

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 13, 2001

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee D. Fleming, ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee
Trustee S. Hansen, ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee
Trustee L. Odynski, ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee

SUBJECT: Policy Positions for the 2001 ASBA Fall General Meeting

RESOURCE: Gloria Chalmers, Richard Craig, Brian Fedor, Avi Habinski, Bob Holt
STAFF: Barbara Morgan McDermid, Faye Parker, Dean Power, Anne Sherwood, Betty Tams, Stuart Wachowicz

INFORMATION

Attached is the Association Policies Bulletin for the upcoming ASBA Fall General Meeting. The Bulletin includes a recommendation report from the ASBA's Ad Hoc Policy Committee on its review of the current ASBA Policy Handbook that will be moved as an omnibus motion as well as proposed new policies for consideration at the Fall General Meeting.

The Fall General Meeting will be held at the Westin Hotel on November 18 to 20, 2001. The proposed policy manual changes and new policy recommendations will be voted on at the Association Business Session on Monday, November 19, 2001.

The purpose of the board reviewing the Policies Bulletin prior to the convention is to gain a better understanding of the meaning and implications of each of the proposals. There is no requirement for a board to vote as a bloc. Voting on resolutions is normally done by show of hands unless any fifty registered delegates call for a ballot vote. Our board is entitled to a weighted ballot vote of 68. Our board's practice has been for the chairman to pick up the board's ballots and distribute them among those trustees present at each session.

Suggested Amendments to the ASBA Policy Handbook Review Report Recommendations

In terms of the ASBA Policy Handbook Review, the ASBA Ad Hoc Policy Committee reviewed the entire current policy handbook (pages 9-47) with the intent of making "recommendations which would result in a more current, more functional Handbook." The committee did receive input from Zones and Boards and did present their recommendations to the ASBA Board of Directors, which in turn has approved the recommendations for consideration by the membership at the Fall General Meeting. In general, the administration concurs with the recommendations for changes within the report with a couple of exceptions, which are noted below. Since the ASBA Policy Handbook Review Report has been listed in the Association Policies Bulletin as an omnibus motion

(1/D/FGM01), in order to have amendments to specific policies considered, a trustee will need to move to divide the particular recommendation from the main motion to permit individual debate. Suggested wording and amendment forms will be prepared and included in Trustee packages for the convention.

It should also be noted that the two proposed amendments and one reaffirmation printed on pages 50 to 52 of the Bulletin have conflicting recommendations to those recommended by the ASBA Ad Hoc Policy Review Committee in their ASBA Policy Handbook Review Report and will necessitate those three items being separated from the omnibus motion for consideration.

1. 4.L14 (page 30 of the bulletin) – Directive for Action

The Alberta School Boards Association endorses the action taken by the Board of Directors with respect to the Alberta School Improvement Program (ASIP) and supports continued discussions with school boards, education stakeholders and the Government of Alberta to develop a program, which serves the interests and needs of our students and our communities.

The ASBA Ad Hoc Policy Review Committee is recommending that the above statement be deleted from the policy manual. While it is true that ASIP has now been replaced by the jointly developed Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISI), funding for this program was only for 3 years. Although we have reason to believe that funding will continue for the fourth and possibly fifth year, rather than deleting 4.L.14, it is suggested that the statement be revised/replaced with the following:

The Alberta School Boards Association endorses the action taken by the Board of Directors with respect to the Alberta Initiative for School Improvement and supports continued discussions with Alberta Learning to sustain the funding for AISI programs and ensure that this funding is incorporated into the provincial funding formula to enable school boards to continue to serve the interests and needs of their students and communities.

2. 10.L.02 (page 46 of the Bulletin) – Directive for Action

The ASBA Ad Hoc Policy Review Committee has recommended a revised policy statement as follows:

The Alberta School Boards Association believes that School Councils are a valuable resource. School Councils should:

- Serve in an advisory capacity to the principal and to the school board
- Forge complementary and productive relationships with school boards to meet the needs of all students
- Be comprised of members who have the necessary skills to work in a collaborative environment on shared goals.

The last bullet was reworded from the original which read: “That School Councils continue to serve in an advisory capacity to the principal, School Councils serve as a valuable resource. All parties involved with School Councils require the necessary skills to work in a collaborative environment on shared goals.”

We would contend that the intent of the original statement was to state the ideal of having skills for collaboration and implied that such skills should be developed. The proposed revision implies that only people with such unnamed skills for collaborative work could serve on School Councils. The statement can be interpreted negatively as condescending and proposing some type of screening or interview process for school council members.

It is recommended that bullet three of the proposed policy statement be replaced with the following statement:

- Develop a collaborative environment to enable all its members to work on shared goals.

Proposed Amendments, Reaffirmations, (new) Policy Positions and Policies Proposed by ASBA Board of Directors (pages 50 to 76 of the Bulletin)

The Board’s ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee sought input from the administration and reviewed the proposed policies. The administration’s comments and the committee’s recommendations of support/oppose and, or amendments have been printed on unnumbered pages and interleaved in the Association Policies Bulletin on the pages facing each of the proposed new policies. Amendment forms will be prepared in advance and provided in Trustee packages for the ASBA convention.

AS:mmf

ATTACHMENT 1 – ASBA Association Policies Bulletin – November 2001