

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 11, 2011

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: M. Janz, Conference Committee Chair

SUBJECT: Report #3 of the Conference Committee (From the Meetings Held December 7 and 14, 2010 and January 4, 2011)

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Report #3 of the Conference Committee from the meetings held December 7 and 14, 2010 and January 4, 2011 be received and considered.

Standing Item for Conference Committee Agendas

2. That an item entitled 'Generative Discussion' be added as a standing agenda item for Conference Committee meetings from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Resolution re Alberta School Boards' Association for Languages Education (ASBALE)

3. That support for the following resolution be confirmed:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta School Boards' Association for Languages Education (ASBALE) Membership direct the Executive to pursue having ASBALE disbanded in its current structure and form as a Standing Committee under the direction of the ASBA. The Standing Committee would operate under the current governance structure of the ASBA with a commitment to provide effective representation and to focus on providing leadership in the area of second language acquisition for Alberta students.

Mandate of District Priorities Committee

4. That for the 2011-2012 year, the District Priorities Committee mandate be expanded to review the District Mission, Vision, Values and Beliefs, Priorities and areas of emphasis in the Strategic Plan.

Input on the Alberta School Boards Association of Alberta
(ASBA) 2011-2012 Budget

5. That the following messages conveyed to the ASBA regarding the ASBA Strategic Plan on January 6, 2011 be confirmed:
- That the Board supports the initiatives and priorities outlined in the ASBA Strategic Plan
 - That the Board encourages the ASBA to maintain its focus on providing support for implementation of a renewed system for special needs students as per the Setting the Direction review
 - That the Board recommends the following additional priority initiatives for the ASBA 2011-2012 budget:
 - 1) strengthen supports for and awareness of the importance of the mental, nutritional and physical health of students in order to create healthy, active students and positively impact learning outcomes;
 - 2) work to revise infrastructure funding to more equitably address the infrastructure needs of schools with low enrolment and alleviate the associated school closure pressures;
 - 3) strengthen supports for schools in acknowledging and addressing discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying based on individual and/or systemic biases including race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religious beliefs, gender, gender identity, physical or mental disability, marital status, family status, source of income, socioeconomic status and sexual orientation.
 - 4) create a strategy to support boards in responding to the rollout of the new *Education Act* and board involvement in the development and implementation of the subsequent regulations.

Composition of the Special Needs Task Force and
Moratorium Committee

6. That the Special Needs Task Force comprised of Trustees Cleary, Johner and Spencer be confirmed.
7. That the Moratorium Committee comprised of Trustees Colburn, Hoffman and MacKenzie be confirmed.

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Recommendation #2

Conference Committee agendas would be as follows if the item is approved:

- Roll Call
- Approval of the Agenda
- Communications from the Board Chair
- Communications from the Superintendent of Schools
- Minutes
- Generative Discussion (9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.)
- Strategic Plan
- Reports
 - Recommendation
(Board Committee, Representative and Trustee Motions and Superintendent of Schools)
 - Information
(Board Committee, Representative or Trustee and Superintendent of Schools)
 - Delegation or External Presentation (time specific given)
- Trustees and Board Requests for Information
- Notices of Motion
- Meeting Dates
- Adjournment

Recommendation #3

The rationale for the recommendation that was discussed at the Annual General Meeting of the Alberta School Boards' Association for Languages Education (ASBALE) on November 21, 2010 is provided as APPENDIX I. Member boards attending the meeting wanted to take the resolution to their individual boards for consideration and discussion before making a decision.

Recommendation #4

As a part of the ASBA's annual budget planning process, Heather Rogers, ASBA Director Finance and Administrative Services, wrote on behalf of the Board of Directors to all Board Chairs requesting input on the 2011/12 budget by identifying strategic priorities or initiatives that warrant expenditure of Association dollars. She requested the Board review the ASBA Strategic Plan priorities (APPENDIX II) to see if there are items missing, no longer required or that we believe should be given greater priority and to respond by January 6, 2011.

The Board's ASBA Issue and Resolutions Committee met to review the ASBA Strategic Plan with consideration for the common issues identified by the Board over the past few months. The Committee recommended supporting the priority initiatives identified by the ASBA and in particular encouraging the ASBA to maintain its focus on providing support for implementation of a renewed system for special needs students as per the Setting the Direction review.

In addition, the Committee recommended the ASBA be asked to address three additional priority issues in the coming budget year related to:

- 1) strengthen supports for and awareness of the importance of the mental, nutritional and physical health of students as a means of improving student achievement;
- 2) work to revise infrastructure funding to more equitably address the infrastructure needs of schools with low enrolment and alleviate the associated school closure pressures;
- 3) strengthen supports for schools in acknowledging and addressing discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying based on individual and systemic biases related to race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religious beliefs, gender, gender identity, physical or mental disability, marital status, family status, source of income, socioeconomic status and sexual orientation.

