

**Alberta School Boards Association – Zone 5**  
**March 7, 2008**  
**Calgary Board of Education**  
**Coventry Hills Superstore, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**  
**100 Country Village Road NE, Calgary, AB**

**In Attendance**

John Neill	Prairie Land Regional Division
David Anderson	A.S.B.A.
Heather Welwood	A.S.B.A.
Anne-Marie Boucher	C.S.S.A.
Joyce Bazant	Golden Hills School Division
Diana Froc	Foothills School Division
Roy Goulet	C.S.C.F.S.A.
Lynn Ferguson	Calgary Board of Education
David Woloshyn	Alberta Education
Doug Gardner	Foothills School Division
Bev LaPearé	Rocky View School Division
Jerry Muelaner	Foothills School Division
Sylvia Eggerer	Rocky View School Division
Colleen Munro	Rocky View School Division
Helen Clease	Rocky View School Division
Sheila Snowsell	Canadian Rockies School Division
Rosemarie Goerlitz	Calgary Separate School Division
Joanne Van Donzel	Christ the Redeemer School Division
Don Thomas	Rocky View School Division

**Call to Order**

Don Thomas, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Round table introductions were made.

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as circulated.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were approved as circulated with the following change:  
Bullet 7 under Calgary Board of Education to read: We are giving a presentation in April on “National School Boards” conference in Florida re governance.

## **Business Arising from the Minutes**

### **Correspondence**

There has been a request received from Donna Engel for a May budget presentation. This has been approved for May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

### **BOARD SHARING**

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

- With the help of Leroy Sloane, our focus has been concentrated on a hiring process for a new superintendent. We are looking at our needs for the future.
- We have reviewed our policies and have instigated a start on language policies.
- We have set a date for a decision on Foothills.

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

- Jay Lyons is unable to attend today because of a school opening.
- We are doing school visits at present.
- Millarville School tender came in under budget. Timing may have been a factor. We can now complete the budget.
- The Board toured the new Westmount space in Okotoks. It is a very small site and a two storey school would be more beneficial.
- We have done a demolition of the old section of Turner Valley School. A government inspector went through it before demolition and the boiler with asbestos was removed.
- We are planning stages of modernization of Percy Pegler School in Okotoks in conjunction with C.S.S.A.
- We held some public meetings regarding band instruments and how to transport them on school buses. This would also include hockey equipment. If anyone has any information on this, we would be pleased to hear it.

#### **Golden Hills School Division, Joyce Bazant**

- Larry Maerz was unable to attend today.
- The Board passed a motion, in accordance with Policy 19, Alternative Programs, for the establishment, in principle, of a faith based alternative program for the Strathmore area in partnership with the Alberta Lutheran School Society. This is a K-6 program with a September start date. The establishment is conditional upon minimum enrollment of 75 students, finding suitable space to lease for the program and support from Alberta Infrastructure for the lease. This will hopefully ease some of the 'bursting at the seams' situations in Strathmore.
- Accommodation committees have been meeting in all areas of Golden Hills School Division. The Board has had a delegation from the Hussar/Gleichen/Cluny area, as well as the Standard area. A delegation from the

- Rockyford area will be heard at the March 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, as the story continues on a solution for East Wheatland declining enrollments. The Capital Planning meeting is scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Ron Kenworthy is our new trustee from Drumheller and completes our 9 member Board of Trustees. He was raised on a farm near Rockyford, taught school for 31 years and was a school administration for 16 of those years. He currently co-chairs the Central Alberta Child and Family Services Board, however, this term ends at the end of April.
  - The project to modernize the junior/senior high school in Drumheller is moving along with the Board hoping to break ground this summer pending having sufficient funding to start and finish the project.
  - The Council of Council meeting, held February 28<sup>th</sup>, was well attended with 12 of 19 schools having representation at the meeting. Some schools are doing a lot of fund raising for playground equipment (\$40,000 and up) as well as field trips, etc. The Board has asked if they want to meet again this year, perhaps by videoconference and has also suggested that they could assist Councils with day seminars, speakers, etc.
  - Reaching and Teaching Conference is May 1 and 2 in Calgary.

