

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Spring is in the air. March Break is around the corner. Most boards are well into their budget development processes, projects are going out to tender for summer work, and planning is going on in all business areas for September. What a great time of year!

Your Board of Directors continues to work behind the scenes to support our Strategic Plan and our vibrant community of school business officials. Highlights from our most recent Board meeting are below:

The Board approved the **2013-14 Operating Budget**. Significant discussion was had on expectations for our membership, attendance at PD events, our reserve balance, and the value that OASBO provides to its members. We also discussed the current environment in which we find ourselves. You will be pleased to know that we do not plan to increase our membership fees for the upcoming year. Further, as part of our discussions, you should be aware that we have made extra funds available to Standing Committees for Special Projects. This funding is intended for items beyond regular committee expenses and supports things like enriched PD and special presenters. The OASBO office can assist with requests for these dollars, which are sent to the Board for approval.

Nominations are now open for **Board of Director** positions. Information has been distributed to Committee Chairs with a request for response by March 29. The process involves recommendations from Standing Committees which are evaluated by the Nominations Committee. Each Standing Committee is encouraged to have a rep on the Nominations Committee.



OASBO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The announcement of the new Board members will be made at the May 2013 AGM. The call for nominations for the position of **Vice President** has also been distributed to the membership. To be eligible a member must have served as a Director of the Association or a member in good standing for seven consecutive years and served as the Chair of a Standing Committee. The Board requires a good diversity of backgrounds to function well. Please get involved if you can.

The new **OASBO website** was introduced to the Board. Big thanks to Mark Carbone and Russ Coles for their direction and work on our website. The website has also been shown to the Committee Chairs, and we hope to have all members migrated to the new site in time for the May AGM.

The Board received an interim report on the Benefits of **Business Associate membership**. It was agreed that Business Associates serve an important function.



PRESIDENT'S COMMUNIQUÉ DU PRÉSIDENT - February/Février 2013

A policy will be formalized to include application requirements, privileges and responsibilities, and relationship parameters between Business Associates and OASBO Standing Committees.

The Board also received an interim report on **Mentorship** and engaging new members. The proposed model would involve engagement of new OASBO members at the Standing Committee level. Chairs would be given a framework on how to follow up with new school board employees and may include pairing with an experienced Committee Member. It was emphasized that mentorship will be kept separate from a membership drive and that the mentorship program would be for new members. More will follow on this in the coming months.

The Board was advised that the OASBO Information Communications Technology (ICT) Committee has taken the lead on the **Broadband Directives** project. Many schools in the province lack sufficient bandwidth to meet the needs of teaching and learning. A concerted effort will be required to address K-12 broadband needs. A white paper has been prepared by ICT and will be shared with CODE, COSBO, OPSBA and the Ministry following an initial meeting with Dr. Michael Fullan of OISE.

Directors discussed the feasibility of establishing a permanent **Program Committee** for the Annual Conference. Having a constant group handle the program aspect of the conference would ease the process of compiling workshop topics. It was suggested that

experienced OASBO members could be asked to participate.

Plans are in place for the **70th Annual Conference and Education Industry Show** to be held May 8-10, 2013 at the London Convention Centre. The theme centers on "Embracing Innovation & Creativity in the Education Sector....Englober l'Innovation et al Créativité dans le secteur d'Éducation". Registration information will be posted soon on OASBO website www.oasbo.org under "Events". We look forward to seeing many of our members at this event.

Finally, I would like to recognize **Suzanne Fernandes** in our OASBO office for 25 exemplary years of service. Suzanne's dedication to OASBO runs deep. She is very passionate about her work and possesses a great deal of corporate knowledge without which we would be lost. Here's hoping we can keep her for another 25!

If you have any questions or comments about OASBO or the work we do, please contact me or any member of the Board. We always welcome feedback from our members.

Best wishes,

Shesh Maharaj
OASBO President