

MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION
ALBERTA SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION
ZONE 6 GENERAL MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2021
VIA ZOOM

N O T E S

1. BUDGET COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

Motions for presentation:

- a) Discussion on payment for committee members.
- b) Discussion on payment for any additional committee work.
- c) Bylaw Committee

This item was Tabled to the next General Meeting due to technical difficulties.

2. ASBA SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENTATION – KATY CAMPBELL

Three main platforms:

- a) In
- b) Twitter
- c) Facebook - Facebook appears to be the most popular

Opportunities

- Tell the Board's story
- Promote the values of trusteeship
- Connecting, Listening and Discussing
- Become a thought leader in the community

Risks

- Harassment and criticism
- Nothing can be permanently erased

Professional Guidelines

- Leadership and Accountability
 - Trustees wear many different hats
 - Do not air laundry in public
- Best Practices
 - Be honest about your identity
 - Clarify that you represent only "your" views
 - Public vs. Private vs. Professional
 - Use good judgement
 - Play nice

- Respect privacy and confidentiality of off-line conversations
- Know your spokesperson
- Handling abusive posts
 - Stay on top of it
 - Acknowledge all comments
 - Respond quickly
 - Don't ignore it
 - Don't be defensive
 - Don't escalate
 - Don't patronize

Question: Should School Boards have a dedicated Facebook page?

Response: Boards should have a policy and a plan.

3. REPORTS

a. President – Lorrie Jess

- ASBA has consulted with CSBA re: unaccounted students. Matter still being investigated. Nothing new from the Ministry, however it was noted that there are 124 students who have registered for Home Schooling through the Minister.
- Advocacy Committee continues to do their work and have launched several initiatives. More information will be forthcoming.
- Board of Directors held an Orientation Meeting on December 10, 2020 to welcome several new Directors.
- Board of Directors has held a number of meetings since December.
- President continues to meet with Minister on a regular basis to discuss re-entry plan, in-class learning, priority of teachers with respect to vaccination, etc.
- AHS has increased its contact tracing staff.
- ASBA continues to advocate for “hold-harmless” funding during the pandemic.
- Health Canada has sent a survey regarding nicotine and vaping products amongst youth.
- A letter has been sent to the Minister of Advanced Education expressing concern regarding post-secondary admissions in light of the optional Diploma Exams. Minister replied that provincial institutions have indicated they will accept students based on “final grade” whether it be school-based or otherwise. Some programs at some schools may still require Diploma Exam marks. It was stated by Zone 6 representatives that parents and students need to know of these exemptions “now”.
- ASBA has now posted an “eHandbook” for trustees on its website.

- Civic and School Board nominations are now open.
 - Indigenous Awards nominations are open until February 1, 2021
- b. Zone Director – Brad Toone
 - ASBA has passed a resolution for a governance review of the Association. The last review was held 14 years ago and is long overdue. Cost for the review is \$55,000.
 - The Advocacy Committee has had success in lobbying the Minister to allow for jurisdictions to include “Public” in their corporate names.
 - c. Labor Relations – Greg Long
 - No report
 - d. PD/SAPDC – Patricia Beazer
 - No report
 - e. South Zone Comprehensive School Health – Lacy Poytress
 - No report
 - f. ASBA Report – Dr. Vivian Abboud
 - Dr. Abboud continues to meet with numerous Education Partner Administrators
 - New Deputy Minister is Andre Tremblay
 - ASBA continues to keep a close eye on all matters related to Board governance.
 - g. Ron Taylor
 - No report
4. LONG SERVICE AWARDS
How are Boards addressing this issue in light of COVID 19? Several Boards reported on their strategies.
 5. EDWIN PARR AWARDS
Activities around the Edwin Parr Awards will continue as “status quo”. Nomination forms are on-line and should be submitted to Lori Hodges by September 17, 2021.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rick Massini – Vice Chair