



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 JUNE 2008 BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors met on June 12 at the Toronto DSB in Etobicoke.

The recommendation from the Rep Team to fill the existing **vacancy on the OASBO Board** was discussed. A set of criteria was considered prior to selection and candidates were ranked based on the following: geographic area, board type (public, separate, French), committee representation and past experience. The Board approved the appointment of Shesh Maharaj, Senior Manager, Financial Services, Waterloo Catholic DSB to fill the vacancy on the OASBO Board for the term 2008-2010. The process to fill the vacancy could become policy but needs further consideration as part of the Governance review.

Discussions took place regarding the **OASBO Support Staff Conference** which celebrated its 32nd year in April 2008. Although it was successful in the areas of delegate satisfaction, and personal and professional growth it was not a financial success. Attendance has dropped over the years for this event. One reason may be that more school boards are generating in-house PD events for their staff. The possibility of partnering with another association for the 2009 conference will be pursued as well as seeking sponsorship. This would help to offset costs such as speakers' fees, meal functions and space rental.

The Board considered and approved recommendations regarding the benefits of **Business Associate membership**. Some of the recommendations are:

1. Identifying Business Associates on the OASBO website and including links to their respective company webpage
2. Inclusion of a promotional brochure in the delegate's package

3. Business Associates to be identified by signage at their display booth;
4. Business Associates be offered a discount for exhibit space. Business Associates will be given the opportunity to sponsor future committee workshops relative to their specific area of business.

The survey results regarding the **Annual Conference** was reviewed. Responses indicated that the most important reasons for attendance included networking with colleagues, professional development topics presented and caliber of keynote speakers. With regard to future venues, the top selections were Ottawa, Niagara Falls and London. This information will be used in developing the rotation cycle for future Annual Conferences. The feedback received on the 2008 Annual Conference will be taken into consideration for the planning of next year's conference. Over 300 delegates and 72 vendors participated in the event. Both plenary speakers were well received and the comments on the Workshop and the Gold Mine sessions were generally strong.

The Board agreed that a sub-committee be struck to review the **McCordic Award process** consisting of the OASBO President, Vice President, Executive Director, most recent recipient of the Award and one member of the Rep Team. Because no nominations were received, the Award was not presented in 2008. The importance of the Award was stressed and making the membership more aware of its significance. It was recommended that regular reminders be sent, especially to Committees encouraging nominations. The sub-committee will present a report at the November 27, 2008 Board meeting.

.../2

It was noted that the information on the new University of Guelph “**Diploma in School Board Administration**” program has recently been distributed electronically to the membership. The program consists of 6 on-line courses and 4 classroom-based courses. The on-line courses consist of Introduction to School Board Administration, Financing of Education in Ontario, Legal Governance. To register on line: www.open.uoguelph.ca/offerings/program.cfm?PID-84

As a result of the display booth set up by the University of Guelph at the recent OASBO Education Industry Show, several OASBO Committees have expressed an interest in developing Certificate Courses – Finance, Purchasing and the Operations, Maintenance & Construction Committees. Presently, Certificate Courses are offered in the areas of FOI/Records Management, Human Resources, Transportation, Payroll & Benefits and Information & Communication Technology Management.

The **Joint Meeting of Directors and Committee Chairs** will be held on **September 26**. Further details will be sent to Chairs in early September. Topics of discussion will include: Governance, Strategic Directions, Issues Management, OASBO website maintenance (training), Reinforcement of relationship with Ministry of Education, COSBO and CODE as well as determining ways OASBO can assist Committees. A demonstration of the OASBO website will be done during the meeting to further encourage Committees to become familiar with its functions.

The Board approved the revision of the Policy related to the “Student Athletic Award”. In the past, the revenue from the golf tournament supported this award. Since OASBO is no longer linked to the tournament, it was agreed that OASBO offer up to two **student annual scholarships** but it will not be linked to any particular revenue stream.

The **Canadian Pupil Transportation Conference** (CPTC) planning committee submitted a request for financial support from OASBO for the event to take place in Ottawa on **May 16 to 19, 2010**. The OASBO members on

the planning committee are Jim Talbot (London District Catholic School Board) and Wendy Dobson-Heinke (Student Transportation Services of Peel Region). The Business Plan for the conference was reviewed by the Board and all agreed that it was well thought out in terms of advertising & promotion, timetable, budget and target audience. The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Transportation will be providing funding support in the amount of \$40,000 each. The OASBO Board approved financial support for the 2010 CPTC in an amount of \$15,000 (\$5000 over 3 years).

The Board received and endorsed a letter on the subject of ‘**provincial standards for safe drinking water**’ addressed to the Ministry of Education. The letter seeks clarification regarding the 2007 directive from the Ministry of Education for daily flushing of potable water lines and the 2008 directive from the Ministry of Environment for weekly flushing where plumbing was installed after 1990. It is not clear whether the Ministry of Education supports this directive and if a regulatory change will be made. The OMC Committee of OASBO is suggesting a meeting with representatives from both Ministries to reach an agreement.

The President’s **focus areas for 2008/09** was summarized as follows: Governance process; By-law changes related to the Election process; utilization of Committee expertise; reinforcement of relationship with Ministry, COSBO and CODE; solidify relationships regarding the Efficiency & Effectiveness (E & E) Initiatives; ensure steps are in place for continuation of the Support Staff Conference.

The **2009 Annual Conference** will be held on May 5 to 7 at the **Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston**. OASBO Directors Karen Fox and Kathy Czackowski have agreed to continue for next year in the coordination of workshop session topics. Directors, Tom Pechkovsky, John Neville and Joel Sloggett agreed to co-chair the Education Industry Show.

The next issue of the President’s Update will be available in September. Until then, best wishes for an enjoyable summer.

Bruce Thomson
OASBO President