



Ontario Association of School Business Officials
144 Main Street North, Suite 207, Markham, ON L3P 5T3
Phone: (905) 209-9704 FAX: (905) 209-9705
Website: www.oasbo.org

OASBO is dedicated to the pursuit and support of quality education for all students.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE APRIL 3, 2009 BOARD MEETING

The Board discussed the options for **teleconferencing** and since a few providers are presently being used a vendor is needed that can accommodate more than 15 call-ins which is the maximum capacity of the present Bell system. If OASBO 'purchases' equipment, the question of where it will be housed will become a significant barrier. A suggestion was made to ask willing boards that have the equipment to host the various Committee meetings. It was agreed that a report needs to be generated which includes a range of options.

Work is under way for the design of a **new OASBO logo**. Various colour elements will be reviewed and focus will be on making the logo recognizable by the education community.

The Board reviewed the options which OASBO could pursue related to **enhancing communication** with members. Establishment of an eNewsletter and a blog space was considered. The blog space would be an additional feature of the current OASBO website. The critical point is to obtain authors and to keep the blog active. The proposals submitted by Naylor Publications and Danima Technologies regarding an OASBO eNewsletter were compared. The Board was in favour of the Danima Technologies proposal which allowed OASBO more control especially in the area of a self directed eNewsletter.

The subject of **future themes for *The Advocate*** was discussed. The question of whether the theme should be developed annually or by issue was raised. However, it may not be feasible for all Committees to follow the theme if their work does not touch upon that particular topic. A broader discussion will be held at the September 2009 Joint

Meeting and feedback will be obtained from Committee Chairs.

The call for nominations is complete and there is no Election for 2009. The report of the **Nominating Committee** is included in the Annual Reports Package which has recently been distributed electronically to the membership.

All plans are in place for the May 2009 **OASBO Annual Conference** to be held at the Nottawasaga Inn in Alliston. Dr. John Izzo will present the keynote address "It's Not Easy Being Green" and Gill Deacon will focus on "Green for Life" at the Friday plenary session.

The **University of Guelph** will participate in the Education Industry Show on May 7 (Booth #89) and will provide information on the various upcoming Certificate Courses as well as the Diploma in School Board Administration which will be offered in July 2009.

A letter has been forwarded to all Directors of Education offering one free membership to a new member at every school board. OASBO's intent is to increase participation from across the province at the committee level. Positive responses are already being received.

A brief discussion was held on the impact of the reduction in the GSN for Central Administration. This may have a significant impact on OASBO relating to PD attendance.

The next meeting will be held on May 6 prior to the OASBO Annual Conference in Alliston.

Bruce Thomson
OASBO President