#### **CFCFSA, Roy Goulet**

- We are still getting a few requests from the City of Calgary and various municipalities in south Alberta to get a francophone school. The new school in Calgary is doing very well. We are starting to build a new school in Cochrane in the near future to replace Riverview.

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

- On February 28<sup>th</sup>, our Superintendent resigned effective that day. We appointed a new Acting Superintendent until we can find a permanent replacement. Thanks to Alberta Education for quickly finalizing the appointment of our Acting Superintendent. Thank you also to A.S.B.A. for their support. We are working to establish a process for hiring a new superintendent very soon.

Comment: The A.S.B.A. provides very good help.

#### **Prairie Land Regional Division, John Neill**

- PLRD Strategic Plan and the Division Utilization Plan – Moving Forward – during the Board’s first meeting in May, the committee assigned with the responsibility to direct the preparation of the PLRD Strategic Plan will present the name of the facilitator chosen to lead the Board in the development of this plan. The process of developing the plan will begin immediately after the Board’s first meeting in September. In the meantime, the recently accepted report entitled the “Division Utilization Plan – Moving Forward” will proceed with its planned meetings called “Engaging the School Communities”. The first two meetings will

take place in the communities of Altario and Veteran. It is the Board's intention to complete these two meetings before the end of June 2008. The Board will continue with the remainder of these meetings in the other school communities during the 2008-2009 school year.

- The third annual Key Community Leaders meeting will be held in Hanna on April 2 from 2-9:30 p.m. at the Lutheran Church auditorium. Invitations to members of our communities will be emailed next week and will include a draft agenda. Trustees look forward to having all those who are invited attend, as this is an opportunity for the general public to provide input on the operation of the school division and on the direction the division should take in the future.
- A professional development session specifically arranged for members of school councils will be presented at Youngstown School on April 15, 2008 re School Council Professional Development. Sessions will include "The Role and Responsibilities of School Councils" and "School Council and Planning".
- We are asking for Zone support for video conferencing and knowing the legalities.
- We have changed our school bus policy to allow drivers over 65 years of age to drive. We have had great difficulty securing drivers and hope this will make a difference.
- We are doing our school visits. We also hold 3-4 meetings in the schools each year. Our meetings begin at 11 a.m.

Comment: Re over 65 years of age bus drivers – David Anderson will check regulations and see what the Bus Safety Committee has to say.

Comment: Driver testing may be a little tougher for those over 65 years of age.

Comment: Every year there seems to be problems with hiring bus drivers.

Comment: Video Conferencing – Interpretation of the Act is not entirely certain. Legality is open to question. There are a number of questions coming up on this and it is suggested that Prairie Land bring this policy forward. The vast majority of boards, particularly those struggling with conditions, will be in support of this policy.

Comment: The A.S.B.A. has used video conferencing with success but won't want to do it all the time.

Comment: Has Alberta Education discussed this, especially the issue of legality of Board meetings? Controversial results can be a challenge. The Government is reluctant to open up the Act. Prairie Land will take this to the Fall AGM which will go through the Zone. C.S.S.A. will support them.

Comment: Bringing it forward at the Fall AGM gives boards time to do research and testing.

Comment: There are some local issues when you relocate 3 grades. The School Act needs some changes on this as well.

### **Rocky View School Division, Helen Clease**

- 2008-2011 Three Year Plan – last stakeholder group for input is about 27 high school students who will meet with the Board to discuss issues and to contribute to our Vision, Mission and Motto development process.
- AISI conference – a number of divisional facilitators, administrators, and teachers attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Alberta Initiative for School Improvement conference, “Leading and Learning: Embracing Excellence”, Feb. 25-26, in Edmonton. Susan Long and Leslie Waite from Rocky View presented.
- The province is currently reviewing requests for modular classrooms that are required to meet our enrolment needs for September, 2008.
- We haven’t learned any more on the approval of a new elementary school in Langdon. So far what we do know is that Alberta Education/Infrastructure approved a P3, K-6 school with a projected opening date of September, 2011. Rocky View’s #1 priority was a K-4 school that we were looking to have open for September, 2010.
- Have received some 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom grants – to be used for wireless and network upgrades, LCD projector with speakers for the classroom, Assistive Technologies to reduce learning barriers, and Technology Innovation funding to support school-based needs.
- We are reviewing a number of memberships and a number of policies including “Inclement Weather Policy. A draft policy to never close schools for weather issues is being circulated among stakeholders for feedback.
- We have two options proposed for a new school calendar being circulated among stakeholders. We have received over 1,000 emails from parents and teachers expressing their preferences. The process has been a great exercise in the democratic process, allowing everyone to feel a part of the decision-making process.

