

Board Agenda Item



Topic: ASBA Report

Presenter: Laurette Woodward

Meeting Date: May 8, 2019

Background

- Red Deer Public's motion on vaping received zone support. Wetaskiwin will second the motion. There was an amendment to change the wording from provincial and federal government to also include municipal governments. So - the wording will say 'all levels of government'.
- The Zone voted to increase the budget line for support staff who assist with the Edwin Parr banquet to \$1,000. It is anticipated this year's costs will be \$550.
- For the ASBA Spring meeting, at the business meeting only trustees and administrators are invited.
- Clarification about request for awards. Not trying to replicate the high school award website. Looking for awards that trustees could do the nominate students or staff members for.
- Student wellness event - May 7 at Crossroads Church.
- CSBA in 2020 will be in Banff. ASBA looked at other locations in Alberta for this conference but found Banff was cheapest. Also, because it is a desirable location it will attract more to the conference, which will ensure enough registrations to make financial sense.
- ASBA Executive Director, Vivian Abboud provided an update on ASBA Strategic Plan and ASBA Budget.
 - Zero percent increase. Intention to keep this for at least 3 years.
 - No increase in fee-for-service rates
 - Budget documents are public. Ms. Abboud said she believes that although ASBA is a private organization, because it is funded with tax dollars it is important to be as transparent as possible.
 - Some new staff hired.
 - Working to keep membership costs low through providing strong and attractive contracted services, and potentially sponsorships for conferences

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- Update on work being done around strategic plan goals:
 - Working on moving more of the ASBA website to public access
 - Developing a full communication plan that includes social media plan
 - Ensuring government does not bypass ASBA (and trustees) in making decisions
 - Intent to expand offerings to school boards
 - Working to establish strong relationships with other organizations who work in education: PSBAA, ACSTA, ASCA, RCASB, CASS, ATA, ASBOA, Francophone), and working on how ASBA can work together with these groups to approach government with a united voice.
 - Situating ASBA as a thought leader in education
- Trustees commented to Ms. Abboud that it was great to see the transparency, the positive focus on the future of ASBA and school boards, and the effort for ASBA to work collaboratively with other organizations.
- World Cafe Discussion. Post provincial election follow up. Which issues would we forward to ASBA to focus on following the election. Highlights include:
 - Challenges with the current funding formula. One of the major difficulties is insufficient funding to support inclusive education
 - Transportation funding as a significant challenge for all Zone 4 jurisdictions. Additionally, MELT regulations for school bus drivers is burdensome
 - The importance of consultation with stakeholders, Alberta communities and Albertans

Additionally, trustees responded to ASBA survey questions regarding the work of the recently formed ASBA Advocacy committee. Some highlights of their responses. These are outlined in the notes Holly sent out.

- The new media release format and process was reviewed. The media release is not to be a meeting highlights. It should focus on action trustees are taking, and cover topics of interest to communities. There may be meetings when there is no media release. The media release writer and Zone 4 chair will work together to write and approve the content, after the membership indicates which items are to be featured. Zone recording secretary will send out releases.

For the April 2019 meeting, items that the membership agreed to feature include: Red Deer Public's motion on vaping, and also provincial election follow up - highlighting items that trustees are advocating for.

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- PD presentation from Wild Rose School Division on literacy. A district staff member and three division one teachers presented.
 - Each school has a literacy champion. Their goal is to work with their staff to have every student reading at grade level.
 - One school was able to have a full hour of Speech Pathologist time daily.
 - Students are grouped according to specific skills they need - such as fluency, decoding or comprehension. They found this worked better than grouping for ability.
 - Teachers are shifting their thinking to: “they are all our kids” instead of just their own class.
 - “Collaboration allows teachers to capture each other’s fund of collective intelligence” - Mike Schmoker
 - Results: improved student behaviors, students like going to ‘swap’ time (meaning they swap teachers and / or classrooms), teachers are not burned out at the end of the way. Teachers in the receiving grade say students are more prepared coming in.

Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Schools recommends that the Board of Trustees accepts the ASBA Report as information.