

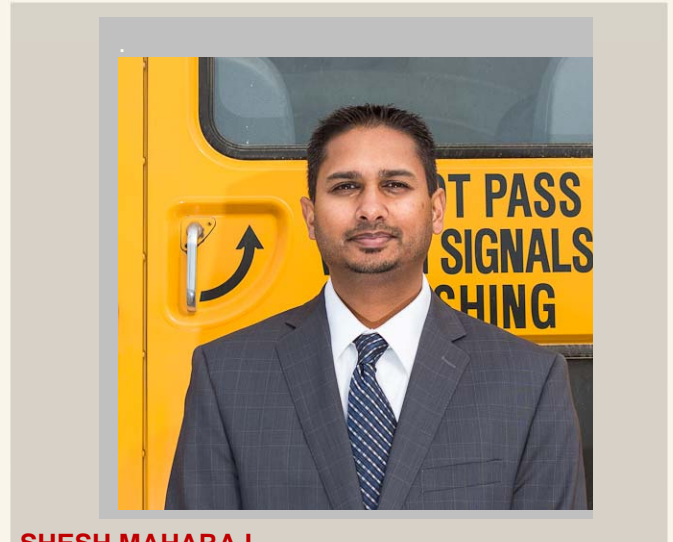
ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE APRIL 19, 2013 BOARD MEETING

On April 19, the Board of Directors met in Mississauga. The following are highlights from the meeting:

An update on the new **OASBO website** was presented. Over 600 OASBO members have signed up on the NING environment. Discussion took place on the various levels of access that Business Associates and non-members should have. It was clarified that WordPress is the public area of the site whereas NING is the collaboration site for members only. If there are sensitive issues, these will be posted in the In Camera area which can be viewed by invitation only. There was general agreement that for exceptional circumstances, a special area can be set up, but it is not a good idea for all Committees to pursue confidentiality.

The Board approved the proposal to establish a permanent **Conference Planning Committee** and enlist individuals who are interest in assisting with providing quality PD for members. Members will be asked to commit for a 2-year term. The terms of reference will include responsibilities such as conference theme, budget planning, format and speaker selection.

Discussion also took place regarding the benefits of **Business Associate** membership. Applications could be reviewed by the Supply Chain Management Committee. There should be no restrictions regarding login to the OASBO website as long as the products/services are appropriate to school boards and the business associate adheres to OASBO's code of ethics and aligns with the association's goals. A policy will be developed outlining the responsibilities and privileges of vendors who wish to become Business Associates.



SHESH MAHARAJ
OASBO PRESIDENT

There was some discussion regarding the document "**Broadband Directives – Manifesto for the 21st Century Learning**". It was agreed that access to high-speed broadband is vital to K-12 school learning. The OASBO Board endorsed the initiative and the ICT Committee will be requested to assist in moving this project along. It was suggested that OASBO work together with OPSBA, as it has developed a similar document.

The report of the **Nominations Committee**, along with its recommendations was accepted by the Board. The announcement regarding the new Board members will be made prior to the May 10, 2013 AGM.

The publishing contracts with Naylor Canada were approved by the Board for a term of 3 years. All three **OASBO publications** (magazine, newsletter and membership directory) will be produced digitally as well as in hard copy.



PRESIDENT'S COMMUNIQUÉ DU PRÉSIDENT - April – Avril 2013

OASBO will be involved in a joint conference with the **Educational Computing Organization of Ontario (ECOO)** to take place October 23-25, 2013 in Niagara Falls. The theme "Bring IT, Together" will bring together CIO's, technology supervisors, IT support staff as well as principals and teachers from across the Province. The event will also attract prominent IT vendors.

Some discussion centered on the **University of Guelph Certificate Program** and methodology for delivery. Some members indicated the pace at which the courses progressed was too fast. It was noted that the course is not intended to be self-paced and contains deadlines and submission dates like any other course would. It was suggested that OASBO pursue recognition of the course as a requirement for the SOQP.

An update on the results of the early March meeting to discuss **Canadian School Business Certification** was received. The conclusion reached by the various provincial representatives was that the certification would be too restrictive and would not cover all platforms. Members agreed on a common activity to establish a repository of documents which would be shared. It was agreed that in approximately 3 years' time, OASBO will host an event at the Annual Conference which will focus on common interests and activities of provincial associations.

Appreciation was expressed to Past President, Tom Pechkovsky for his dedication over the past 7 years as a serving member of the OASBO Board and Executive. Nancy Tallevi was also thanked for the last 4 years she served as Director.

As I end my term as President, I wish to thank the membership for this opportunity and I look forward to working with the new Board and all members in 2013-14. Thanks for the good work you do every day.

Respectfully Yours,
Shesh Maharaj