Comment: Never talk about inclement weather unless it’s July or August.

Comment: Re Calendar – we are basically looking at less school days, but making dedicated PD days. Canadian Rockies has had a lot of experience with this.

Comment: We are looking at a regular calendar and a 174 day – PD day calendar. With the new calendar, all AISI development would be handled on these PD days. It is a fiscally responsible way to do this. We will probably need a third option. The intent is to provide teachers with as much PD as possible and give them an opportunity to meet centrally.

Comment: The Calgary Regional Consortium offers some free PD. They would go

to RVSD and work with you. They are very flexible.

Comment: Your value is you don't want disruption of your students/teacher – wouldn't that be around your board values?

Comment: A.S.B.A. can give you some tips.

Comment: Our new policy process has all policies go out for collaboration. Our method of distribution is schools and school councils.

Comment: Foothills School Division amended their calendar about 8 years ago for around 12 PD days a year. This became a big contentious issue because we had a school start before Labour Day. However, we have empirical success. We also tried to get as close as possible to the Catholic's calendar.

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

- St. Jerome School, a new K-6 school, opened on March 3<sup>rd</sup> in Panorama Hills to serve a core capacity of 350 students with capability to accommodate 750 with portable additions. District Chief Superintendent Lucy Miller, Ward trustee Linda Wellman and Area Superintendent Luba Diduch were present on March 4<sup>th</sup> to provide welcome messages, as well as give local media a tour.
- Dr. Lucy Miller, Chief Superintendent for the Calgary Catholic School District, celebrated one year with the District recently. In a very short period of time, Dr. Miller has seen great success through her re-imaging initiative that encourages staff and key stakeholder groups to consider “what would it look like if the best happened?” Dr. Miller has worked tirelessly over the past 12 months to effectively build strong relationships with employees, the Diocese, parent groups, local and provincial government and the Calgary community as a whole.
- The District held its second Family Day event at a Calgary Hitmen game on Feb. 23. Over 1,800 staff, students and their families attended the game and cheered on the local WHL team. In conjunction, a Calgary Interfaith Food Bank Drive was held and nine boxes of food were collected. Plans for another Family Day in coming months are now underway.
- The Minister's decision to transfer responsibility for dealing with complaints regarding teacher competency from the provincial government to the ATA is a concern for the District. The Board has forwarded a letter expressing this concern to the Minister of Education with copy to the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition. The Board feels this decision should have included appropriate consultation as it is one that usurps trustee responsibility at a minimum.

Comment: CASS and ASBA were opposed to changes of the competency issue. In September, 2009, these issues will go to the ATA. We can try to have someone from Teacher Development Branch come to address this.

Comment: There was consultation many years ago. Suddenly we received an email about this with no warning. It came out of the blue.

What does it look like? - We now must ask the ATA for a copy.

Will it impinge on school boards as employers? – The ASBA has asked for discussion with the Minister. They say they don't have an official copy. The ASBA is very concerned with the process. We have expressed this to the Deputy Minister.

Comment: Change won't occur until September, 2009. By-law and Regulation must be developed.

Comment: The Minister approved a transfer of responsibilities which signaled the intent to move towards changing the By-law and Regulation. Work will be done next year to make changes.

Comment: In terms of common sense, having the union be in charge of its own people's competency seems to be a conflict.

Comment: CASS and parent organizations are also concerned.

