

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE MAY 31, 2013 OASBO BOARD MEETING

The new Board of Directors met on May 31. We welcomed back for a second term Wendy Dobson – Transportation and Tim Robbins – OMC and for her inaugural meeting, Christine Thompson – Planning.

Discussion took place on the **Emphasis/Goals for 2013-14**. The board was very excited to continue the focus on Creativity and Innovation over the next year as we explore ways to inculcate these attributes into the work we do. It will frame our meetings and actions right through to our next AGM where we will take stock. Our enhanced website will be a mechanism to assist with this. Our goal is to complete the transition from the old site to our new functionality as quickly as possible. Other pursuits will be to emphasize the Association's public presence, pursue more recognition and increase its profile. So, our 3 goals for the current year will be to: Enhance the creativity/innovation agenda; increase advocacy for OASBO as a subject matter experts (SME's) in the school board business; and take advantage of the enhanced website to further these goals.

OASBO's newly established **Mentorship Program** will be shared with Committee Chairs at the next Joint Meeting in September. The purpose is to keep track of new members and link them to the appropriate Committee Chair. A template will be provided by OASBO enabling the chairs to welcome the new members and to assist them in linking up with the new NING environment of the website.

The **Website Implementation Plan** was reviewed. Members are encouraged to sign up on the new NING web environment. The goal is to have every member enrolled by September. The social networking nature of the NING is a significant tool to assist in our internal communication, sharing and collaboration strategy. It only works if you get engaged.

A draft policy related to **Business Associate Membership** was introduced. We want to ensure value for the Business Associates while respecting the reputation of the OASBO brand.

A small working group was set up to consider items



RUSS COLES
OASBO PRESIDENT

such as the vetting process; discontinuing membership of a vendor if criteria are not met; evaluating a company's reputation; assessing a company's web presence; and determining access to membership lists. A report will be available at the September 2013 Board meeting.

The **Certificate and Diploma programs at the University of Guelph** were reviewed. U of G has changed its marketing and is using postcard format to advertise courses. It appears that we have not been able to make any additional links between Diploma courses and SOQP modules. Currently for the Diploma in School Board Administration courses and certificate courses is ensured by an organizing committee of OASBO members and the University of Guelph. Enrolment statistics show that there has been a consistent increase from 2006 (118 registrations) to the present (172 registrations) There are lots of worthwhile relevant professional development available in these programs.

www.ProfessionalCertificates.ca



PRESIDENT'S COMMUNIQUÉ DU PRÉSIDENT - May – Mai 2013

The Board is proposing a permanent **Annual Conference Planning Committee**. The intent is to have a consistent, sustainable team that will provide oversight and long range planning to ensure that the OASBO AGM continues to provide excellent professional development and an outstanding networking opportunity. This past year had highest participation in recent memory and we wish to build on this success. The ACP committee will be chaired by the Vice-President and will include 4 groups: members of the Board of Directors, interested members at large, local involvement from host board(s) and OASBO staff and will align the theme of the conference with the board objectives for the year. An invitation will be sent out (via the NING environment) to seek interested members willing to participate on the ACP committee.

The document **Broadband Directives – Manifesto for the 21st Century** was discussed. A group of ICT Committee members developed the proposal and presented ideas to pursue a cost effective strategy to provide high speed connectivity to every school across the Province. This access will permit students to create text and multimedia projects such as videos, conduct research with other students elsewhere in the province, take online courses not available locally, and talk directly with experts. Teachers will be able to collaborate with colleagues, participate in online professional learning, and analyze the results. The document was presented to COSBO and meetings have been held with Dr. Michael Fullan who agreed to present it to Ministry policy advisors and provide feedback. The proposal contained in the document will also be discussed at a future meeting of the OASBO executive and the ADM.

A **meeting with the Assistant Deputy Minister Gabriel Sékaly** had been set for mid-June based on his enthusiasm for our conference theme of Creativity and Innovation. We offered to meet and discuss how we can work together to further this concept in public education. The meeting took place on June 17th and was very productive. ADM Sékaly articulated a very positive willingness to work together with us and to share priorities so we may craft strategies of collaboration to further these priorities. More details as this enhanced relationship unfolds.

The format/agenda for the **September 26-27, 2013 Joint meeting of Directors and Chairs** was reviewed. The themes for the year will be discussed and strategies to support the themes created in conjunction with the committee chairs. The Issues Management document will be discussed and Chairs will be asked to submit in advance their Committee's goals, objectives and current issues. Joint areas of interest need to be identified. Other items of discussion will be the Mentorship Program and the new NING environment on the OASBO website.

It promises to be an exciting year. Please begin to consider what creativity and innovation looks like in your context. It will become an imperative as we address the financial constraints and a changing global landscape. Start your summer reading with 'Above and Beyond the Bottom Line: the extraordinary evolution of the education business manager' by Karen Starr. Great for the hammock.

Wishing everyone a safe and relaxing summer.

Russ Coles
OASBO President