



**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**

### **ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE FEBRUARY 20, 2009 BOARD MEETING**

The Board discussed the proposed **Governance** Plan in detail. Based on the feedback received from Standing Committees, there was a level of recognition that COSBO should have a constant member on the OASBO Board of Directors. Committees were not comfortable with the cluster format and there seemed to be more support for bringing names forward from each Committee and vetted by the Rep Team with final approval by the Board. Approval was made for a survey to be sent to the OASBO membership outlining two options as follows: 1. Status quo (current 9 members of the Board remains unchanged and the 2 year-term continues) 2. The Board be increased to 10 members including a COSBO representative. The results of the survey will be presented at the May 2009 Annual General Meeting for final approval, including changes to the By-law, and would take effect for the 2010-2011 term.

Plans for the May 6-8, 2009 **Annual Conference** are in place and the registration package has been distributed to the membership as well as posted on the OASBO website [www.oasbo.org](http://www.oasbo.org) under "Events". The theme centers on "Greener Perspectives....Prospectives Écologiques". Dr. John Izzo will focus

on "It's Not Easy Being Green" and how companies, institutions and organizations are facing the challenges of the current green trends. Gill Deacon is scheduled to make her presentation "Green for Life" at the Friday plenary session. She will cover ways to move toward more sustainable practices both in business and in one's personal life. The conference planning committee has done an outstanding job in coordinating the committee workshop sessions and handling local arrangements. Thanks to everyone for their time and effort. The Education Industry Show is continuing to attract prominent exhibitors and we hope to have all space sold out shortly.

Discussion took place on the **Membership** various options for ongoing recruitment and retention of new members. The Board was in favour of offering one free membership to a new member per Committee and agreed that a letter be forwarded to the Director of Education and the Superintendent of Business outlining the benefits of OASBO membership such as provision of quality PD, networking and mentoring opportunities. It will be stressed that OASBO's intent is to increase participation from across the Province at the committee level.

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OASBO is in the process of collecting information regarding **teleconferencing** options. The Board agreed that in order to retain new members, Committees will need to tap in to the new technologies, especially in tele and video conferencing. This would provide accessibility to Northern boards, especially in participation in committee meetings. The Board encouraged the idea that supports should be put into place for the benefit of all members.

The OASBO website and its **Forum** function were reviewed. One of the uses would be to archive discussions and enable members to access past topics and comments. It was suggested that a list of benefits of the Forum, its intent and objectives be developed. An outline will also be established regarding procedures related to the use of the Forum. A small working group was established for formulating the procedures.

The Board approved the **Proposed 2009-10 Operating Budget** which will be presented at the May 2009 AGM for final approval. There is recognition that revenue from the Annual Conference may be lower since sponsorships will

most like decrease based on current economic conditions. Workshop revenue may also experience a slight decrease. Expenditures are being held fairly close to last year. The one exception was committee budgets that were increased by about 4%. Active membership revenue has been constant and there is a recommendation that the annual fee remain the same as last year. An amount of \$4000 has been re-introduced for next year for the purpose of Strategic Planning.

The Board will consider 3 questions which were posed at the recent ASBO International Leadership Conference: 1. How can the Association (OASBO) increase and/or broaden the skill set of business operations at school boards? 2. How can OASBO effectively demonstrate its expertise with government and to its members? and 3. How can OASBO generate or guarantee a continuing pool of Board members?

The next President's Update will follow the April 2, 2009 Board.

Bruce Thomson  
OASBO President