

**NEXT ZONE MEETING – OCTOBER 5, 2007 – AT ROCKY
VIEW SCHOOL DIVISION**

**Alberta School Boards Association – Zone 5
March 2, 2007
Calgary Board of Education
Coventry Hills Superstore, 2nd floor
100 Country Village Road NE, Calgary, AB**

In Attendance

Don Thomas	Rocky View School Division
Jerry Muelaner	Foothills School Division
Bev LaPeare	Rocky View School Division
Lynn Ferguson	Calgary Board of Trustees
Doug Gardner	Foothills School Division
Joanne Van Donzel	Christ the Redeemer School Division
Maureen L. Munro	Rocky View School Division
David Anderson	A.S.B.A.
Heather Welwood	A.S.B.A.
Rhonda Longson	Foothills School Division
Sheila Snowsell	Canadian Rockies Regional Division
Karen Harries	Golden Hills School Division
Marge Belcourt	Calgary Catholic Board of Education
Christene Howard	Golden Hills School Division
Joyce Bazant	Golden Hills School Division
Barb Rangen	Golden Hills School Division
Faye Lippitt	Foothills School Division
Larry Maerz	Golden Hills School Division
Sheila Taylor	Prairie Land Regional Division
John Neill	Prairie Land Regional Division
Anne-Marie Boucher	C.S.S.A.
Wendy Metzger	Rocky View School Division
David Woloshyn	Alberta Education
Rob St-Onge	Alberta Education

Call to Order

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

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Rhonda Longson that the agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried.

Approval of Minutes and Notes

Moved by Joyce Bazant that the minutes of May 18, 2007, be accepted.

Carried.

Moved by Lynn Ferguson that the notes be approved.

Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Correspondence

A thank-you letter was received from Maureen Kubinec and Donna Engel of A.S.B.A. concerning the Zone 5 contribution at the Canadian School Boards Association annual congress held in Calgary in July, 2007.

Proposed Agenda Items

There were no proposed agenda items.

CSBA Congress in Calgary Update

Don Thomas gave a brief update and a CD was presented.

FGM Issues

A request has been sent to every board.

Financial Statement

Moved by Bev LaPear that the Financial Statement be accepted as circulated.

Carried.

BOARD SHARING

Calgary Catholic Board of Education

- There were delayed openings for three schools due to maintenance issues. One school will open as late as next Monday.
- Three out of four of our new schools won't be open until December/January.

Calgary Board of Education, Lynn Ferguson

- There was a presentation at a school board meeting from a Lord Beaverbrook High School teacher. They have started a publishing company and one book has been picked up by the Calgary Health Region. Another book is called “Garn” and is now available at Chapters. This has been a highly successful enterprise.
- We have opened two schools this fall on time.
- We have asked our Superintendent to do a feasibility study on a request from a school board in Northern Alberta.

Canadian Rockies School Division, Sheila Snowsell

- There will be a report next meeting.

Christ the Redeemer, Joanne Van Donzel

- We held a planning meeting re our board meetings and are reviewing our policy manual.
- We are getting geared up for elections.
- Our schools all opened before the September long weekend.
- We do not have enrolment numbers yet, but our Okotoks School is full.

Foothills School Division, Rhonda Longson

- We have held one meeting this school year which was last Wednesday.
- We are involved in a court case initiated by parents of Red Deer Lake School and we have lost the case. It involves our canceling bus routes that were considered grandfathered. The judge stated that the Board should have discussed this in a forum, he felt that Jerry Muelaner had promised we would go out and discuss this with the public (this was done in 2005). Now we have to reinstate routes, discuss and appeal. Their group will meet with us next Monday. Concerns were mainly public consultation and no flexibility. We hope to find some middle ground. Our grandfathering had no “sunset” clause and this was another part of the problem.

Golden Hills School Division, Larry Maerz

- Our schools began in August.
- Enrolments are up about 20.
- Our International School is growing slowly. Presently, it is at approximately 200 students.
- Our Landon School gym floor is not safe. Our students now have to go to the community hall.
- Staffing has been quite difficult, especially for shop and special needs.
- Re school closures – we have been working on closing the high school in Hussar. The Minister was petitioned and he gave them 4 years to keep the school open.

