

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE NOVEMBER 28-29, 2013 OASBO BOARD MEETING

Greetings Everyone,

Your Board met at the end of November in Toronto. Below are the highlights from the meeting.

The **Financial Statements** were received for the period ending August 31, 2013. There has been an increase in membership, and PD events revenues. General expenses have been relatively consistent with last year. As a result, OASBO has realized a budget surplus and is in a safe financial position.

An update on the website revision was presented. Over 980 members have signed up for the **NING collaboration** space and we are targeting to have everyone on board by the early New Year. We encourage those who have not signed up to do so as soon as possible. We will now embark on enhancing other functionality of the website e.g. conference registration so that we will have complete robust web presence.

Discussions took place regarding communication tools to reach Northern school boards. Adobe Connect was identified as one option. It was suggested that a workshop on conducting on-line meetings be presented at the AGM.

Plans are in place for the **OASBO Annual Conference** to be held May 7-9, 2014 at the Sheraton on the Falls in Niagara Falls. The theme is "Increasing Innovation and Creativity.....Accroître l'Innovation et al Créativité". We are looking forward to engaging the membership in enhancing our innovative capacity in times of increasing complexity and financial uncertainty. A plenary session has been added to the program focusing on this theme.

Alice Strachan of AMS & Associates facilitated a session on **Creativity/Innovation** for the board. The session focused on both on personal creativity and how both OASBO and our workplaces can be enhanced through creative and innovative practice.



RUSS COLES
OASBO PRESIDENT

Ms. Strachan will follow this session up with an activity at the joint Board and Chairs meeting in February. And then conclude with a plenary session for all attendees at the Annual Meeting in Niagara Falls. The end result of this consultation is to move from concept to tangible action and activities to create a culture of innovation.

A presentation was made by the Community Use of Schools Committee on "**School Facility Cost Recovery Pricing**". Information was obtained from the University of California and permission was obtained to adapt the data for Ontario school boards. The formula calculates the cost of facilities per hour including administration and the percentage of time spent on facilities/operations and maintenance. The calculations also account for the number of schools and square footage. This was creative work by the committee that will provide valuable information about community use for school boards.



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A big thank you to Brandt Zatterberg and Charlyn Davie for making the trip from Kingston to update us on this valuable work. Another example of the value OASBO generates from its members.

Members of the OASBO Executive attended the recent Ministry consultations related to **Efficiencies and Modernization** on November 18. The focus of the consultation is to gather and compile input from various sources such as trustees, parent associations, special education groups, school boards and related educational associations like OASBO as the Ministry designs the GSN's for the next fiscal year. A summary of the input will be published in the New Year.

The **Nominations and Appointment Protocol** was reviewed. Standing Committee Chairs are reminded that we are seeking representatives for the Nominations Committee. This group is responsible for recommending appointments to the OASBO Board of Directors.

OASBO has been invited to a meeting with the two chairs of the OMERS Sponsors Committee to discuss how non-union management such as OASBO can gain a voice at the OMERS table. Kudos to Director Paul McMahon and Executive Director Bill Blackie for their leadership on this issue.

In late October, the OASBO Information & Communication Technology Committee was part of a joint conference with ECOO (Educational Cooperative of Ontario, a technology group focused on technology in the classroom). There were 1200 delegates in attendance over the 3 days.

The Board supported the decision to repeat the collaborative venture with ECOO for next year (Nov. 5-7, 2014) as we continue to enhance our connections with other related associations throughout Ontario. A memorandum of understanding will be drafted.

In another initiative to collaborate, Bill Blackie and I met with the Executive Directors and Presidents of other Canadian ASBO's (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and New Brunswick) to explore how we can work together to share best practices, ideas and professional development opportunities. Rock the CASBO!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your engagement in OASBO and your collective efforts to enhance public education. We wish everyone a **Happy, Safe and Peaceful Holiday Season.**

Russ Coles
OASBO President