

Golden Hills School Division – Larry Maerz

- We are working on getting the budget ready which must be submitted by May 10th.
- Had an International Evening on February 18th at the Drumheller Community High School where we honoured about 20 students who have gone through our winter program. Most were elementary students from Korea.
- I attended the AISI Conference. We had an excellent time with Susan Picard and friends as they sang their speech. Dr. Avis Glaze spoke on educational issues with much emphasis on character education. Mr. Wayne Hulley, with many lively key points, said “that we are the envy of the world with regard to our educational system”.
- The Board received the Auditor’s Report on February 8th. It appears that we are about \$700,000 in the red.

- We've had a number of meetings with various Steering Committees in the East Wheatland area (ie. Gleichen, Huzzar, Standard and Rockyford) regarding low enrollment problems.
- The Winter Link, which is our communications publication, can be viewed by anyone on the internet at www.ghsd75.com.
- Remember our Reaching-Teaching Conference is May 4-6 at the Calgary Telus Convention Centre.
- Setting up meeting with Leroy Sloan for policies and governance.
- Board Retreat.
- Kindergarten Pilot program – all day.

Carol Plummer - CSCFSA

- We are working very hard to find a site for an elementary school in the South of Calgary with a view to opening the school in September 2005.
- We are opening a school in Airdrie in September 2005 and expect to announce the site for the school very shortly.
- Our school board agreed to remain part of an energy purchasing consortium (electricity and natural gas) that is seeking to reduce costs for school boards.
- We are in the final stages of negotiations with our support staff. We expect a positive outcome and we hope to ratify an agreement in early March.
- No report on teacher's negotiations today.
- We will be using the government administered satisfaction surveys for students, teachers and parents this year and also administering an additional satisfaction survey to teachers.
- 28 grade 10 and grade 11 students participated in a 1 week long trip to Ottawa as part of their Social Studies programs. The program was well received.

Nicole Buret – CSSA

- The CSSA is visiting each school and its communities and holding its regular monthly meetings there, also meeting with school councils and parents in the evenings.
- Negotiations with the ATA are still on going.
- The CSSA is working collaboratively with Grassland Public Schools to address the need of a mid term solution for its school in Brooks.
- Our Vice President will be going to the CSBA meeting in Vancouver.

John Neill – Prairie Land

- \$545,000 over expenditure or budget – experiencing declining enrollments.
- Met with ATA – bargaining process moving slowly.

Terry Patey – Rocky View School Division

- The Trustees and our Director of Planning have completed the tours of all our schools. This was a valuable opportunity for all of us to acquaint ourselves with every school other than the ones at which we attend school council meetings. This was also a terrific opportunity to see some very effective programs in action and sense the school community as described through their administrators.
- We adopted the new School Calendar for the 2005/2006 school year increasing teaching days to 187 and a before Labour Day start up. The Christmas break was extended by a few days in an attempt to provide a balance of the requests to extend that break and have an after Labour Day start.
- The Board has started the preliminary process of the 2005-2006 budget.
- New West Airdrie Elementary School will open in 2006.
- New Education Support Centre to open at the end of the year.
- The Trustees spent an incredible day with the support staff on the first day of the Rocky View Teachers Convention (February 24th) and participated with the staff in a great day of workshops for the annual Support Staff Development Day that was held at the Bert Church High School. Key note guest speaker was Donna Tona.

Questions & Answers:

Larry Maerz: With regards to the Auditor Statements, some departments are doing well while others are doing poorly, how do you balance?

- Your Accounting/Finance department should be able to help. You need to understand the categories in finance a little bit better.

Nicole Buret: How do you start before Labour Day?

- There was an original committee who then put it out to the school councils, feedback was gathered and then it goes before the board. Can't have a longer Christmas and an after Labour Day start. People chose a longer Christmas.

Larry Maerz: How many teaching days?

- 187 teaching days but will be moving to 190 days.

Reports:

Maureen Emond – ASBA Executive

- Budget was sent out to Board Chairs on Feb. 11th
- Board is asking for Provincial Initiatives which are due on March 8th
- Organizational Review – Board of Directors approved the recommendations. The position of the Francophone Boards to sit in as observers was approved.

Need a policy for Terms of Reference, what the authority would be, what the nature of issues would be.

- The Labour Task Force – have been traveling across the province through all of the zones – the process was really well received. The committee will now gather all of the input and will sit down this Monday to go through it. Potential special meeting date of April 30th was sent out yesterday. April 14th meeting for Board Liaisons / Trustee / Administrator – April 14th and it will be a working session (fine tuning, looking at the task force & preparing for the April 30th meeting).
- Policy Submission Deadlines is March 25th – bylaw amendments from the Boards themselves.
- Policy and Directives – 3 each from each zone – May 27th is the deadline.

David Woloshyn – Alberta Education

- Please see attached 3 handouts.
- Director's Report seems to be meeting everyone's needs.
- Congratulations to the CBE for their North Calgary Arts Centre – great job!
- Calgary Catholic is commended for their physical activity program that starts in September.
- Congratulations to Christ Redeemer for their Career Expo

Questions & Answers:

Don Thomas: Lack of exam dates for future years?

- Used to provide 3 years worth of exam dates but found it was creating more frustration because of all the revisions in scheduling. Now we provide just one year of exam dates at a time.

Budget discussions when will the grants be in? S

- Some delay putting it together and it will be a little later than normal this year.

Larry Maerz: Why so much emphasis on the Language Initiative? T

- The Minister is very fluent in 5 languages and is very committed to the second language initiative.

Maureen Munro – ASBA Zone Director

- Will include ASBA Board of Directors Highlights with March 4, 2005 minutes

Joanne Van Donzel - CLL Report

- Centre for Leadership and Learning – held at the UofC. March 16th 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- ASBABA is going to meet with the ASBA committee on March 23rd in Canmore. There are 39 boards that are members of the group and have a strategic plan that is being put into place.
- There is a website that is available.
- Not just focusing on French but multiculturalism.

Teacher Preparation – No Report.

Field Experiences – No Report.

Larry Maerz - Regional Consortium

- Nothing major to report other than the CRC now has a map handout.

Trudy Hauser – Edwin Parr Committee

- Applications need to be in by April 15th. Late applications were refused in prior years.
- Alberta Education has been extended an invitation to the Banquet.

Labour Relations – No Report.

Motion by Larry Maerz

To accept reports.

Carried

Suzanne Lundrigan presented John Neill with a Gold Watch for his 24 years of service as a Trustee. John Neill then gave an informal thank-you speech.

Serafino Scarpino accepted awards for 2 Calgary Catholic Trustees.

Directives for Action – you as a zone will decide what 3 will be brought forward. Please bring them in fax format to the April meeting in Canmore.

Presentations

Alberta Education – Karen Fetterly and Debbie Vance on “Individual Learner Career Pathways”.

Calgary Board of Education – Norm Sigalet and Chris Meaden on “Career Pathways – The Calgary Story – A Journey of Renewal”.

Review of Zone 5 Calendar Events

Canadian Rockies has confirmed the next Zone 5 meeting on April 8th to be held at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Centre, 511 Bow Valley Trail, Canmore. Telephone: (403) 678-3625. It is in the main ballroom.

Terry Patey adjourned meeting at 3:00 p.m.