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OASBO is dedicated to the pursuit and support of quality education for all students.

PRESIDENT'S COMMUNIQUÉ

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE FEBRUARY 11-12, 2010 BOARD MEETING

Hello OASBO members! I hope you have been enjoying the fine winter we have been having throughout most of Ontario. We are now well past the midway point of the school year and I know you and your Boards are relishing in your student achievement accomplishments so far.

For my part, aside from keeping up with my day job which involves overseeing transportation for the 29,000 students who are lucky enough to live in the Central Ontario area around Peterborough, I have continued to enjoy my stint as Association President. Since late-November when I last updated you, I have visited several more Committees and, with the help of 15+ volunteer members comprising the Website Visioning Team, we advanced our review of the Association's website. More on that in a moment.

In discussing what we share as Association members with a wide variety of you who are involved in responsibility areas different than mine, it becomes clearer and clearer to me all the time that the common value we share is our commitment to the success of an enterprise bigger than any one person, one Committee or one School Board, and that is: student success in the Province of Ontario. Keep up the great work and the exchange of experiences at your monthly Committee meetings!

I know you all are very interested in an update on outcomes of the OASBO Board

Meeting held on February 11 and 12, so here goes.

I am proud to report that I used my Presidential veto to ensure the meeting was held in my hometown of Peterborough. The Board enjoyed their stay and, as you will see from the following update, our discussions were very, very productive. I also took the opportunity to fill the Board in on a little Peterborough history and my involvement in it. More specifically, in case you did not know it, I am credited with inventing a little recreational event called "running the roofs" which is not quite the same as the running of the bulls in Spain but is likely a little safer and just as much fun. Perhaps, with a little encouragement, I can describe the event further at the Annual Conference.



The PD portion of the Board meeting focused on **Strategic Boards**. Discussions included an overview of a possible process to help move a Board toward a targeted strategic role. The seven strategies discussed were: develop a strategic direction, redefine the Board agenda and meeting process, institute a knowledge-based decision process, develop an effective new Board member orientation process, improve organizational leadership through succession planning, develop a Board description (board policy) and develop Board values.

As many of you are aware from our Committee visits, requests were distributed to Committee Chairs asking for feedback on specific strategic objectives and the Committee's action plans. Responses have been received from a number of Committees outlining key elements of their plans. Two major questions which were addressed were "What are we doing as an organization to meet our purpose?" and "What are we not doing that may be needed in the future?" A document will be developed for the May meeting to outline the Association's direction and the new Board will assess where OASBO wants to be in the future.

The establishment of a **Code of Conduct** was discussed in detail. It seems that in this age of accountability it may be time for this idea to be considered. As a starting point, the following items should be included: standard of behavior, consequences of not following the standards and ability to have an independent investigation of an allegation.

As previously referenced, the Board approved a proposal from Danima Technologies for **upgrades to the OASBO website**. Areas which will be emphasized are branding, contacts, membership information and events. The following changes will be pursued: keeping the site clean and well designed; creating logical and sustainable functionality for pushing information out to members; introducing "user designed portal" functions, a multi-

level calendar and an effective search engine. The ability to post to the document repository in the Members' Area was discussed and it was agreed that any member could post documents. This project will reflect the work of the Website Visioning Team which is an effort that we will all appreciate when we get the chance to christen the new website in a couple of months.

The Board agreed to support the Human Resources Committee's proposal to present the **CHRP designation** for SOQP admission requirements to the Ministry.

The report on **Nominations** was received from the Chair and it was noted that only one name has been submitted for the Vice President position. This is the only position for which there is an election. Nominations will continue to be received until the end of March and, based on my experience with the President's role so far, I would encourage anyone who is interested in accepting new and exciting challenges to put their name forward and have fun on the road to becoming President!

With respect to new Directors, Committees have been requested to put forward nominees for the three (3) open positions. These names will be submitted to the Board as a recommendation through the Rep Team. The Board will consider the important of diversity and cross-section representation before it makes a final decision.

A concern was raised about the declining volume of article submissions for inclusion in **The Advocate** magazine. The periodical is an excellent resource and completing articles is a personally rewarding experience for the author(s). To help boost awareness and consider ways to increase interest in contributing, a Gold Mine session will be presented at the Annual Conference in May stressing the value of The Advocate.

Details on the OASBO Golf Tournament (May 5) to be held during the Annual Conference will be distributed shortly to conference registrants.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on May 5 during the Annual Conference at the Deerhurst Inn.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for the openness and supportiveness you have extended to me as so far I try and interact with as many of you and your Committees as possible. My tenure will soon come to an end but I know, based on what I have been privileged to be involved in to date, that the experience will be one I will remember for a long time!

Joel Sloggett
OASBO President