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

- We held an official grand opening of both Arbour Lake School and Battalion Park School on February 29<sup>th</sup>. Arbour Lake School is a grades 5-9 school with a total capacity of 900 students, Battalion Park School is a two-building campus servicing K-6 with a total capacity of 625 students.
- The CBE recently released its Report to the Community 2008. The report contains good news about student results, showcases student art, discusses progress being made in teaching students about citizenship and good character, as well as how the CBE is working to provide each student with the opportunities and learning environment in order for students to be the very best they can be. It is available at <http://www.cbe.ab.ca/AboutUs/documents/ReporttoCommunity2008.pdf>.
- The Board of Trustees has released its fourth edition of the TrusteeZine, the trustees' online magazine. This issue's topic is 21<sup>st</sup> Century Students at CBE. It is available on our website at <http://www.cbe.ab.ca/TrusteezineFeb/>.
- The highlight from the March 4 board meeting was Board Development Session – Workforce Planning. The purpose is for the Board to develop more complete knowledge and a better understanding of specific policy issues, and to support effective board monitoring. This session focused on workforce planning and included a presentation by Alberta Education entitled “Workforce Planning: Attracting, Developing, and Retaining Great Teachers for Alberta Students”.

- The highlight from the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting was a student Accommodation Plan for Elboya, William Reid and Windsor Park Schools. The Board received a report, including a presentation from Administration, for information and for the record. Further to a question and answer time and following debate, the Board determined that it is satisfied that sufficient information has been provided in order for the Board to proceed with consideration of closure of the regular program at Windsor Park School. In its report to the Board, administration is recommending that the building continue to house another CBE program.

Comment: TrusteeZine seems to be the only one in the province. It includes articles for trustees. It was designed to make people think in a broader and wider manner. The number of people accessing this site is being tracked.

Comment: Two ex-trustees have been elected in the provincial election, as well as an Edmonton trustee.

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

- We held our board retreat at the Banff Centre. We have two new trustees and it was a good opportunity to get to know one another. We talked about our future planning. We are now in Phase 3. We also discussed succession planning.
- We are having our bio diesel launch in Canmore today.
- We entered into a partnership with Foothills re bus safety, etc. It has been a mutually beneficial partnership.
- As of this September, we will no longer bus the Christ the Redeemer and Southern Francophone students. This may be confusing and we shall monitor this.
- We have decided to limit French Kindergarten registration. We will have to hold a lottery for 406 spots. Our student numbers in Canmore are slowly declining. We may have a lot of angry parents.
- We have been taking part in a research project, along with Christ the Redeemer and Southern Francophone Catholics. Fr. Fraser Mustard has been leading us. It is basically a total learning centre and a support network for young parents. We are looking at having early childhood groups in our schools (0 – 6 years of age). We think it makes sense to have these young children in our school. It is about supporting them so they are ready for school.

Comment: We seem to be losing community involvement in our schools. This should be very valuable.

Comment: Funding isn't necessary.

Comment: We commend your board for this fabulous work and your engagement with your community.

Comment: Christ the Redeemer focuses more on families in need. It is usually a family situation.

**Moved by Lynn Ferguson that the Board Reports be accepted as presented.**

**Carried.**

## **REPORTS**

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

- Improving high school completion is one of ASBA's three advocacy priorities. The terms of reference for the ASBA High School Completion Task Force are:
  - identify the unique contributions school boards can make to improve high school completion rates,
  - identify and develop resources to assist school boards in their efforts to improve high school completion rates.Each Zone is to name a representative to the task force. Directors who are members of the task force which will be chaired by Jackie Swainson, Zone 4 Director are – Kerry Milder, Zone 6 Director, Clayton Jespersen, Zone 2/3 Director, Carol Bazinet, Calgary Public and Marilyn Bergstra, Edmonton Catholic.
- Each year, the ASBA surveys boards to gauge their satisfaction with the services provided. In September, 2007 every school board in Alberta participated in a telephone survey – there was 100% participation. Survey highlights are:
  - Legal Services – 59 boards used the service – 90% of respondents very satisfied
  - Labour Relations – 48 boards used the service – 90% very satisfied.
  - Association Affairs – 39 boards used the service – 95% very satisfied.The survey also asked school boards about member communication and provincial advocacy.
  - When asked if the ASBA practiced open communication – 68% strongly agreed, 48% agreed and 13% disagreed.
  - When asked if the ASBA listened to school board needs – 39% strongly agreed, 48% agreed and 13% disagreed.
  - When asked if school boards had sufficient input into provincial advocacy activities – 49% strongly agreed, 43% agreed and 8% disagreed.
- The ASBA will conduct a debriefing of the process and impact – including financial – of the recently achieved memorandum of agreement which resulted in the government picking up the tab for the teachers' portion of the unfunded pension liability. The goal is to present a report at the Spring General Meeting.
- Trustees who are not receiving email copies of the ASBA President Heather Welwood's Board Chair's email or the ASBA publication Hot News can stay up-to-date by logging onto the ASBA website at [www.asba.ab.ca](http://www.asba.ab.ca).
- The ASBA Board of Directors approved appointments to the boards of the following ASBA-sponsored insurance and pension plans.
  - Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan (ASEBP)

