



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 APRIL 4, 2007 MEETING

At our recent Board meeting we approved the criteria for evaluating **Special Project** submissions which would be funded out of the budget set at the previous board meeting. These provide a set of standards for assessing the value of each committee project before a decision on funding is made. It was agreed that the project must enhance the position of OASBO and must also provide a service to the membership.

Discussion took place on the possibility of **expanding the OASBO membership** to include non-board staff, for example, the information technology staff at various Ministries. At present there is no category to include individuals from other organizations and this would require a By-law change along with a different fee structure. It was emphasized that any new category would need strict guidelines such as restrictions on voting and access to information. A sub-committee was established to review the process as well as, access of OASBO resources by **Annual and Life Emeritus** members.

Work is progressing on the hosting of the **October 12-16, 2007 ASBO International Conference** to be held in Toronto. Over 100 volunteers will be needed to assist with various tasks during the event. Sandra Quehl from the Waterloo Catholic DSB is

coordinating the schedule of volunteers and a communication has been forwarded to the membership requesting assistance. OASBO has the privilege of hosting 2 major events. Our hospitality function on October 12th ("Friday Night in Canada") will be held at The Steam Whistle Brewery in Toronto. The second event will be a golf tournament at Lions Head in Mississauga.

The **Issues Management** document was reviewed and 4 common issues emerged: data management; funding inadequacy; human resources; partnerships and consortiums. Although the document had tremendous merit with regard to strengthening relationships among committees and information sharing, committees find it challenging to submit updates on a regular basis. For this reason, it was suggested that committees identify 2 or 3 key issues and post them on their respective committee web page. At their next meeting, the Rep Team will be asked to coordinate the information.

I am pleased to say that further progress is being made on our **OASBO website**. The on-line voting function has been included and the "Forums" section of the website should be enhanced by the end of May. The French translation of selected sections (such as welcome

page, about us, Board of Directors introduction statement, awards and certificates, join OASBO committees' mandate, publications' introduction statement) of the public domain is almost complete. Danima Technologies will be asked to make adjustments on the OASBO home page to accommodate the French language selection.

To continue the success of the use of our website, two half-day **training sessions for new Committee Chairs** and Committee web page administrators are scheduled for Tuesday, **June 12, 2007**. They will be held at Burnhamthorpe Collegiate, in Toronto (Etobicoke). Each session will accommodate about 15 individuals. Details will be sent to Committees in the very near future.

The Executive Director reported that the OASBO office is moving significantly toward **operating "paperless"**. Job postings, notices, conference and workshop brochures, are all being distributed electronically. Our internal operations have become more efficient so we can focus on more value for our members and efforts will be made to continue the process.

We have completed the call for nominations and there is no requirement for **elections this year**. There is a full slate of officers (1 VP and 4 Directors). The report of the Nominating Committee will be included in the Annual Reports package which will be distributed to the membership soon.

During the most recent Rep Team meeting it was noted that some members were not aware of the **role of a Director**, the time commitment or

what responsibilities are involved. It was suggested that for next year (2008) OASBO promote the role and include quotes from past Directors on their experience on the Board. This could be shared with the membership at the time when nominations are being sought.

Looking forward to seeing you at our AGM in Niagara Falls!

Lori Haley
OASBO President