The Conference Committee reviewed the ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee's recommendations at their meeting on January 4, 2011 and made minor modification to priority issue 3 and added an additional priority (see page 2 of report) to provide support to boards in the rollout of the new *Education Act*. The Conference Committee granted permission to submit the recommendations to the ASBA for their deadline of January 6, 2011 (APPENDIX III) and this report is being brought to Board for public record and Board confirmation.

AS:mmf

APPENDIX I - Rationale re Resolution from ASBALE

APPENDIX II - Alberta School Boards Association Strategic Plan 2010-2013

APPENDIX III - Correspondence to the ASBA re Input Into the 2011-2012 Budget

Motion for consideration – ASBALE – November 21, 2010 Meeting

BE IT RESOLVED that the ASBALE Membership direct the Executive to pursue having ASBALE disbanded in its current structure and form as a Standing Committee under the direction of the ASBA. The Standing Committee would operate under the current governance structure of the ASBA with a commitment to provide effective representation and to focus on providing leadership in the area of second language acquisition for Alberta Students.

Rationale:

Due to its current structure and lack of resources, ASBALE is not able to expand on its mandate to provide quality leadership and support to School Jurisdictions in the area of policy development and advocacy for language learning.

The benefits of students having a second language have been well documented and second language acquisition is encouraged and supported by Alberta Education.

Second language acquisition also includes English as a Second Language. Statistics indicate that the number of students requiring ESL services continues to increase. In some jurisdictions, ESL students represent 20% of the total student population. To demonstrate, Calgary Catholic has 45,000 students of which 9,200 are ESL students.

The growth of the ESL population will continue to tax School Jurisdictions as they endeavor to meet parental demands for other language learning opportunities for English speaking students.

According to the Federal Government's Immigration Plan for Canada, Canada will be admitting 240,000 to 265,000 immigrants annually commencing in 2010. It is projected that Alberta will have the highest growth second only to Ontario. Alberta's growth rate is expected to be 24.4 per thousand over a 5 year period resulting in an increase of 471,900. Alberta is projected to have a population of 4,159,600 by 2014 compared to 3,687,700 as of July 2009.

Based on the above projections and the 50% growth in ESL students in some AB school jurisdictions in the past decade it makes sound and logical sense for the ASBA to support ASBALE as a standing committee. ASBA's mandate is to provide leadership that is focused on continuous improvement of the public education system and to advocate provincially and nationally on public education issues. It would appear that ASBALE would be a natural fit within ASBA's framework and a means to ensure language services are provided to school boards.

ALBERTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

STRATEGIC PLAN 2010-2013

LEADERSHIP

Mandate: The Alberta School Boards Association provides leadership focusing on continuous improvement of the public education system.

Strategic Priority A: ASBA provides leadership support to school boards in providing successful learning opportunities for all students.

Key Results	Strategies	
	A1 Leadership support is provided in the development and implementation of a renewed system for special needs students.	A1.1 Assess the recommendations and implications of the Setting the Direction review. A1.2 Hold an issues forum on how best to implement Setting the Direction review. A1.3 Advocate for resources to allow school boards to implement the recommendations. A1.4 Provide policy advice to school boards to implement the results of the Setting the Direction review.
	A2 Leadership in action based on research is provided relative to the education of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students.	A2.1 Compile local and international research on First Nations, Métis and Inuit education with consideration for partnership with Alberta Education and/or other international partners. A2.2 Prepare and distribute a report of the research project to school boards and key stakeholders. A2.3 Develop strategic partnerships with appropriate First Nations, Métis and Inuit groups to pursue this priority. A2.4 Encourage all First Nations, Métis and Inuit school jurisdictions to join ASBA as associate members. A2.5 Prepare a report on possible actions that could be taken by school boards quickly and without additional funds to advance this priority. A2.6 Investigate a new system of funding First Nations, Métis and Inuit students in Alberta. A2.7 Examine opportunities to enhance First Nations, Métis and Inuit representation at the ASBA Board of Directors table. A2.8 Prepare a report on possible opportunities for enhanced First Nations, Métis and Inuit representation at the local level.
	A3 Leadership in action based on research is provided relative to the education of English Language Learning students.	A3.1 Work with school boards to develop a working alliance with provincial organizations representing and servicing refugee families. A3.2 Research effective English Language Learning practices with consideration for partnership with Alberta Education and/or other international partners. A3.3 Prepare and distribute a report of the research project to school boards and key stakeholders. A3.4 Develop policy advisories for school boards with regard to English Language Learning.
	A4 Leadership support based on research is provided relative to the education of twenty-first century learners.	A4.1 Compile research on best practices in the delivery of education to twenty-first century learners. A4.2 Prepare and distribute a report of the research project to school boards and key stakeholders. A4.3 Utilize twenty-first century learning as a theme for a future general meeting. A4.4 Advocate for resources to allow school boards to provide appropriate twenty-first century learning opportunities.

