

## ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE JUNE 8, 2012 BOARD MEETING

The first Board meeting for the 2012-13 year was held on June 8 at the Toronto DSB, Etobicoke office.

Welcome was extended to the **new Board members**: **Mark Carbone**, Chief Information Officer, Waterloo Region DSB and **Steve Fujimura**, Manager of Purchasing, Durham Catholic DSB.

Discussion took place on the **OASBO website** and the challenges of unresolved problems. The main functions that still need to be addressed are in the areas of membership, PD events registration and voting. A sub-committee was struck to take on the task of developing a prototype site (with the help of ICT members) during the summer.

The Board discussed the future of the Privacy & Information Management Taskforce (PIMT) and how a network could be created to deal with training in handling privacy issues. It was suggested that OASBO could assist by establishing an internal group (**PIM Network**) whereby one individual per Committee would identify privacy issues and share concerns. An update on the progress will be presented at the September Board meeting.

Based on a recent request from a Business Associate vendor for distributing material on products and services, the Board agreed that OASBO could not be viewed as endorsing any particular company. As a result, it was decided that a set of guidelines be established related to the benefits of **Business Associate membership**. These will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Board.

The general format and agenda items for the upcoming **September 27-28, 2012 Joint meeting** of Directors and Committee Chairs were reviewed. A strategic planning session will be a part of the meeting.



**SHESH MAHARAJ**  
**OASBO PRESIDENT**

The topic of **Mentorship** was reviewed in detail. It was suggested that Committees could develop an induction tool to be used by a Committee volunteer to assist new school business officials. A list of volunteers would be developed annually by Chairs and submitted to OASBO. The office would assign the new business official to a mentor. A sub-committee was struck to develop a mentorship model and report back at a future Board meeting.

**Engaging new members** was another topic of discussion at the meeting. Consideration was given to ways in which OASBO could assist members in staying active in the Association as well as encouraging new members to participate in activities. Some opportunities could include holding workshops on common issues such as public speaking, dealing with the media, leadership and work/life balance. A survey may be needed to research membership needs.

The importance of recognizing the work done by members by **awarding certificates** was stressed. Chairs will be made more aware of the processes for awarding certificates.



## PRESIDENT'S COMMUNIQUÉ DU PRÉSIDENT - June- Juin 2012

The following **Awards and Certificates** are available: McCordic Award, Wm. Wales Award, Award of Merit, Certificate of Merit, Certificate of Recognition and Certificate of Appreciation.

A suggestion to review the notion of **wellness and mental health** (for staff) will be reviewed. Ways to create a healthy workforce should be a priority at school boards and OASBO aims to collectively support board staff in this area. The process could be started at the Human Resources, Health & Safety and Disability Management levels. Further discussion on this issue will take place at the September 27 Joint meeting of Directors and Chairs.

**Videoconferencing** capabilities of school boards was reviewed. A chart listing the boards that have videoconferencing equipment and are willing to offer services was reviewed. OASBO will develop a protocol regarding contact process, method of reserving equipment, etc. and the information will be shared with Committees at the September Joint Meeting.

The future of the **Support Staff Conference** was reviewed. While the event is not meeting its financial goals, the Board decided that it is being offered as a PD service to those who otherwise have no other opportunity to attend an event. It was agreed that more cost effective venues, such as Niagara Falls will be investigated.

The Board reviewed the evaluations resulting from the **2012 Annual Conference**. Although the response was lower than usual, the overall feedback was positive regarding program, format and venue. It was suggested that the evaluation forms in the future be forwarded electronically to delegates immediately after the event.

The **OASBO 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference** will be held on **May 8-11, 2013** at the London Convention Centre in London, Ontario. Program Co-ordinators who will collect information related to the workshops sessions will be Tom Pechkovsky (York Catholic DSB) and Nancy Tallevi (Dufferin Peel Catholic DSB). Steve Fujimura (Durham Catholic DSB) has agreed to act as one of the Education Industry Show Co-ordinators and a request for assistance once again will be sought from the Chair of the Supply Chain Management Committee.

**Advisory Directors** were identified for 2012-13 to act as a link to Committees and keeping members informed on OASBO issues. The following Directors agreed to take on this role:

**Nancy Tallevi** (Dufferin Peel Catholic) – Admissions Enrolment & Disability Mgmt.

**Shesh Maharaj** (Waterloo Catholic) – Finance & Payroll/Benefits

**Paul McMahon** (Halton Catholic) – COSBO & Internal Audit

**Russ Coles** (York Region) – Human Resources & Information Management/Privacy & Access

**Steve Fujimura** (Durham Catholic) – Health & Safety and Supply Chain Management

**Mark Carbone** (Waterloo Region) – Information & Communication Technology

**Tim Robins** (Durham Catholic) – Operations, Maintenance & Construction and Risk Management/Insurance

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

**Wendy Dobson** (Student Transportation of Peel Region) - Transportation

The next issue of the President's Communiqué will be issued in early October. Until then, I wish everyone a safe and relaxing summer.

**Shesh Maharaj**

**OASBO President**