

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

March 14, 2006

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee G. Gibeault, Chair ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee  
Trustee B. Esslinger, ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee  
Trustee D. Fleming, ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee

SUBJECT: Proposed Bylaw Amendment and Issues for the 2006 ASBA Spring/Fall General Meetings

RESOURCE  
STAFF: Michael Ediger, John Nicoll, Anne Sherwood

RECOMMENDATION

That the following items, as detailed in Appendix I, for submission to the ASBA for policy development and or consideration at the 2006 Spring/Fall General Meeting, be approved:

1. Bylaw Amendment (Spring General Meeting): That the Alberta School Boards Association amend Bylaw No. 4 section 4. (b) and 5. (a) and (b) as indicated in the proposed bylaw appended hereto to remove the arbitrary term limits for all individuals serving on the Board of Directors and update the month and year references used to establish the election pattern.
2. Emergent Directive for Action (Spring General Meeting): That, given the recently announced provincial government budget surplus, the ASBA request the Alberta government to provide immediate and sufficient additional funding for school modernization and capital projects to address the serious and growing infrastructure deficit affecting all school boards.
3. Directive for Action (Fall General Meeting): That the Alberta School Boards Association requests the Minister of Education and other appropriate Ministries to undertake a review of an Ontario program which provides dedicated funding to

School Boards for the purpose of increasing and enhancing after hours community use of schools. The review would assess the feasibility of implementing this program or a similar program in Alberta

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The administration and trustees were asked to submit suggested bylaw amendments for consideration at the ASBA Spring General meeting and policy issues for consideration at the ASBA Fall General meeting. The ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee reviewed these directives and is recommending that the board consider them and if approved, forward them to ASBA Zone 23 for consideration. Zone 23 can submit up to six issues to the ASBA Policy Development Advisory Committee to review.

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APPENDIX I – Background material supporting recommended bylaw amendment and directives for action.

**BYLAW AMENDMENT**

**AMENDMENT OF ASSOCIATION BYLAW NO. 4 and NO. 5 –**

That the Alberta School Boards Association amend Bylaw No. 4, Section 4. (b) and 5 (a) and (b) as indicated in the proposed bylaw appended hereto to remove the arbitrary term limits for all individuals serving on the Board of Directors and update the month and year references used to establish the election pattern.

**BACKGROUND**

Bylaw No. 4 subsection 4. (b), establishes a term limit of two successive terms for positions on the Board of Directors.

School Board Trustees are not limited to a specified number of terms they may serve the constituents that elect them. They are elected on merit as should member board representatives on the ASBA Board of Directors.

Bylaw No. 4 subsection 5. (a) and (b) establishes the month and year pattern for elections. The proposed amendment brings the year references used to establish the election pattern up to date.

<b>CURRENT</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
<p><b>Bylaw No. 4 - Election of the Board of Directors</b> .....</p> <p>4. (a) Election of the President and Vice President shall occur during the month of November immediately following a Local Authorities Election and approximately 18 months thereafter in the month of June.</p> <p>(b) The President, the Vice-President, the Zone Directors and the Metro Directors shall be elected for terms of approximately 18 months and shall be eligible for re-election for one successive term of approximately 18 months. The President, Vice-President, Zone Directors, and the Metro Directors may be elected for more than two terms, provided they are not successive.</p>	<p><b>Bylaw No. 4 - Election of the Board of Directors</b></p> <p>4. (a) No Change.</p> <p>(b) The President and Vice-President shall be elected for terms of approximately 18 months.</p> <p>(c) No change.</p>

<p>(c) Any trustee who fills a vacancy in the office of President, Vice-President, Zone Director, or Metro Director shall be deemed to have completed a term if they served in that capacity for more than nine months.</p> <p>5. Election of the other Directors shall be for approximately 18-month terms.</p> <p>(a) Elections shall be held approximately every 18 months following the pattern of November 1999, June 2001, November 2002, for:</p> <p>(i) one from the Edmonton School District No. 7 plus an alternate member;</p> <p>(ii) one from the Calgary RCSSD No. 1 plus an alternate member;</p> <p>(iii) one from Zone No. 4 plus an alternate member; and</p> <p>(iv) one from Zone No. 6 plus an alternate member.</p> <p>(b) Elections shall be held approximately every 18 months following the pattern of November 1998, June 2000, November 2001, and June 2003 for:</p> <p>(i) one from the Edmonton RCSSD No. 7 plus an alternate member;</p> <p>(ii) one from the Calgary School District No. 19 plus an alternate member;</p> <p>(iii) one from Zone No. 1 plus an alternate member;</p> <p>(iv) one from Zone No. 23 plus an alternate member; and</p> <p>(v) one from Zone No. 5 plus an alternate member.</p> <p>...</p>	<p>5. No change.</p> <p>(a) Elections shall be held approximately every 18 months following the pattern of November 2005, June 2007, November 2008, for:</p> <p>(i) No change...</p> <p>(b) b) Elections shall be held approximately every 18 months following the pattern of November 2004, June 2006, November 2007 for:</p> <p>(i) No change...</p>
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## EMERGENT DIRECTIVE FOR ACTION