LEADERSHIP

Mandate: The Alberta School Boards Association provides leadership focusing on continuous improvement of the public education system.

Strategic Priority B: ASBA provides leadership support to school boards in their efforts to effectively engage their public(s).

Key Results	B1 Leadership support based on research is provided to school boards communicating the value of public engagement.	Strategies	B1.1 Compile research outlining the value to school boards of public engagement.
	B2 Leadership support and resources are made available to school boards in relation to efforts to increase public engagement in education.		B1.2 Canvas school boards to offer break-out sessions on the value of public engagement at future general meetings.
			B2.1 Develop a cadre of consultants/ resources that can be made available to school boards on a fee-for-service basis to assist with their efforts to increase public engagement in education.
			B2.2 Hold issues forums to support public engagement in education.
			B2.3 Develop a communications plan to weave in messages about the role of the trustee into efforts to raise the profile of school board elections.

ADVOCACY

Mandate: Providing leadership focusing on continuous improvement of the public education system, the Alberta School Boards Association advocates provincially and nationally on public education issues, with a strong voice, on behalf of locally elected school boards.

Strategic Priority C: Action is taken to advance the key priorities of the Board.

Key Results	C1 Implementation and maintenance of: Early Intervention; English Language Learning; First Nations, Métis and Inuit; and High School Completion advocacy plans.	Strategies	C1.1 Develop or confirm advocacy plans for each of Early Intervention, English Language Learning, First Nations, Métis and Inuit, and High School Completion.
	C2 Implementation and maintenance of the Infrastructure and Transportation advocacy plans.		C1.2 Execute the advocacy plans as developed or confirmed.
			C2.1 Execute the advocacy plans as reviewed and renewed.

SERVICES TO BOARDS

Mandate: Providing leadership focusing on continuous improvement of the public education system, the Alberta School Boards Association provides services to school boards.

Strategic Priority F: ASBA builds leadership and governance capacity of individual boards.

Key Results	F1 In the 2010-2011 school year, support is made available to school boards and trustees in relation to their governance accountabilities.	Strategies	F1.1 Develop and implement a school board/ trustee development program based on research of good governance practices.
	F2 Early in the 2010-2011 school year, support is made available to school boards and trustees to encourage participation in trustee elections.		F2.1 Resources which can be utilized to encourage participation in trustee elections are developed. F2.2 Events designed to encourage participation in trustee elections are supported.

SERVICES TO BOARDS

Mandate: Providing leadership focusing on continuous improvement of the public education system, the Alberta School Boards Association provides services to school boards.

Strategic Priority G: ASBA addresses the matter of teacher bargaining beyond 2012.

Key Result	G1 ASBA will assist school boards in being prepared for teacher bargaining by August 31, 2012.	Strategies	G1.1 Canvas school boards in Fall 2010 in relation to the direction that school boards may wish to take with regard to teacher bargaining. G1.2 Act upon the direction and immediately address the matter of teacher bargaining beyond 2012.
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Board of Trustees
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January 4, 2011

Ms Heather Rogers
 Director Finance and Administration
 Alberta School Boards Association
 Suite 1200, 9925 - 109 Street
 Edmonton, AB T5K 2J8

Dear Ms Rogers:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the 2011-2012 ASBA budget by identifying priorities that warrant expenditure of Association dollars.

The Board supports the initiatives and priorities outlined in the ASBA Strategic Plan and would encourage the ASBA to maintain its focus on providing support for implementation of a renewed system for special needs students as per the Setting the Direction review. The Board assumes the ASBA will be updating their 2010-2013 Strategic Plan to remove items which have been completed; for example, the item related to the trustee elections, etc.

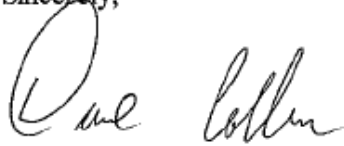
In addition, the Edmonton Public School Board recommends including the following priority initiatives for the 2011-2012 budget.

- 1) strengthen supports for and awareness of the importance of the mental, nutritional and physical health of students in order to create healthy, active students and positively impact learning outcomes;
- 2) work to revise infrastructure funding to more equitably address the infrastructure needs of schools with low enrolment and alleviate the associated school closure pressures;

- 3) strengthen supports for schools in acknowledging and addressing discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying based on individual and/or systemic biases including race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religious beliefs, gender, gender identity, physical or mental disability, marital status, family status, source of income, socioeconomic status and sexual orientation.
- 4) create a strategy to support boards in responding to the rollout of the new *Education Act* and board involvement in the development and implementation of the subsequent regulations.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the ASBA 2011-2012 budget planning process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Colburn', written in a cursive style.

Dave Colburn
Board Chair

AS:mmf

cc: Jacquie Hansen
David Anderson