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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 JUNE 7, 2010 BOARD MEETING

This is my first communication as President and, I must say, I am really excited about serving the association in this capacity! OASBO is a strong and vibrant association that continues to grow in membership. I look forward to building on our collective accomplishments and leading a very dynamic and capable Board of Directors over the next year. My area of focus continues to be communication and I encourage your input/feedback on ways in which we can continue to improve our functionality and meet membership needs.

The Board of Directors held its first meeting for the 2010-11 year on June 7 at the offices of SRB Education Solutions, one of OASBO's business supporters. We thank SRB for their hospitality and on-going support! A special welcome was extended to the **new members** of the Board: Lorie **Bissonette** (Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board), Debra **McFadden** (Dufferin Peel Catholic DSB) and Paul **McMahon** (Halton Catholic DSB)

A brief review of the **Measurement of Achievement in 2009-10** was made. OASBO has seen a consistent increase in membership both from the school board and business sectors. PD opportunities have increased in the form of new Certificate Programs offered at the University of Guelph. The E & E Advisory Committee is reviewing the option of offering these courses on line. Of the 60 plus identified Strategic Plan steps, over 40 are complete

or well underway, which is significant over the course of one year.

With **Communications** as the central theme for the upcoming year, emphasis will be on encouraging members to use the website as a key communication tool. Next year's focus will also concentrate on:

- Communicating the role of the Chair and Rep Team member related to expectations and responsibilities
- Sending monthly reminders to Standing Committee Chairs regarding ongoing responsibilities
- Sending a welcome/orientation package to new members
- Fostering the value of OASBO's functions to the academic area of school boards
- Reviewing partnerships and the governance model
- Completing the assessment of the current teleconferencing service after one year's use.

A review of the **roles and responsibilities** of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee and the Executive Director was made. The following areas specify the role of the Board: Governance, Planning, Financial Management, Executive Director Appointment and Communications. The roles of the President, Vice President and Executive Committee were also discussed and how they relate to the Association's purpose and objectives.

The Board approved **Standing Committee status** for the **Internal Audit** sub-committee. The sub-committee had been functioning under the umbrella of the Finance Committee and since internal audit is one of the Ministry's major initiatives, it indicates sustainability. The Board also recognized **Risk Management & Insurance** as a **sub-committee** for 2010-11.

The Board approved "**Supply Chain Management**" as the new name for the current Purchasing Committee. The Committee had requested this name change to reflect additional roles as well as clarification of its activity.

**Advisory Directors** were identified for 2010-11. Advisory Directors act as a link to Committees and keeps members up to date on OASBO issues. The following Directors agreed to take on this role:

**Nancy Tallevi** (Dufferin Peel Catholic DSB) – Admissions Enrolment and OMC

**Bill Murray** (Renfrew County) – Disability Management and Health & Safety

**Paul McMahon** (Halton Catholic DSB) – Finance and Internal Audit

**Debra McFadden** (Dufferin Peel Catholic DSB) – Human Resources and Professional Development

**Russ Coles** (York Region DSB) - Information & Communication Technology and Information Management & Privacy Access

**Lorie Bissonette** (OTPP) –Payroll & Benefits

**Tom Pechkovsky** (York Catholic DSB) – Planning

**Joel Sloggett** - (Student Transportation Services of Central Ont.) – Transportation

**Shesh Maharaj** – (Waterloo Catholic DSB) – COSBO and Supply Chain Management

**Evaluations** from the **2010 Annual Conference** indicated that the event was a success with an attendance of over 350 delegates. Some positive suggestions will be put into practice for next year such as allowing more time between plenary and breakout sessions and engaging speakers who leave a positive message at the closing plenary session. It was agreed that a survey be forwarded to the membership posing 3

key questions: 1. What is the most important item that draws you to a conference and the OASBO Annual Conference in particular? 2. What do you like least about conferences in general and OASBO's in particular? 3. What are the barriers to you attending an OASBO conference?

Based on feedback at the Goldmine session, it seems that shifting the focus of **The Advocate** may be needed including updates on various committee activities. A move to an electronic newsletter could also be an option. Other suggestions made were to capture broader themes, such as 'education trends across Canada', 'legislative impacts on education' and 'features on school boards with innovative practices.' Key articles should be translated into French.

The **2011 Annual Conference** will be held **May 4 - 6** in Niagara Falls. Lorie Bissonette and Shesh Maharaj will co-ordinate the workshop program and Bill Murray, Joel Sloggett and one representative from the Supply Management (Purchasing) Committee will act as co-chairs of the Education Industry Show.

Discussion took place on the **new OASBO website** and it was agreed that some revisions related to business functions are required. Added functions will be considered such as the ability of Chairs to send communication to Committee members, and including a provision whereby members can 'self register' for participation on a committee. Emphasis will be on "pushing" more information out to members and providing an efficient and user friendly site.

The subject of the **Privacy Information Management Task Force** (PIMT) was reviewed. Established 4 years ago, its purpose was to build privacy management solutions for school boards in the form of a tool kit (reference binder, CD and website). The funding provided by CODE will end next year and PIMT is seeking OASBO's assistance in building a sustainability plan. The Board agreed that OASBO would support exploring a means to sustain the work of the Task Force beyond 2010-11.

The next President's Communiqué will be issued in October. Until then, I hope you all have an opportunity for some rejuvenation, rest and relaxation during the summer months. Warm Wishes to all for a pleasant and safe summer!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Fox". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Fox,  
OASBO President