- Gerry Gibeault (Chair – Trustee, Edmonton Public
  - Bill Schulte, Secretary-Treasurer, Battle River Regional Division
  - Karen Holloway, Trustee, Clearview School Division
  - Carol Bazinet, Trustee, Calgary Board of Education
  - Jerry Muelaner, Trustee, Foothills School Division
- Note: Jan. 1, 2009, Lance Miller, Trustee, Westwind School Division will join the ASEBP board.

Alberta School Board Insurance Exchange (ASBIE)

- Jerry Muelaner (Chair) – Trustee, Foothills School Division
- Caren Mueller, Trustee, Evergreen CSR
- Rod Soholt, Trustee, Northern Lights School Division
- Jean Champagne, Secretary-Treasurer, St. Paul Education Reg. Division
- Joe Henderson, Secretary-Treasurer, Wolf Creek School Division
- Dexter Durfey, Secretary-Treasurer, Westwind School Division

Supplemental Integrated Pension Plan (SiPP)

- Jim Gibbons (Chair – Superintendent, Chinook’s Edge School Division
- Marg Belcourt, Chair, Calgary Catholic
- Tyler Demers, Trustee, Lethbridge School Division

Don Thomas, Chair, called for nominations for a Zone 5 Representative for High School Completion Committee.

Rosemarie Goerlitz offered to take the position.

Don Thomas, Chair, called for nominations a second time for a Zone 5 Representative for High School Completion Committee.

Don Thomas, Chair, called for nominations a third time for a Zone 5 Representative for High School Completion Committee.

Rosemarie Goerlitz was appointed the Zone 5 Representative for the High School Completion Committee.

Carried.

**A.S.B.A., Heather Welwood**

- Thank you to all the boards here for getting the agreement done. We were very pleased that 100% of the boards did the survey. There were a lot of comments about the government review. We think it has gone very well.
- We would like to commend everyone on their community engagement. We may ask you to share some of these with the rest of the province.
- Attended AISI last week and noticed there were more trustees attending. This is very good. The sessions were excellent and there was one trustee from every board.

- Are continuing policy process work. We are going to involve the general public (trustees). Everyone wanted us to revamp this. People can't connect advocacy with policy. We will be seeing some work on this in the future.
- Two upcoming conferences: a) Health Initiatives, March 19 – the grant has to be used by the end of March, there is money for boards to use to send someone there - \$400/board. Register online at [www.asba.ab.ca](http://www.asba.ab.ca).  
b) Closing the Gap, April 13-15 in Kananaskis. We would like all chairs/designates to attend. CMAC is in conflict by being held at the same time.

### **ASBA, David Anderson**

- Fiscal Accountability Sessions – The Auditor-General said we are not doing a good enough job based on service of 13 school boards. They issued a series of recommendations to put in place with some training programs for school board trustees. There are procedures that need to be put in place. Our aim is to have every school board go through this process. Session is May 5<sup>th</sup> in Calgary at the Greenwood Inn for all Zone 5 members except Prairie Land. If you can't attend that session, there will be others. Prairie Land will go to Red Deer on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Invitations will be sent out very soon. It is a trustee responsibility to be informed on this.