We had a very good meeting in Gleichen and Hussar. Standard was more difficult and Rockford was very difficult. Although the County was behind us, they later changed their minds. We appreciated the report from David King of Q97. Rural communities have a passion for their schools and feel they are losing everything. We have learned to stand for kids. Rural boards have to be ready for closures. Studies show it takes 5 years to make a change. Should the Government give us more than one year to close a school? Flexibility should be asked for as well as understanding. A lot of parents do not want this to take a long time because they want their children to start at the new school

CSSA, Anne-Marie Boucher

- Our schools opened before Labour Day. We will be reviewing this practice, as well as studying our calendar, including the possibility of early dismissal days for PD sessions.
- Our registration is up about 16% and we have over 1,000 students in 9 schools.
- We have opened 2 new elementary schools, one in Jerry Potts School in NW Calgary and the other inside École de la Rose Sauvage which will be moved to a Martindale site once the modular classrooms are ready. Getting the necessary permits from the City of Calgary for the Martindale site has been a long process.
- We received modernization money from the province for our École de La Source. It will be updated for junior high use. Our board office will need to find a new headquarters as there is no room left in this school.
- Paul Charbonneau, the Director of the Fédération Nationale Des Conseils Scolaires Francophones (Francophone equivalent to CSBA) passed away this summer.
- Mr. Gérard Lavigne is the new director of the Fédération des Conseils Scolaires Francophones de l'Alberta beginning September 17th. He was previously employed as superintendent of the francophone board of the North West Territories and has also worked for Alberta Education.

CFCFSA

- Trustees unable to attend this meeting.

Prairie Land Regional Division, Sheila Taylor

- We held our first board meeting last week.
- School began in our Division last Tuesday.
- This year we have three new principals.
- Our Division has purchased 8 new buses.
- This is the first year we do not have enough bus drivers.
- We now have a new M.L.A.

Rocky View School Division, Maureen Munro

- We have held a Planning Meeting and a Board Meeting this fall.
- Working on trustee policy and land projects.
- First National Inuit Showcase is coming up in October. Please get your numbers in soon.

Comment: Has any board held a video-conferencing board meeting and is it legal for a person to vote?

It should be legal, but this issue should be taken to Alberta Education's lawyers to confirm.

United States has done some generalizations because of differing laws – electronic notices are becoming legal. E-mail opinions and straw votes could be challenged. We must be cautious.

Comment: We need a policy on communicating and replaying to emails.

Comment: Board meetings need to be held in public.

Comment: Board actions are identified and clearly spelled out and minutes must be passed by the board.

Moved by Marge Belcourt that the reports be accepted as read.

Carried.

REPORTS

A.S.B.A., Doug Gardner

- ASBA is asking individual school boards to write the Minister of Education re school board revenues. Please outline the specific situation at your board. No deadline has been set, but please do at your earliest convenience.
- The Policy Advisory Committee will review and streamline all the rest of the ASBA policies and directives for action just as they consolidated the Facilities/Infrastructure Policies and Directives for Action at the SGM.
- New trustees who have joined the ASBA Board of Directors are:
 - Bev Esslinger (Edmonton Public) who replaces Gerry Gibeault,
 - Marge Belcouth (Calgary Catholic) who replaces Lois Burke-Gaffney,
 - Jackie Swainson (Zone 4) who replaces Karen Holloway, and
 - Kerry Milder (Zone 6) who replaces Patricia Aitchison.
- Committee appointments are:
 - CASS Self Governance Proposal – Kerry Milder (Zone 6)
 - Policy Advisory Committee – Karen Holloway (Zone 4) will continue on the committee until November election

- ASBA Board of Directors representative on the ASBA Committee on Drug Awareness – Marge Belcourt (Calgary Catholic) – until the November election
- Infrastructure Working Committee – Bev Esslinger (Edmonton Public) and Doug Gardner (Zone 5)
- Transportation Working Committee – Bev Esslinger (Edmonton Public) and Gerry Steinke (Zone 2/3)
- High School Completion Committee – Jackie Swainson (Zone 4) and Debbie Cavaliere (Edmonton Catholic).

