



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 SEPTEMBER 2007 BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors met on September 20 for a regular meeting followed by a joint meeting with Standing Committee Chairs on September 21, 2007 at the Toronto DSB in Etobicoke.

The Board approved the revised **Policy Manual**. Items that have been inconsistent with current practice have been identified for deletion as well as those that are of an operational nature. OASBO will undertake the task of reviewing the policy related to Supervisory Officer Qualifications and look at qualifications collectively to include future professional designations.

The document entitled "The Path Forward: Our **Strategic Directions**" and the Action Plans were reviewed by the Board. The general consensus was that the Purpose Statement "***OASBO is an organization of professionals that works collaboratively to support learning by developing and promoting excellence in business practices.....L'OASBO est un regroupement de professionnelles et professionnels oeuvrant collectivement au soutien de l'apprentissage par le développement et la promotion de l'excellence en affaires***" can still be supported. The result of the discussion on the strengths included promotion of collaborative projects and addressing the bilingual aspect of service provision. A review of

the Environmental Trends was made including suggestions for additions in the areas of social networking, further

education of students in the appropriate use of technology and environmental issues such as lead in water. Types of activities which OASBO and Committees could undertake to move the Association forward were discussed such as organizing PD events with the Ontario Principals' Council, sharing best practices, and promoting multi-committee meetings. It was also suggested that maintaining a solid knowledge framework is essential for OASBO members to have access to information such as school board policies, purchasing trends, etc.

All plans are in place for the **ASBO International Conference** which will take place in Toronto from October 12 to 15. The OASBO local host committee has done an exception job in organizing several events such as the "Friday Night in Canada" reception, the 5K Run and a Golf Outing. Over 65 volunteers have offered their time to act as greeters, ushers and assistants at the information desk. Our sincere thanks go to the numerous corporate sponsors that have provided funding for the conference: SAP, BMO Financial, EcoLab, Mercer (Canada) Ltd., Wausau Paper, Chartwells, and Stock Transportation.

The Board was updated on the latest developments on the new Business Diploma Program to be offered by the University of Guelph. The program will include 10 courses and will be primarily an on-line program. A submission will be made to COSBO (Council of Senior Business Officials) regarding funding of the course content from the E & E (Effectiveness & Efficiency) budget. The final course content has not yet been determined, only the outline. The University of Guelph will examine the entry requirements for the course. OASBO will pursue obtaining an agreement with the University.

The **OASBO 2008 Annual Conference** will be held **May 7 to 9** at the London Convention Centre in **London, Ontario**. The conference planning committee will commence its work at the end of October. Chairs will be contacted for Committee workshop topics and for suggestions for presenters.

The September 21 **Joint Meeting of Directors and Chairs** focused on OASBO Action Plans which include: facilitate information sharing throughout the Association, encourage Committees to provide networking opportunities and encourage use of the OASBO website. It was noted that the Executive Director has taken the lead to **liaise with other organizations** (OPSBA, OPC, OPSOA, OCSBOA, etc) and an invitation to a meeting in early November will be sent to discuss current issues. It will also provide an opportunity to exchange information on activities and finding areas of mutual cooperation. Committee Chairs will be kept updated on the event and the outcomes of the discussions.

The role of Advisory Directors was clarified. Directors act as a contact/liaison with Committee Chairs on current concerns. It is also an opportunity for the Board to obtain information from Committees and take appropriate steps on major issues.

Appreciation was expressed by the President to the Committees for their hard work and commitment on behalf of OASBO and he extended best wishes to all for success in the 2007/08 school year.

Brian Greene
OASBO President