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

- “The best hope for a nation lies in the proper education of its youth.” – Erasmus.
- Wilma Haas has been appointed to the position of Assistant Deputy Minister, Learning Supports Division, effective February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008.
- The Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Tool Kit for School authorities K-12 has been developed by Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry, working with an advisory committee. This describes roles and responsibilities of school authorities, superintendents and system administrators under the Act and will be available in early March, 2008, with the Francophone edition available in Fall, 2008. In-service sessions will be provided throughout the province.
- The Alberta government announced plans to move ahead with the planning and construction of 14 new schools that will focus on innovative new design concepts for middle and senior high schools for Calgary and Edmonton regions using a P3 approach. \$190 million will be allocated for 20 school infrastructure projects including upgrading and modernization. Alberta Education staff will meet with each school board to finalize the scope of the respective modernization projects and determine the allocation of funds. The Capital Planning Branch will establish priorities for the allocation of the additional instructional space required for September, 2008.
- Reporting Grade Level of Achievement to Alberta Education is being adjusted to “at, above, or below grade level” in response to input from CASS and subsequent support from ASBA, AHSCA and the department. Support documents have been revised. A replacement copy of the Grade Level of Achievement Reporting:

- Teacher and Administrator Handbook will be sent. School authorities will report GLA to parents as “at, above, or below grade level”. School authorities may elect to report GLA to parents using additional information where the authority’s assessment methods and procedures support more detailed reporting.
- Alberta Education has developed a project plan – Setting the Direction for Special Education in Alberta – to develop policy, accountability measures and a new special education funding distribution model. This will involve extensive research, data collection, and consultation with education stakeholders. The Renewed Funding Framework will provide the principles to guide this project.
  - The 2008 edition of the School Board Planning and Reporting Guide was posted on the Ministry’s web site in February. School boards will receive evaluations of the six-year transition rate in the May 2008 Accountability Pillar report on the Extranet. Two sample formats for school board plans have been provided. There is no required format for school jurisdiction plans. Jurisdictions can use a format of their own design or one of the formats provided. The school improvement measure on page 2-6 includes students as well as parents and teachers as a respondent group.
  - Accountability Pillar Surveys for teachers and parents will be fielded from mid to end of March. Teachers and students complete the survey online in the first week or 10 days of the fielding window. Responses are confidential and only aggregated data will be reported. There will be a delay in administering, so the results will not show until October.
  - The 2007/2008 Public Satisfaction Surveys will be administered from March 5, 2008 to April 15, 2008 and will include school principals in the survey. Responses are confidential and only aggregated data will be reported.
  - Three information sheets for parents have been posted. They are “Working Together: Review by the Minister”, “Working Together: Special Needs Tribunal” and “Working Together: Attendance Board”. They can be found at [www.education.alberta.ca/parents.aspx](http://www.education.alberta.ca/parents.aspx), under the Role of Parents section.
  - “Learning Together for Success” conference will be held March 12-14 at the Marriot Hotel and River Cree Resort in Edmonton. The theme is “Nurturing Relationships: FNMI Parent & Community Engagement”.
  - The new Teachers’ Mobility Agreement comes into effect April 1, 2008. Teachers in Alberta and British Columbia will be able to pursue employment and obtain certification in either province without additional training and examination.
  - The Career and Technology Studies Initiative has been established as a department-wise project to coordinate, plan and implement all work related to CTS. The revised program will begin implementation in September, 2009. This will have implications.
  - AE is providing an addition \$10 million to the CTS Regional Capacity Initiative to support jurisdictions in equipping, upgrading or enhancing CTS facilities. Proposals are being reviewed and funding announcements will be made in April.
  - \$35 million will be invested to support technology enhancement in Alberta schools. This will help jurisdictions meet the strategic directions for ICT in education and Alberta and increase opportunities for students to access