Comment: Please copy your local MLA(s) on letter you send on reserves.

A.S.B.A., David Anderson

- Good luck to all trustees who are running again and thank you to all trustees who won't be rerunning.
- Thank you to all boards.
- CSBA Board of Directors want to thank you all for what you did at the Congress in July.
- We have heard from governance review that the way we do policies is confusing. We should have news on this in the future.
- We apologize for Maureen's inability to attend.
- Mat Hanrahan has joined ASBA staff for a year at no charge. We will be giving you a number of tools re budget.

Comment: At the SGM meeting, there was talk about a conference call. Has this happened?

No, it will be held early this month. It may be a presentation on an 800 number for everyone's convenience. We will be circulating a paper on this. It is the Roy Brassard issue.

Alberta Education, David Woloshyn

- “Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises.” Demosthenes (384 B.C. – 327 B.C.) (Keep your eye on the opportunities.)
“The beginning is the most important part of the work”.
Pluto (427 B.C. – 347 B.C.) (This relates to the start of the school year.)
- Mat Hanrahan, Assistant Deputy Minister, Learning Supports Division has retired after more than 35 years with the Alberta Public Service.
- Special Programs Branch – conducting a review and realignment of jurisdiction severe disabilities profiles. If this shows a jurisdiction serves more students than contained in its existing profile, an adjustment will be made immediately. If less students, the adjustment will be made next school year. An appeal process will be developed.
- Revised School Councils Regulation and Alberta School Council Resource Manual – a new section of the School Councils Regulation (s.13) identifies

responsibilities of school boards in relation to school councils. School boards are expected to review existing policies or create a new policy to ensure that boards' responsibilities as outlined in the new section are clearly stated and are being met. Policy 1.8.3 – School Councils has been repealed as it is redundant with the information on school councils contained in the School Act and in the Alberta School Council Resource Manual. The Manual now reflects the changes.

- Occupational Health and Safety Update – a new e-learning program called Workplace Health and Safety for Schools is designed to assist school authorities with educating their employees about OHS requirements.
- Performance Measurement and Reporting Branch – updated Accountability Pillar reports will be available to jurisdictions in early October 2007 and will have the May information in addition to updated Provincial Achievement and Diploma Examination information.
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit Services Branch – two-day conference to be held November 19-20 focusing primarily on sharing promising practices in FNMI education in Alberta with practical information, new insights and responsible strategies.

An Education Showcase will be held in Calgary at the Stampede Corral on October 16.

- Learning Technologies Branch – the Online Reference Centre provides 24 hour a day access to students and teachers.
- Call for Proposals – Improving Student Success in High School Through the Innovative Use of Technology – AE is seeking proposals from all publicly-funded Alberta school authorities interested in exploring the use of emerging technologies to improve student engagement and success in high school. Emphasis is on initiatives that demonstrate innovative use of technology-rich environments to improve the student experience in grades 9-12. Results will be shared across the system.
- Jurisdictional Video-Conferencing Capacity Rollout – each publicly-funded school jurisdiction will receive \$20,000 to enhance its video-conferencing capacity. Metro schools will receive an additional \$30,000 to provide more equitable access opportunities for a greater number of students.
- Alberta Nutrition Guidelines for Children and Youth – Draft for Discussion – stakeholder input is requested on the usability and appropriateness of information in the Alberta Nutrition Guidelines for Children and Youth. The goal is to equip facilities and organizations with the tools they need to provide children and youth with healthy food choices. In-person stakeholder consultations are scheduled.
- Change to Procedures for Waiving Career and Technology Studies (CTS Pre-requisites) – the policy has recently been amended to allow principals to waive CTS prerequisites under the following conditions:
 - student must provide documents that indicate he/she has met the learning outcomes and safety requirement with an external industry certificate, a record from a junior high class, a letter from a previous teacher or principal, a credible portfolio, or an existing project that demonstrates skills.

- principal must also take into consideration that the prerequisite course may be one in a series of courses required for admission into a post-secondary institution or to qualify for an external industry certificate and therefore requires an actual grade.

