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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 JUNE 2009 BOARD MEETING

This is my first President's Update and I want to start off on the right foot. So let me kick things off by saying "**Hello Association members!**" With the help of this year's exciting Board of Directors, we hope to accomplish a lot and move the Association forward as it evolves to meet your needs and to support School Boards and student success in Ontario!

The new Board of Directors began its year on June 12 and, in keeping with our goal of shaking things up a little, we held our meet at the Durham District School Board office in Whitby. The venue was great and Durham's hospitality is appreciated.

1) Vision & Focus for 2009/10:

In trying to think ahead and be proactive in supporting our Association and the challenges which will come our way, the Board agreed that our **focus** for the coming year will be on "**Sustainability**". Questions to be addressed will include:

"What is OASBO doing to sustain business opportunities during this time of economic restraint?"

"What positions or programs are being threatened?"

"How can OASBO strengthen the level of support to education in business areas and to its members?"

These sorts of questions are tough ones which need to be considered as we move ahead. All Committee Chairs, Reps and members will be asked, over the course of the year, to help us collectively continue on a path toward a sustainable future in spite of the tough economic times that we face.

2) Committee & Board Brainstorming:

I am pleased to advise that a **Joint Meeting of Directors and Committee Chairs** will be held on **September 24 -25, 2009**. A thorough review of OASBO's Strategic Directions will be completed and plans for the next 3 years established. A key

focus will be how the Strategic Directions can best be used as a tool for dealing with current issues. A preliminary invitation has been sent to Chairs to reserve these dates. Further details will be sent in early September.

3) Communication:

A recurring element of my updates will be **communication**. A year or two ago, some of you helped plant a seed with me regarding the need for the Association to support effective and strategic communication. At the grassroots level, this means helping Committees communicate. At a previous meeting, there was direction from the Board to establish teleconferencing accounts for Directors and Standing Committees.

I am pleased to report that an account has been set up with **Mercuri Teleconferencing** and access cards, along with a covering document providing details on the operation of the account will be distributed to Chairs at the September Joint Meeting. A central budget will cover the cost of service and OASBO will keep track of costs for each Committee over the course of the year. To take advantage of this central OASBO service, committee meetings will need to be held in venues where the polycom or similar equipment is available. Advisory Directors (members of the Board who serve as Committee liaisons to flow information back and forth) will now have the option of joining Committee meetings by teleconference and provide updates on matters of interest.

Advisory Directors for Committees were identified. The following Directors agreed to act as Advisory Directors for 2009/10:

Nancy Tallevi (Dufferin Peel Catholic DSB) – Admissions Enrolment
Bill Murray (Renfrew County) – Disability Management and Health & Safety
Shesh Maharaj (Waterloo Catholic DSB) – Finance, Purchasing and COSBO (interim)

Karen Fox (Hastings & Prince Edward DSB) – Human Resources

Russ Coles (York Region DSB) – Information & Communication Technology and Information Management, privacy & Access

Bruce Thomson (Hamilton Wentworth DSB) – Operations, Maintenance & Construction

Mario Nantel (CSD C Centre-Sud) - Payroll & Benefits

Tom Pechkovsky (York Catholic DSB) – Planning

Joel Sloggett (Student Transportation Services of Central Ont.) – Transportation

Also, as Vice President and President, Karen Fox and I will try and make it to as many different Committee functions as possible over the year.

One last point on communication: OASBO is moving forward with a small business server for the office. There has been an ongoing issue of email rejection by some boards whose systems have been identifying OASBO communications as SPAM. The new server will give the Association more flexibility and exchange capabilities including SharePoint.

4) Annual Association Conferences:

The 2009 Conference in Alliston was another great success. It is funny how, when you attend a conference, the days seem longer and you can pack more hours into them than you normally would! I think this is because of all the excellent networking, committee sessions and workshops and, more generally, the good company we share.

The Board reviewed the 2009 Annual Conference evaluations submitted by attendees. There was general satisfaction with the program but there were some concerns with the venue. Rankings for speakers have been relatively consistent and presentations were well received. Workshops have had steady increase in rankings based on timely topics and excellent presenters.

The **2010 Annual Conference** will be held on May 5-7 at the Deerhurst Inn in Huntsville. Russ Coles and Nancy Tallevi agreed to co-ordinate the workshop program and Tom Pechkovsky and Bill Murray will act as co-chairs of the Education Industry Show.

The conference venue rotation cycle for the next number of years follows:

2010 – Deerhurst Inn, Huntsville

2011 – Ottawa Convention Centre, Ottawa

2012 – Sheraton Fallsview, Niagara Falls

2013 – London Convention Centre, London

2014 – Blue Mountain Resort, Collingwood

2015 – Hamilton Convention Centre, Hamilton

5) Marketing and Branding OASBO:

Recently, a letter was sent to all Directors of Education in the province regarding OASBO's offer of **one year's free membership** per school board for anyone who was not currently a member. I am happy to advise you that, to date over 25 positive responses have been received. The names of these new members will be shared with Chairs in the near future and they are asked to please ensure that the new member is contacted and welcomed to the Committee.

On another note, the Board discussed how ways can be established in connecting individuals to OASBO even if there is no current existing committee, for example in the area of communications. There does not seem to be any fixed methodology to identify and allocate certain business areas to a current Standing Committee. This will be a topic of further discussion at the September Board meeting.

Work is continuing on the **design of a new OASBO logo**. The Board agreed that the use of red and white would be the dominant colours with black and gold as possible accents. The plan is to release the new logo early next year with changes to the OASBO website, letterhead and lapel pins. The freshening of our logo will symbolize our commitment to keeping the Association vibrant, in tune with member needs while respecting our history and roots as an organization.

Working together, our Association can only get stronger and stronger in the years ahead. For my part this year, I look forward to supporting you and demonstrating leadership to help take us through 2009/10 and beyond!

The next issue of the President's Update will roll out in September. Don't miss it. Until then, best wishes to everyone for an enjoyable and safe summer.

Joel Sloggett
OASBO President

PS - Remember, hard work in supporting the education of the Province's students is serious business but we must be sure to have fun along the way. Using this strategy, our journey will be as fulfilling as reaching all of our goals successfully!