- technology to enhance teaching and learning. \$25 million will go to Technology Infrastructure and \$10 million to Technology in the Classroom.
- A five-year implementation plan has been designed to develop Alberta's Distributed Learning Strategy – to develop collaborative and sustainable relationships that allow learning and teaching to be individualized and independent of time and place. The Discover phase will involve ongoing participation of and communication with school authorities, teachers and parents to develop a comprehensive needs analysis and map of the current state of distributed learning in Alberta.
  - The Early Order Discount Program enables schools and school authorities to save an additional 10% on all eligible learning and teaching resources purchased annually from January 1 – May 15 through LRC.
  - Healthy Kids Alberta! A Wellness Framework for Alberta's Children and Youth (2007/2017) and Action Plan (2007/2010) was distributed in December, 2007. The first goal is to provide a provincial wellness framework that facilitates a comprehensive, cross-sectoral approach for current and future child and youth wellness activities and also provides a foundation and focus for implementing immediate actions, as well as wellness issues to be identified and responded to over the next decade. The Wellness Fund addresses issues of health and wellness among children and youth in Alberta.
  - Up to 10 bursaries of \$5,000 each are awarded each year to practicing teachers of a language other than English to improve their fluency, pedagogical skills and knowledge of the target culture through an educational immersion experience. Up to two bursaries of \$2,500 each for a summer linguistic development program available only in Canada will be available to qualified applicants.
  - The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Provincial Skills Competition will take place May 22-23 at Stampede Park in Calgary. This is a global movement focused on developing and promoting high performance among young people in skilled trades and technologies.
  - When boards' student population increases, the Class Size Initiative funding is not increased.
  - No specific allocation will be provided to boards or school jurisdictions to address the cost of incremental movement on the grid regarding Class Size Initiative funding.
  - The word "standard" has been changed to "guidelines" in the "Principal Quality Practice Standard" because it will not have the same legislative status as that of the 1997 Teaching Quality Standard, which was the subject of a Ministerial Order.
  - Alberta Education promoted community involvement in the planning and design of capital projects that offer a broad benefit to the community.
  - If additional space is required to accommodate a post-secondary program, the board and post-secondary institution must incorporate this request into their respective capital plans. This will be evaluated in each Ministry and considered for approval and funding. The board must evaluate the need for additional space against other capital priorities within its jurisdiction.

- How a school authority reports GLA to parents remains a local decision. John Burger, Senior Manager, System Improvement Group, will present at upcoming CASS and ASBA regional meetings on highlights of the 2007/2007 GLA Report.
- Telephone interviews of superintendents have been conducted on the accessibility of student attendance information. A measure may be developed for the Accountability Pillar.
- Based on background work, some of the Accountability Pillar Survey questions have been modified. Confirmation will be provided in October 2008 as to whether or not the updated survey questions will appear in next year's Accountability Pillar survey and details on how the evaluation of this measure is to be handled.
- When jurisdictions need to add extra working space when building new schools to accommodate the needs of various educational partners, the Department's position is that such needs should be identified by school jurisdictions in their Capital Plan.
- Working groups of teachers have been involved in the assessment component to ensure alignment with the new Social Studies program.
- A school authority offering a Section 21 religious alternative program can charge a fee to parents of students enrolled in an alternative program. This is to defray non-instruction costs, transportation, religious teaching resources, guest speakers and field trips.

**CLL, Larry Maerz**

- No report.

**Teacher Preparation, Sheila Snowsell**

- No report.

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

- A meeting was held before Christmas with immigrant teachers who wanted information on certification at the University of Calgary. There are 10 people in the current program, 6 are upgrading and 4 need credits at an individual cost of \$4,300.
- 60 are teaching overseas this year, usually English as a second language. They must not work more than 12 hours per week. See Community-Workplace Survey, December, 2007 (see attached).
- Assessment by Partner Teachers – the key is reports from “certified” teachers with more than 3 years experience (see attached).
- There are 20 student teachers at Chinook's Edge School Division. These students report that they feel isolated (small community). They take 2 courses at Olds during this exercise. Honorarium is \$2,000 per student from the school board. Mentor teachers should have a minimum of three years experience. (See attached)

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

- Flyers were passed out to Zone 5 participants.
- There is a new curriculum on Reaching and Teaching.
- Joanne will report back at the next meeting.

**Edwin Parr Committee**

- Please send your nominations to Don Thomas, c/o Lynne Castle at Rocky View School Division by March 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The banquet will be held on May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Greenwood Inn.
- More information will be brought to the next meeting.