- Curriculum Handbooks for Parents and Curriculum Summaries- are posted on the Alberta Education web site and a single copy has been mailed to all schools.
- Curriculum Implementation Schedule – posted on the Alberta Education web site.
- Call for Proposals: Improving Career and Technology Studies Programming Through Enhancing CTS Equipment and Tools – AE and Skills Canada Alberta are seeking proposals from all interested in exploring innovative ways to support specific educational goals for secondary students by enhancing CTS equipment and tools. Initiatives should demonstrate innovative use of CTS equipment to improve the student experience in grades 9-12.
- Principal Quality Standard Document – not out yet. We will get back to you next meeting.
- Career Pathways – not out yet.
- Occupational Health and Safety applies to volunteers in schools – defined as “volunteer employees”. Does not cover field trips. Parent volunteers not covered under Workers Compensation.
- Thanks for the response on CTS problem from ASBA.

CLL, Larry Maerz

- No report this month.

Teacher Preparation, Rhonda Longson

- No report this month.

Field Experiences Policy Advisory Committee, Faye Lippitt

- No report this month.

Calgary Regional Planning Consortium, Joanne Van Donzel

- No report this month.

Edwin Parr Committee

- No report this month.

Labour Relations, Jerry Muelaner

- The Board of Directors will be meeting on Saturday at the Delta.

ASBALE, Joanne Van Donzel

- Will hold our first meeting soon.

Moved by Anne-Marie Boucher to accept the reports as read.

Carried.

Information and Discussion re ASBA Special General Meeting – September 14

- At a special General Meeting on Sept. 14, school boards made the following changes to the association's governance:
 - gave Zone 2/3 two directors
 - replaced the current weighted ballot with a double-majority voting system
 - eliminated the practice of school boards splitting their ballots
- The ASBA Board of Directors recommended changes to the association's governance structures and operations based on an extensive consultation with school boards as described in the Governance Review Work Plan.
- Please alert us of any of your proposed changes
- A two-third's majority is required to pass any changes.

Comments: How will 60/60 work in the middle of a meeting? - will have an electronic voting gadget that will make this seamless.

Boards must vote or they will lose their voice.

Will boards intermingle ahead of time or during the meeting? – discuss it amongst your own board, but if you want some lobbying time, we will consider it. Resolutions will be circulated long in advance. Amendments will be the problem.

AAMD&C and AUMA have their own voting system. We are looking at a different model.

Can the whole board attend next Friday? – yes.

This will put more responsibility on boards and trustees to make sure they have support and do most work ahead of time. Zone 2/3 will have an advantage because they are so large. This will be by ballot – main motion – weighted ballots – amendments.

Concerned about the 60/60 majority. Weighted ballot is based on amount of ASBA fees you pay. There is a student component on amount of fees you pay. There has been no trouble with Zone 2/3 and corporate issues. Double majority might be controversial. President and vice-president want change. Any other motion will need support of 60% of boards in the

room, which is 39-40 school boards, and will need to have individual boards supporting to have more than 60% of students. Canada's Constitution requires double majority. This should have more clout. Constituencies haven't been categorized. Will discuss expanded role of zones.

Will there be another go at Governance Review? – committed to develop a plan.

- 1) Technology – take advantage of it.
- 2) Review communication strategies
- 3) Tighten up conducting general meetings and will follow Roberts Rules more carefully
- 4) Review and clarify roles
- 5) Execute directive, etc. to serve boards

If something is wrong, you must tell us.

Only broadly supported issues were brought forth. Any other changes should be brought forward at the spring session.

NEW BUSINESS

Future Meeting Dates and Locations

- October 5 - Rocky View School Division, 2651 Chinook Winds Drive, Airdrie
- November 2 – Zone Annual Meeting and Elections – Coventry Superstore
2nd floor, 100 Country Village Road NE, Calgary
- December 7 – Coventry Superstore
- January 4 - (tentative) Superstore
- February 2 – Superstore
- March 7 – Superstore
- April 4 – Superstore
- May 15 – Edwin Parr Banquet – Greenwood Inn
- May 16 – Superstore
- June 20 – Regular or Planning Meeting – Superstore

If anyone would like to host a meeting at their offices, please let us know.
Some Superstore meetings will be held at the NE Superstore.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Sheila Taylor that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried.

