



Ontario Association of School Business Officials
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OASBO is dedicated to the pursuit and support of quality education for all students.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE FEBRUARY 2007

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE FEBRUARY 2, 2007 MEETING

The Board approved the **Proposed 2007/08 Operating Budget** which included the alignment of Standing Committee Budgets and re-instatement of the Special Projects Budget. In an effort to provide additional support to all Committees for projects that exceed their normal activities, the Special Projects Budget can be used for research or data compilation, publications or committee in-house professional development.

The Board received the report from the sub-committee regarding '**Criteria for professional designations**'. It was agreed that the following requirements must be met for the Board to endorse any professional designations: The professional association must be recognized nationally; have a governing body; have a code of ethics; and be recognized by the Province through legislation. The membership qualifications should include educational qualifications, a minimum experience requirement and a professional practice exam.

I encourage you to submit nominations for the upcoming **2007 OASBO Elections**. Being a member of the Board of Directors is a rewarding experience. It is an opportunity for you to bring your professional skills and enthusiasm to support our organization to achieve its vision. Nomination information has been distributed electronically and the deadline for submissions is March 30. Four Directors and a Vice-President are to be elected.

As we gave our website a new look and feel we are revising more of our organization's resources. The Board approved sample revisions to the **Policies and Practices Manual**. The format has been simplified and includes forms, criteria, etc which gives the booklet a more consistent and comprehensive appearance.

An Ad Hoc committee was approved to formalize the submission of a position paper on the creation of a **Business Diploma Program** in cooperation with the University of Guelph. The framework for the position paper would include ethical standards, standards of practice and professional learning.

As one of our key goals within our Strategic Plan, development and promotion of partnerships with other associations continues. OASBO has taken part in the briefing session sponsored by the Ontario College of Teachers on proposed changes to Regulation 184/97 on teachers' qualifications which may impact on the Human resources area at school boards. At the recent OPSBA Symposium "Students First: A Public Trust", OASBO participated to showcase the association as a visible education partner. Efforts are continuing to promote an ongoing dialogue with the Ontario School Bus Association. Discussions were held with representatives from the Health & Safety Committee to develop a plan for use by a media firm that is doing a needs assessment and product development session for the Education Safety Association.

May is fast approaching and the plans for the **May 3-4, 2007 Annual Conference** are progressing well. The theme is "Partnerships – Building Bridges; Partenariats – jeter des ponts". We are very pleased to have Michael "Pinball" Clemons to deliver the keynote address on Thursday morning (May 3). Marc Kielburger, Chief Executive Director of "Free the Children" will base his Friday (May 4) presentation on the importance of social responsibility. The conference planning committee has done a great job in setting up the program and the Education Industry Show, which is sold out with a waiting list of more than a dozen vendors!

To further advance the use of OASBO resources, work is continuing on the "Forums" section of the **OASBO website** and further investigation will be done regarding French translation of the public domain of the website.

Lori Haley
President