**Labour Relations, John Neill**

- No report.

**ASBALE, Joanne Van Donzel**

- “Excellence in Language Education” has gone out to small boards. Please return by May 17<sup>th</sup>. You must be a member of ASBALE and have a language policy.

**Advocacy, Joanne Van Donzel**

- There is \$500 in the budget.
- Two options were presented. Option 1 would be a two year process and Option 2 would be what we have done before.

Moved by Joanne Van Donzel that the Zone 5 voting members adopt Option 1.  
3 voted for Option 1  
5 voted against Option 1  
Defeated

Moved by Joanne Van Donzel that the Zone 5 voting members adopt Option 2.  
5 voted for Option 2  
4 voted against Option 2  
Carried

Option 2 was approved by the voting members.

- We need more people on our Advocacy Committee – perhaps 5. We need to set dates for more precise meeting times. Zone 2/3 automatically has their ASBA director on their Advocacy Committee. Boards should have volunteers for the committee by May 16<sup>th</sup>. The Committee may do a lot of emails, phone calls or mailings. Please email your topics to Joanne for the Advocacy Committee.

## **Professional Development**

- Last spring, we set down a number of topics. We each took some of the topics and tried to find some speakers. Now there are requests to make presentations. Would the Zone be interested in having an hour for PD, making the meeting last a little longer? Or would the Zone prefer to finish the meeting and then hold some P.D.? We need to be flexible and keep our schedule open.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Keray Henke, Deputy Minister of Education, spoke to Zone 5 on “Severe Disabilities Review”.

The last significant review was in 2002/2003. It was decided they would establish funding parameters in a jurisdictional/unique way. In the intervening period, we have increased rates and population as a proportion of the total student population. Last spring, the Minister’s Advisory Task Force thought perhaps some profiles were no longer valid. It has been a very significant undertaking to verify. We have reviewed 17,000 files a number of times. The staff report was different than expected with significant differences indicating a systemic problem. There was a disconnect. We have asked departments to put together a consultation plan for students across the board. The data shows we have a much larger problem – both policy and parameters. This will be presented to the new Minister. We should have a more definitive communication out by the end of the month.

Comment (ASBA): We must do this or we can end up with a conflict with the Auditor-General. We need to do what’s right for children but still be accountable. This is a significant undertaking.

Mr. Henke has asked departments not to release results of jurisdictional analyses. An analysis is being prepared. Releasing would demonstrate that some jurisdictions will meet parameters and some will not. It is not a question of success or failure. This is not intended to serve as an advocacy re funding. It will be appropriate to look at distributing resources.

Question: Can divisions now put forward other cases that they did not send in because of the Minister’s list of reasons?

Answer: Out of 17,000 files, 9,000 do conform. At review initiation, we did not ask for any information that our policy didn’t already ask for. We speculated that we coded a lot of new cases. In fact, we didn’t. Therefore, I believe we have a policy problem. For any jurisdiction who gave us files that did conform, we have adjusted the profile upwards. Those who did not conform will not be penalized. The rules will not be changed without collaboration and appropriate time to move to where we need to be. We would

like to have this completed by the fall so changes, if necessary, can be made by September, 2009. We don't want this to continue on as an endless conversation. If September, 2009 is not possible, that will be all right. The process to standardize or address expectations is why we have to stretch our imagination. I would speculate that if I pay for something, I will get more of it. Not sure I want to do that. The 17,000 files is not an actual reflection of the actual data base. Maybe think about a funding paradigm re capacity or a census model. We need an honest conversation between a variety of people. The ASBA will be involved. We will need to brief the new Minister and must make this a transparent process and an engaging conversation. We haven't designed the process as yet. The inequities will reflect back to the department. All jurisdictions have used the resources for their students. Hopes, dreams, and aspirations aren't always met. This review will not solve that, there will still be shortage capacity, not all parents will get their choice. Autism has particular issues, and there is a range of disabilities. Our conversation is not bound by 17,000 files but how we use \$27,000,000 to serve students the best we can. We won't be discussing individual profiles.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Lynn Ferguson that the meeting be adjourned.**

**Carried.**