

# Board Highlights

November 8, 2011



Livingstone Range  
SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 48

## *Discussion about ASBA Participation in Canadian School Boards Association*

The Executive of the Alberta School Boards Association asked Boards for input on whether ASBA should reconsider its membership in the Canadian School Boards Association. Boards were asked to respond to the following four questions:

- 1) Does your Board wish ASBA to rejoin CSBA only if 'value for money' and operational issues can be resolved?
- 2) Does your Board wish ASBA to rejoin CSBA without 'value for money' and operational practice issues being resolved?
- 3) On a scale of 1-10 (with 10 being the highest), how strongly does your Board feel about this issue?
- 4) Given that membership in the CSBA is no longer in the ASBA budget, is your Board willing to support a special 2% membership fee levy (raising approximately \$52,000) draw to cover most of the costs of ASBA participation?

The Board discussed their concern with the lack of focus on governance and the cost ineffectiveness of CSBA as an organization. They also expressed the obligation they feel to share their ideas and experiences related to governance. In the end, LRSD trustees did not support rejoining CSBA and ranked with issue a '3' given their commitments and priorities. The Board did not support an increased membership levy.

Board members noted that they are still able to participate in CSBA sponsored events on a user-pay basis.

## *Review of Policies Bulletin in Preparation for the Annual Fall General Meeting of ASBA*

The Annual Fall General Meeting of the Alberta School Boards Association is scheduled on November 20-22, 2011. During that meeting the following nine policies will be brought forward for debate:

- 1) Length of term for school board trustees;
- 2) Timing of school board trustee elections;
- 3) School playgrounds funding support;
- 4) Probationary period for teachers;
- 5) Scheduling and delivery of provincial standardized testing;
- 6) Approval process for school construction;
- 7) Assessment and measures of student success re: 21<sup>st</sup> century learner;
- 8) Support for ESL students, and
- 9) Teacher bargaining.

Trustees discussed each of the motions seeking to thoroughly understand them in preparation for the debate at the Fall General Meeting.

## *Updating the Three Year Plan & Annual Education Results Report*

Stephen Harris, Assistant to the Superintendent, led the Trustees through a review of the Three Year Plan, data gathered during the 2010-11 school year, PAT and Diploma exam results as well as Accountability Pillar data to gather trustee input into the AERR which will be submitted to Alberta Education by November 30, 2011. Trustees named celebrations for the past year and provided insight into trends and issues to be addressed in the next three year planning and reporting cycle.

## ***Regional Student Council***

Kathy Olmstead, Associate Superintendent Education Services and Ellie Elliott, Superintendent provided trustees with information about their visits with High School Student Councils and leadership groups. Each council is selecting three representatives to represent their schools at Regional Student Council. Regional School Council representatives and their advisors will be invited to meet with Trustees in Fort Macleod (PD Room) on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm.

Regional Student Council representatives will also be invited to attend Regional School Council on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 pm.

## ***Zone Nominations***

Trustees discussed their willingness to let their names stand for Zone VI positions in an upcoming Zone VI meeting. Results of those elections will be shared next month.

## ***Evergreening Plan for Technology***

Trustee Hall brought forward a question that was posed at School Council Meetings. She asked if the Board would consider a way for parents to purchase computers for their children as part of the Board's evergreening plan. Stephen Harris explained that the technician team had discussed this possibility. He explained that there is merit in the idea and pointed out three concerns. The first is that the purchase of the computers needs to be at arm's length from the jurisdiction's purchases. The next is that LRSD technicians would not be involved in maintaining or supporting those computers. The last was the timeline which would be Spring 2012, at the earliest for those schools that have been evergreened. He also explained that the division is currently waiting for the outcome of the process where selection of a vendor for southern Alberta will be named.

The Board supported the idea of providing parents with 'specs' for computers that are compatible with those that will be purchased for use in the jurisdiction. No vendors or businesses will be named.

## ***Math Priority Update***

Over the past few years as the new math curriculum has been introduced, Bonnie Layton, Head AISI Teacher and Lorna Adrian, School Improvement Facilitator, have provided teachers with in-service to support the implementation of strategies to support teachers in the delivery of the math curriculum. Associate Superintendent, Kathy Olmstead spoke about recent workshops provided by Mrs. Layton and Mrs. Adrian and the attendance at those workshops. In addition she talked about a shift in providing 'elbow pd' to teachers on site at their schools to help support student learning. Junior High performance in Math continues to be an area of focus this year.

## ***Pinnacle Grading & Reporting***

Lorna Adrian, School Improvement Facilitator and Bonnie Layton, Head ASIS Teacher provided the Board with a review of the workshop that they will be providing, on request, to School Councils and staff about assessment, grading and reporting. They demonstrated what students and parents see using Pinnacle Software and provided samples of two different progress reports that can be generated from the system. They reported that all high schools are currently using the system, and that all LRSD schools, except Colonies, will be using Pinnacle software for Grading and Reporting this year.

## ***Reports***

Reports were deferred for presentation at the November 29, 2011 Board Meeting.

*A copy of the Superintendent's report can be found on the Livingstone Range School Division website at [www.lrsd.ab.ca/board/agenda/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.lrsd.ab.ca/board/agenda/Pages/default.aspx)*

*If you require further information on any of the Board Highlights listed above, please contact the Chairman of the Board, Dick Peterson at (403) 563-3212 or (403) 625-7071 (cell).*