



144 Main Street North, Suite 207, Markham, ON L3P 5T3
Phone: (905) 209-9704 FAX: (905) 209-9705

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

PRESIDENT'S COMMUNIQUÉ

Happy Holidays OASBO Members!

The festive season is upon us and as you move forward with your December plans to spend time with family and friends, I would like to extend wishes from the OASBO Board and office staff for a great break and a wonderful start to your New Year! I think our new OASBO logo (see banner of this Communiqué) is great and certainly versatile as its colours have a holiday feel to them!

Speaking of new years, 2009/10 has been an exciting one for me and I have enjoyed the first of half of my term as President. Over the past several months, I have had the opportunity to continue in my quest to visit with as many of our Standing Committees as possible.

Recently, I spent time with our Planning, Admissions, Finance, Purchasing, OMC, IMPAC and Transportation Committees. Each Committee has a special flavour of its own which is a result of the unique mix of members who are part of each. At the same time, I witnessed that there are several, important common characteristics that Committees share, including substantive information sharing, strong networking and dialogue, and a welcoming feel for new faces who attend. In sum, I am convinced that the link to OASBO's Purpose Statement is lived through our Committees. You will recall our Purpose Statement which is as follows: "OASBO *brings together dedicated*

professionals who are committed to collaborative development, sharing and promotion of leading business practices in education." Great work in walking the talk and



bringing the Statement to life!

(Purchasing Committee Workshop, Dawn Lamontagne, Stephen MacPhee, Deb White-Hassell and Dennis Homeniuk)

In the second half of the term, I look forward to visiting with more Committees and updating them on the Board's work, while also gathering input and feedback on what is needed to carry our Association to new heights of excellence.

Speaking of input from Committees, one of the things I have heard loud and clear is that there is interest in maximizing use of OASBO's website for communicating, both on a Committee level and an individual member level (i.e. use of the Forum), but access and utility must be as simple as possible. Bill Blackie, Russ Coles and I recently met with the company which built our website and we are

formulating a plan for a revamp which will address areas that need improvement and that will act on your input regarding use. You can look forward to information on the finalized changes by Spring.

You will soon receive this quarter's Advocate magazine and there is an article in it which I put together with Bill Blackie's help entitled: "Strategic Positioning for OASBO or "Let the 65-Year Honeymoon Continue!" I hope it is an interesting and thought provoking read and I would ask that you take time to review it and, if you have

any thoughts to add regarding what is needed to take OASBO into the future, please relay them to myself (jsloggett@stsco.ca) or Bill Blackie (bill@oasbo.org).

Again, on behalf of the Board of Directors and OASBO's staff, thanks for your excellent work during the 2009 calendar year and I look forward to observing Committees and members achieving many more successes in 2010!

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE **NOVEMBER 19, 2009** BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors recently held its last meeting of 2009 and one key issue under discussion was '**sustainability**'. For an association like OASBO, the definition covers the capacity to endure and the potential for long-term economic and organizational activity over time. Exploring methods of delivering information to members, assisting new members to connect with other members within their own discipline and 'pushing' information to the membership via e-Newsletters were but a few suggestions which could be put into place for sustaining the Association.

A summary of the Action Plans resulting from the September **Strategic Planning** Session were reviewed. Each of the 5 objectives has been assigned a number of actions and assigned to Board members, the Rep Team, Committee Chairs and the OASBO staff. These objectives include:

- 1. To facilitate information sharing throughout OASBO;*
- 2. To continue the optimization of operational/organizational process within OASBO;*
- 3. To promote, encourage and facilitate learning at all opportunities;*
- 4. To collaborate with new and existing partners to ensure that business objectives of members and their boards are best served; and*
- 5. Generate and foster sustainable awareness of OASBO amongst internal and*

external stakeholders (marketing and promotion).

Plans are under way to establish a new committee related to **support staff training and development**. A 17-member sub-committee has been set up which will meet to discuss best practices, use of funding for support staff training and use of leadership development tools. This group will function under the umbrella of the OASBO Human Resources Committee. Membership will comprise HR, Communications and other business areas. Information has also been sent to OESC (Ont. Education Services Corporation) and to all school boards requesting their participation.

OASBO has established an **audit committee**. The committee's function would be to assist with establishing the Association's budget, reviewing financial statements and assessing potential risks of certain PD events and projects. The audit committee will ensure that the Board of Directors meets its fiduciary role. The composition of the audit would be the Vice President, two members of the Finance Committee, one member of the Rep Team and the OASBO Executive Director (non-voting).

Discussion took place on the brochure which will be sent to potential **Business Associates**. OASBO has since

approached EMA members to present them with the possibility of becoming business associate members and response has been fantastic with a number of new members enrolled already. It was agreed that there will be a different level of access by business associates to the OASBO website and items such as Committee minutes and reports as well as the Forum would not be made available.

The change to Policy A1 regarding the **McCordic Award** was approved. It was agreed that the recipient needs to be prepared to receive the Award and have the opportunity to share the recognition with family. It is proposed that the winner be notified by a member of the Executive prior to the Annual Conference.

The Board was presented with the budget for the **2010 OASBO Annual Conference** to be held at the Deerhurst Inn in Huntsville, Ontario. The conference planning committee established the theme “*Sustaining our Future.....Maintenir notre avenir*” for the event. The conference program coordinators, Nancy Tallevi (Dufferin Peel Catholic DSB) and Russ Coles (York Region DSB) have made contact with Chairs to establish committee workshop topics. It was suggested that the structure of the committee sessions be changed in order to give members an opportunity to discuss topics rather than being presented a topic by a speaker.

OPSOA has agreed to keep OASBO informed of the developments related to the new **SOQP** courses. The Ontario College of Teachers will be directly involved with the revisions. OASBO will be suggesting that the “Diploma in School Board Administration’ at University of Guelph be included as an option for academics to gain more knowledge about the business function of school boards.

Work will be done by members from OPSBA, the Ministry and 4 trustees’ associations (lead by Ron Plaizier, Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB) to examine

initiatives and actions to be taken for the **advancement of technology in the classroom** (what does the 21st classroom look like?) It was suggested that involvement by; the Finance, Planning and OMC Committees may be needed to consider such issues as funding, class size and physical structure.

Best Wishes to All.

Joel Sloggett
OASBO President