### Funding of Alberta Schools Infrastructure Deficit

*That, given the recently announced provincial government budget surplus, the ASBA request the Alberta government to provide immediate and sufficient additional funding for school modernization and capital projects to address the serious and growing infrastructure deficit affecting all school boards.*

#### **Background:**

Over the past decade, a variety of government initiatives have been announced that unanimously supported the notion that Alberta's schools were in dire need, both with respect to existing inventory and with respect to growth needs. The plans outlined proposals to reduce backlogged infrastructure and maintenance needs over specified periods of time and to improve response to demographic changes. Little in the way of tangible, sustainable practices has resulted and the tendency toward lump sum injections of capital interspersed with periods of restraint has prevailed. This process by its very nature detracts from proper planning and makes responsible management of the facility inventory difficult. The current process is not working and the prognosis is for continued decline with respect to the general condition of Alberta's schools. While the province may no longer have a financial deficit, it has achieved this by underfunding facility renewal and created a serious infrastructure deficit in Alberta's school facilities. This deficit is most evident in the schools across our province.

Sound facility management requires that facility renewal take place on a regular and scheduled basis to retain the value of the physical infrastructure. Facility Infrastructure is an asset with a real financial value, and its real value can deteriorate if the condition of the asset is not maintained.

## DIRECTIVE FOR ACTION

### Review of Ontario Program to Support Community Use of Schools

*That the Alberta School Boards Association requests the Minister of Education and other appropriate Ministries to undertake a review of an Ontario program which provides dedicated funding to School Boards for the purpose of increasing and enhancing after hours community use of schools. The review would assess the feasibility of implementing this program or a similar program in Alberta.*

#### **Background:**

In June 2004, the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation established a program to provide funding to school boards aimed at increasing community use of schools. The program makes provision for up to \$20M annually to boards province-wide in order to reduce costs and fees associated with community use. The program has been successful in substantially increasing community use in its first year of implementation.

According to the *Community Use of Schools Program Guidelines 2005-06*, the aim is “to encourage increased use of schools by not-for-profit groups at reduced rates.” A joint policy statement released from the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation and the Ministry of Education indicates the program goals are to:

- a. Remove cost barriers associated with community use of school facilities and increase participation in community programs located in publicly funded school facilities.
- b. Achieve consistency across the Province in terms of community access to schools at nominal rates.
- c. Encourage co-operation between district school boards and municipalities regarding use of school space.

The policy statement identifies one of the barriers to increase community use as the “shortage of dedicated funding to offset costs of community use of schools in non-school hours.” Further, on the broad issue of community use of schools, the statement clarifies roles and responsibilities as follows:

**Provincial Government** - The provincial government has a responsibility to build strong and healthy communities by providing policy direction and supporting and promoting cooperative planning processes and approaches amongst the partners involved in community use of schools.

**Municipal Governments** - Municipal governments are responsible for providing a range of community, sport, and recreation opportunities by encouraging engagement with district school boards to facilitate community use of schools.

**District school boards** - District school boards are responsible for coordinating community use of affordable school space when not being used

for school purposes as a regular part of board business, and for engaging their municipalities in joint planning to facilitate community use of schools.

**Community groups using school space** - Community groups seeking the use of school facilities are responsible for adhering to the school board's administrative procedures for the use of school space. They are also responsible for ensuring that school facilities are utilized in a responsible and respectful manner.

Alberta school boards are similarly challenged to provide ongoing, predictable and low cost community use of school facilities after hours, and to do so from within limited educational funding resources. Alberta boards recognize the importance of schools in their respective communities, and affirm the critical importance of community access after school hours to pursue leisure and recreational opportunities. Alberta boards recognize the important roles that each level of government can play in addressing these challenges. The Ontario program model may provide an important precedent for implementing a creative solution in Alberta in the interests of promoting healthy communities and student success.

**References:**

Ministry of Tourism and Recreation and the Ministry of Education, *Joint Policy Statement* can be accessed at the following web address:

<http://www.mhp.gov.on.ca/english/sportandrec/schoolsPolicy.asp>

Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, *Community Use of Schools Program Guidelines 2005-06* can be accessed at the following web address:

<http://www.mhp.gov.on.ca/english/sportandrec/schools.asp>