



Alberta School Councils' Association

Regular Board Meeting
1200, 9925 – 109 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
Teleconference
7:30p.m. – 9:29 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Allison Pike, President
Dawn Miller, Vice President
Brad Vonkeman, Past President
Dena Friars, Director
Jacquie Surgenor, Director
Brandi Rai, Director

Lorna Spargo, Director
Tyla Savard, Director
Alana Sala, Director
Hollie Tarasewich, Director
Laura Andreas, Director

Regrets: Judy Ducharme, Director

Staff: Jacquie Hansen, Executive Director
Tracy Kaley, Senior Policy Advisor

Kathy MacRae, Executive Ass't/Bookkeeper

OCTOBER 4, 2016

1.0 **CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Allison called the teleconference meeting to order at 7:30 and welcomed everyone.

2.0 **ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Invite to Becky Kallal to November 2016 Board Meeting regarding conference feedback.

3.0 **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

MOTION: Jacquie S/Lorna

That the ASCA Board of Directors approve the amended agenda.

CARRIED

4.0 **BUSINESS**

- a) *Review Progress Toward Board's Self-Evaluation Growth Goals*
No further comments on this report.

5.0 **EDUCATION ISSUES & E-SCANS**

Education Act – Rumours that the Education Act would not be proclaimed by this government. Deputy Minister Clarke, at the ASBA Issues Forum, said the Education Act is in fact alive but not ready for proclamation. ASCA will continue to advocate for changes in clarity to the School Councils Regulation whether or not the Education Act gets passed.

Inclusive Education – External meetings continue, the Policy Framework is not ready to be launched by the Ministry.

Curriculum Redesign – Curriculum will be developed in English and French simultaneously in all subjects across all grades. There will be an emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy across all subjects with a focus on reducing the number of learner outcomes. This has been done to reduce teacher workload in planning and, therefore, enhance teacher's ability to identify when a student is having trouble. A survey will be

going out to the public hopefully by the end of October. The IT platform has been built. Expert teams in the areas of Language Arts, French Language Arts, Social Studies, Science and Wellness education will populate the platform with cross curriculum competencies. When the Scope and Sequence Phase is complete, ASCA will be asked for feedback. There will be professional development for all educators. The implementation model will support teachers.

LGBTQ – To date, no boards have been provided “approval” status from the Government of Alberta. Deputy Minister Curtis Clarke noted that until the policies are being vetted by the Government’s legal department, approval is pending.

Student Learning Assessment (SLA) – The pilot size has been reduced to 20 districts (urban, rural, metro). Forty districts applied for the pilot. In discussion with the Minister, Allison mentioned that parents should have input on this issue. If any board members are in a pilot district, they are asked to bring back information to the board. There will be reporting to the school principal; it should result in conversations with school councils.

School Fees – Due to the downward economy, the government’s school fees initiative is on hold.

Carbon Levy/Climate Change – ASBA will be putting forth a resolution at their Fall General Meeting (FGM) for exemption on this. As school boards struggle with this carbon levy, there is a concern that costs may be downloaded to parents in the form of fees. School Boards will need to consult with school councils as they grapple with this extra cost. Are there assurances from government that these monies will be reinvested back into the school infrastructure and green programs for students? There is an Advisory Panel that is making all recommendations to the Government. Dawn recommended ongoing Advisory Panel with all Alberta Education Partners, inclusive of ASCA.

Municipal Government Act (MGA) – The Alberta School Boards Association has identified a number of issues that may affect the autonomy of school boards, one of which is the use of Municipal Reserve lands. Schools and playgrounds are built on Municipal Reserve lands and school boards, in consultation with parents, should have input to the kind and type of structure built on such lands. ASCA provided a submission to the MGA review in the summer. ASCA was thanked for the submission through letters by both the municipal and education ministers. Both acknowledged that the submission issues will be considered as the Act is developed.

Professional Quality Standards for Teachers, Principals and Superintendents (TQS) – Drafts are complete and in the hands of the Minister. As a stakeholder, we are asked for input from the parent perspective. This is an update on the current Teacher Quality Standards. New is the Principal and Superintendent Standards. ASCA provided feedback through external committee work.

Nutrition Program – According to ASBOA executive, eleven school boards have been chosen to implement this program and received \$250,000 each to pilot this program. It is believed that no catholic boards or francophone boards were chosen.

Dawn had a meeting with Dave Shepherd, MLA, with respect to Private Members Bill #209, *Active Schools Week Act*. The Board agreed that the intent of the Bill was good but noted the barriers that some schools would have implementing such a Bill.

6.0 **BOARD REPORTING AND SHARING** **UDITOR PRESENTATION**

- a) **President Report** – As presented.
- b) **Vice President Report** – As presented.
- c) **Executive Director Report** – Jacquie H fielded questions. The June 2016 meeting evaluation was discussed. Overall, it was very promising. It was suggested that perhaps Becky could provide the board with a meeting management session. Consensus amongst the board was to review at least one more set of evaluations to see if it is necessary.
- d) **Director Reports and Sharing**
 - Alana – As presented.
 - Brad – As presented. In addition, he was able to share the ASCA resources to a brand new parent that has moved into the Edmonton area.

Brandi – As presented. In addition, Brandi has reached out to three different school council meetings (New to You Initiative). Her conclusion is that most do not know about ASCA. She was able to share the New School Council Resource Guide which was very well received.

Dena – As presented. Dena went to give an Award; she talked with the parents, staff and students. She spoke of how the parental involvement increases school achievement.

Hollie – As presented. Hollie attended a CoSC Meeting. It was felt that their CoSC was getting too ASCA heavy.

Jacque S – As presented.

Lorna – As presented. In addition, Lorna presented the new 'School Council Resource Guide' to her CoSC. Parents were very happy to see the shortened version of the 104 page Manual. She was also able to share some information to interested parents about the School Council Engagement Task Force. Lorna noted that the schools in Fort McMurray were put into Hold and Secure mode because of a 'clown craze' threat. Perhaps lockdown procedures could be discussed at a future meeting.

Tyla – As presented.

7.0 **ADVOCACY**

7.1 **External Advisory Committee Updates** – As presented.

- a) Excellence in Teaching Awards
- b) ASBA Task Force on First Nations, Metis and Inuit
- c) Student Learning Assessment Pilot
- d) Teaching and Leadership Excellence
- e) High School Completion
- f) Respectful Schools Leadership
- g) Teaching and leadership Excellence SubCommittee
- h) Respectful School Caring School Project
- i) Rural Education Symposium
- j) ASBA Task Force on First Nations, Metis and Inuit
- k) Consortia Reports
 - i) Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium (ERLC)
 - ii) Central Alberta Regional Consortium (CARC)
 - iii) Southern Alberta Regional Consortium (SAPDC)
 - iv) Calgary Regional Consortium (crc)

8.0 **INVITATION TO BECKY KALLAL**

This item was added to the agenda and discussed with the June evaluation; it has been decided to wait until the November 2016 meeting to evaluate if her services are required for board meeting management development.

9.0 **PARKING LOT ISSUES**

As presented.

10.0 **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

President
Allison Pike

Executive Director
Jacque Hansen