



## 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 29, 2007 BOARD MEETING

We are pleased to let our members know that the Association is in an excellent financial position and continues to build a small equity on a yearly basis. The **Auditor's Report** for the fiscal year September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2007 was presented by a representative from Walsh & Company and approved by the Board. There were substantial savings realized in the operations of the OASBO office in the areas of offices supplies, printing and postage/courier charges. This is a result of the increased use of electronic documents. Committee expenses have also been consistent with their budgets. The Board approved the creation of an audit sub-committee to establish a mandate, process and timelines related to future audits and budgets. It was agreed that a Finance Committee member be asked to participate on the sub-committee.

An update on the progress of the "**Diploma in School Board Administration**" was made. The project was started two years and much appreciation goes to Marilyn Marklevitz (Superintendent of Financial Services & Treasurer, Waterloo Region DSB) who has been the pioneer in launching the development of the course. In October 2007, the Senate of the University of Guelph agreed to offer the program with 6 core web-based online courses. They are: Introduction to School Board Administration, Financing of Education in Ontario, Legal Governance, Communications Management, Leadership and Ethics, and Operational Resource Management. In addition to the 6 core courses, participants must complete 4 elective courses (classroom

based) from the existing roster of University of Guelph/OASBO certificate programs. Course developers are sought to develop an online course. The Job Posting is accessible on the OASBO website in the Members' Area. The target start date for the program is the fall semester 2008r.

An update on the **OASBO website** was provided. It was noted that the French public section of the site has been launched and posted. The Forums function of the website is in place and OASBO staff will be trained on its use possibly in early January 2008. The survey component of the site will soon be in operation.

Discussion took place on **Governance Issues**. A sub-committee reviewed the components of Governance in several categories: role of the Board and role of administration; By-laws; make-up of the Board and succession planning. The various Governance models were also reviewed 1. Current model (Directors elected by members based on individuals who choose to run for office) 2. Regional model) based on 6 geographic regions of the Province and 3. Sector model (based on English public, English Catholic and French school boards). It was suggested that a self-evaluation survey be distributed to assist individuals determine what they can contribute to OASBO and to the Board should they wish to run for office in the elections. It was agreed the Elections letter (usually distributed in late January) include more information to define skills needed, responsibilities, number of meetings, etc.

Directors will hold a working session in February to review the OASBO By-laws and to define the Board's role and responsibilities. The membership will be advised of the results of the meeting via an article in the Spring 2008 issue of *The Advocate*.

The FOI/Records Management Committee has been working for the last year with the University of Guelph to develop an "**Access, Privacy and Records Management Certificate Program**". As a result of meetings held with University representatives, the program was amended to be held over a 4-year period (from the original 3-year proposal). The preliminary Course Outline was presented to the Directors for review. The Board passed a motion to support the offering of the "Access, Privacy and Records Management Certificate Program". Recognizing that there is a significant tie to Information and Communication Technology, the two Committees are presently working together to ensure that all areas are covered in the course outline.

Several members and non-members did an outstanding job as participants on the Host Committee for the ASBO International Conference held in Toronto in October 2007. To recognize these contributions the Board voted unanimously to present an **Award of Merit** to: Gil Owens (Thames Valley DSB), Sandra Quehl (Waterloo Catholic DSB), Don Higgins (Toronto DSB, on secondment to Ministry of Education), and to extend the terms of the Policy A2 for this occasion to include non-members: Kathy Dietrich and Deb Beck (Alberta). Congratulations to all!

The Board approved the budget for the **2008 OASBO Annual Conference** to be held in London, Ontario. The first meeting of the conference planning committee was held in early November at the Thames Valley DSB and the theme established "Embracing Change and Sharing Success". Conference program

co-ordinators Kathy Czaczkowski and Karen Fox are working closely with Chairs in establishing Committee workshop topics.

A sub-committee was set up to identify **locations/venues for the 2009 and 2010 Annual Conference**. It was agreed that several venues could be selected then rotated on a yearly basis. Another consideration for selecting venues is the size of the trade show. If a large number of exhibitors are to be accommodated, then OASBO is limited to certain venues that can provide the required space.

On a final note, I wish to **thank all members** for their good work on behalf of the Association over the last year and to extend warm greetings to everyone for a **Very Happy and Safe Holiday Season!**

Brian Greene  
OASBO President