



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 NOVEMBER 27, 2008 BOARD MEETING

The Board approved the **Auditor's Report** for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2008. We are pleased to advise that the Association is in a healthy financial position and continues to build equity on an annual basis. Revenue from membership fees have increased due to a higher number of Active and Business Associate members. Under Expenditures, both the budget and the actuals are relatively in line. There were some increases in Internet expenses for implementing the French portion of the OASBO website and various upgrades related to on-line membership renewals. Substantial savings were realized in the areas of printing, office supplies & equipment, and postage/courier.

The Board considered offering **bulk membership discounts**, and after discussion it agreed that one complimentary membership would be provided to each of the 13 OASBO Standing Committees. An invitation will also be sent to boards that do not have members.

The proposed **Governance Plan** was discussed in detail. The Board commenced this review of the governance structure to consider stronger representation from committees and to address the issue of members not feeling comfortable about the current election process. The

following steps will be followed in order to obtain input from members: 1. Advisory Directors will contact Standing Committees 2. Executive Director to provide Governance information to Advisory Directors 3. Executive Director receives and collects information (feedback) 4. Information is shared with the Rep Team 5. Board of Directors reviews feedback at its February 2009 meeting 6. Preferred options will be sent to the OASBO membership for comment 7. Option will be presented at the May 2009 AGM for a vote.

The Board was presented with the budget for the **2009 OASBO Annual Conference** to be held at the Nottawasaga Inn in Alliston, Ontario. At its first meeting, the conference planning committee established the theme "**Greener Perspectives**" for the event. The conference program co-ordinators, Karen Fox (Hastings & Prince Edward County DSB) and Kathy Czackowski (Greater Essex County DSB) have been in contact with Chairs to establish Committee workshop topics.

The Board was advised of the **preliminary budget submission for the province**. Bill Blackie, OASBO Executive Director has represented the Association in the past but has not had background material to present, such as education budget figures. The general

feeling of the Board was that the Minister of Finance will be inundated with concerns and budget requests, OASBO's presentation should avoid the topic of funding, and instead, stress that education is a pillar to the community and it is especially important to keep it solid. It should also be highlighted that the Association looks forward to working with the Ministries to keep education as a priority focus.

Since more and more committees are moving toward **teleconferencing**, the Board will be looking at options and costs related to the provision of teleconferencing and/or web meetings for OASBO Standing Committees. A report will be presented at the next regular Board meeting.

The **OASBO Support Staff Conference** to be held in April 2009 in Toronto was discussed. Members are asked to promote the event at their respective boards. More work oriented topics will be presented to encourage and strengthen attendance. Plans are under way to pursue the participation of a number of vendors in a mini trade show at the conference.

The **Diploma in School Board Administration** course is under way and the next course in "Financing Education in Ontario" will commence in January 2009. The components of the course includes school finance & financial management, funding models, financial forecasting & budgeting, dealing with restricted funds and improving school financial operations. Further information and admission criteria can be accessed at www.SchoolBoardAdmin.com

The Ministry has often approached OASBO for attendance at various meetings to participate in discussions and provide input. It has been difficult to find representatives on short notice and it was suggested that an OASBO 'response team' be established. This process will be pursued through the Rep Team.

Public Consultation from the Accessibility Directorate was discussed. It was noted that a number of standards will be released which will impact on the accessibility to services and information for Ontarians with all forms of disability. The public review period to make comments on the proposed Accessible Information and Communications Standards is from November 17/08 to January 16/09. The Board established a sub-committee to submit a response to the proposed standards. The Health & Safety and the Information & Communications Technology Committees will be contacted for comments.

On behalf of the Association, I want to thank all members for their excellent work on behalf of OASBO over the past year and to wish everyone a very **Happy Holiday Season.**

Bruce Thomson
OASBO President