

PRESIDENT'S COMMUNIQUE – 2009/10

Hello to all my OASBO friends! Welcome back from what I hope was a relaxing Summer.

As you know, this year, your Board of Directors would like to focus on a theme of “Sustainability in Tough Economic Times”. Recent news reports suggest the worst of the economic recession is behind us in Canada. If that is accurate, that is great. Just the same, the challenge that we and future generations of school business leaders will face, is to chart a sustainable course for school operations which will seamlessly support student success second to none in the world. Join me in the coming year as we strive to lay more groundwork aimed at achieving this goal.

This summer, my family vacation took me to Washington, D.C. and environs. We visited much of the Capitol and I think I wore out two pairs of shoes and one pair of sandals as we toured everywhere by foot. While there, I had the opportunity to speak with some school officials who work in the City and they told me of the many challenges that they are facing and extreme pressures they are under to cut costs and redirect resources to the classroom. This sounds familiar, doesn't it?



Upon reflection, my visit to Washington leaves me with the strong realization that we are extremely fortunate in Ontario. We have a government which has committed itself to supporting education and, although improvement is a never ending quest, the advances that have been made over the last number of years have been amazing! For your part, from Windsor to Kitchener, Toronto to Kingston, Cornwall to Ottawa, across the vast north of the Province, and throughout all parts in between, OASBO members, whether Public, French or Catholic School Board based, have been part of the backbone of change which has led to success in our schools!

In terms of what the Association's Board will be up to in coming months, rest assured that we as individual Board members and I, as your President, will keep you and your Committees regularly updated about key activities and important initiatives. An informed membership fosters an engaged membership, so get ready to hear from us and get ready to provide your input in return!

Specifically, we want everyone to ensure their understanding and ownership of our Mission/Purpose Statement:

“OASBO is an organization of professionals that work collaboratively to support learning by developing and promoting excellence in business practices.

Our activities in the coming year will reinforce this underlying reason for our collective being and we will connect with it on a recurring basis during the year.

On another big level, we will be revisiting the Association's Strategic Plan to make sure it remains current and focussed on what is important, both now and for the future. With the help of Committee Representatives, the Board will hold a short retreat in the Fall which will look at the Plan and you can look forward to receiving feedback from us by Christmas.

In closing, I am very optimistic about the coming year and the synergies which we will achieve together as we work cooperatively through our Committee structures to address issues which may arise at our individual Boards. More importantly, I look forward to helping the Association look at long term issues which affect us all and charting a decisive course to guide us forward into the future.

To each and every one of you, I wish you a wonderful school year start and a smooth Fall!

Joel Sloggett
President