

DATE: June 12, 2012

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Heather MacKenzie

SUBJECT: Motion re Reconsideration of Decision on Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA)

REFERENCE: Board Meeting May 22, 2012
[Trustees' Manual – Meetings of the Board \(Motions to Reconsider\)](#)

ISSUE

A motion to reconsider a previous decision regarding district membership with the ASCA is before the Board for decision.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board reconsider its decision to purchase a two-year district membership in the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA).

BACKGROUND

On May 22, 2012 the Board approved the following motion: *That the Administration renew the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) district membership for a further two-year term and pay for the membership out of the Board Initiative Fund.*

Trustee MacKenzie subsequently served notice of motion at the end of the May 22, 2012 board meeting that the Board reconsider its decision.

RELATED FACTS

Excerpt from Trustees' Manual Regarding Motions to Reconsider:

- Trustees may not introduce or give notice of a motion to reconsider a motion passed previously by the Board during the same organizational year (September to September), unless a member voted for the original motion (or in the event that the original motion was defeated, a member who originally voted against the motion).
- A member who was not a member of the Board at the time of the passing or defeat of the original motion may move to reconsider a motion.

CONSIDERATIONS & ANALYSIS

Should the majority of the Board approve the motion to reconsider, debate would be reopened on the original decision. Regular debate protocols would apply.

NEXT STEPS

Upon the decision of the Board, the Administration will implement the direction of the Board.

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT I May 22, 2012 Board Report – Alberta School Councils' Association District Membership

TT:mmf

DATE: May 22, 2012
TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: Edgar Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools
SUBJECT: Alberta School Councils' Association District Membership
ORIGINATOR: David Fraser, Executive Director, Corporate Services
RESOURCE STAFF: Janice Bell, Cheryl Oxford, Cory Sinclair
REFERENCE: [Board Motion May 10, 2011](#)

ISSUE

The complimentary District School Council Membership in the Alberta School Councils' Association will expire on June 30, 2012.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Administration renew the ASCA district membership for a further two year term.

BACKGROUND

At the May 10, 2011 public board meeting, the Board passed a motion to support school council membership in the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) for a one-year free trial period. Membership was granted on a district-wide basis, meaning that all individual school councils had the opportunity to obtain free membership in the ASCA for the 2011-2012 school year. On April 30, 2012, the ASCA sent all school divisions a letter offering a special rate of 50 per cent off the cost of district membership fees when a district committed to membership for a two year period.

RELATED FACTS

- Of 198 district schools, 141 have established school councils and 57 have either not established a school council or have a parent group that functions solely as a fundraising society.
- Following the May 10 board motion, 129 of the 141 district school councils registered their contact information with ASCA.
- During the 2011-2012 school year, the ASCA has delivered, at no cost:
 - 18 workshops, with 175 participants, directly to district school councils. Of the participants who completed evaluations, 98 per cent indicated the workshops were either successful or very successful.
 - 16 workshops, with 44 school councils represented, through the School Council Training sampler held at the Centre for Education in November 2011.
 - 4 workshops, with 64 participants, to ward councils of school councils; 1 additional workshop was held for Ward H on April 24.
 - 4 school councils have booked 5 workshops for the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year.

- 4 school councils sent representatives to the ASCA Conference/AGM held April 20-22, 2012.

OPTIONS

The following options are selected for consideration as they are deemed the most admissible:

1. Direct the Administration to renew the ASCA district membership for the next two years at the reduced rate of \$4,000 per year.
2. Direct the Administration to renew the ASCA district membership for one year only at the regular rate of \$8,000 per year.
3. Direct the Administration not to renew the ASCA district membership and to invite school councils to obtain and pay for their own memberships.

CONSIDERATIONS & ANALYSIS

- Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) is recognized as an expert in school council related matters/issues.
- The District has the opportunity to renew district membership in the ASCA at a discounted rate of 50 per cent off the regular cost, when committing to a two year membership.
- There is no guarantee that individual school councils would purchase an individual membership in the ASCA at a cost of \$40 per school council.
- School councils without a membership in ASCA would not have access to free support from the ASCA.
- A district membership in ASCA would offer:
 - a cost-effective way to deliver advice and expertise directly to individual school councils in a timely manner;
 - a way to deliver consistent, effective, efficient training to school councils at a district level; and
 - an efficient, effective, equitable way to provide ASCA membership to all district school councils, regardless of their individual ability to pay.
- Comments from district school councils regarding the ASCA:
 - "I want to thank you for the incredible support and advice you have shared with me (and the group) over the last few weeks. I think the school will be off to a great start with a good structure in place."*
 - "Have very definitely found the information and programs that ASCA provides to be helpful to me and our school council."*
 - "Thank you very much for offering membership to all EPSB schools - I can attest to the benefits of ASCA membership and am thrilled to see that more schools will have access to your services."*
 - "Having this workshop available to us through our free membership this year was a big reason we decided to do it."*

NEXT STEPS

Once the Board has decided how to proceed, the Administration will share the Board's decision with the ASCA and district school councils.

CO:jb