



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 SEPTEMBER 2008 BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors met on September 25, 2008 followed by a joint meeting with Committee Chairs on September 26 at the Toronto DSB in Etobicoke.

The Board held discussions on the recently released Ministry of Labour **Consultation Paper on Workplace Violence Prevention**. The Ministry is seeking input from OASBO and the Health & Safety Committee will be contacted and asked to provide a response. A legal representative with experience in this area may be needed to prepare a submission. Keel Cottrelle has offered to do this work provided it does not take up too much time. The deadline for submission to the Ministry is October 17.

The Board received a report from Vice-President Joel Sloggett who attended the funeral services for Bill McCordic in late June and offered condolences on behalf of the OASBO Board. He advised them of OASBO's intent to reinvigorate member interest in the **McCordic Award** which was named after Bill. It would be worthwhile to pursue having the Award presented at the 2009 Annual Conference by a member of Bill's family.

An update was received on the **Diploma in School Board Administration** offered by the University of Guelph. Registrations have been received for two modules. The first session commenced in September and the second is scheduled for January 2009. All core online courses are 10 weeks in duration. There are some changes expected with regard to Regulation 309 and discussions are anticipated with Ministry representatives with regard to possible amendments.

The **OASBO 2009 Annual Conference** will be held **May 6 to 8** at the **Nottawasaga Inn** in

Alliston, Ontario. The conference planning committee will commence its work in late October. Committee Chairs will be contacted for workshop topics and for suggestions for presenters.

The Board received the proposed 7-year **rotation cycle for the OASBO Annual Conference** as follows:

2009 - Alliston (Nottawasaga Inn)
2010 - Huntsville (Deerhurst Inn)
2011 – Ottawa (Ottawa Congress Centre)
2012 – Niagara Falls (Sheraton Fallsview Hotel)
2013 - London (London convention Centre)
2014 - Collingwood (Blue Mountain Resort)
2015 - Hamilton (Hamilton Convention Centre/Sheraton Hamilton)

The Board reviewed the **Governance Workplan** which involves sharing the initial steps with boards and committees. The activities will include developing options, sharing options with the Board of Directors, obtaining input from Committees, sharing the options with the Rep Team, modifying the options, conducting an Association survey and finally, presenting the summary to the Board. There will be three working groups. Workgroup 1 will develop the options, Workgroup 2 will modify the options and the third group will be in charge of the By-law review.

The establishment of the **Declining Enrolment Working Group** was reviewed. The working group consists of a wide range of education stakeholders including OPSBA, OPSOA, CODE, OASBO, COSBO and OCSOA. The Board approved OASBO's response and authorized its submission to the Ministry of Education by the deadline date of September 29, 2008. The report concluded that more time

to respond to changes is required and while school closures are possible alternatives in some settings, the single school communities should receive special consideration.

The **Joint meeting of Directors and Chairs held on September 26** focused on Goals and Priorities. It was emphasized that completion of the Strategic Directions will be a priority utilizing Committee expertise. Strengthening the relationships with the Ministry, COSBO and CODE as well as promoting partnerships more fully by broadening the scope of liaison with other associations and with suppliers and sponsors will be a priority. It is also OASBO's intent to determine how the Association can offer more assistance to Committees in carrying out their work for the year. Appreciation was expressed to the Committees for their work on behalf of OASBO and on behalf of the Board of Directors, the President wished everyone a successful 2008/09 school year.

Bruce Thomson
OASBO President