Greetings to Everyone,

The Board approved the 2016-17 Operating Budget with a few amendments. The projected revenue will include an increase as OASBO membership is growing, with a slight decrease in Business Associate memberships. It was agreed that the overall committee budget allocation be increased to include additional cost for meeting expenses. The Executive Director was given discretion to commit Special Projects funding to cover additional expenditures for committee meetings.

Nominations are open for Board of Director positions and information has been distributed to Committee Chairs. There are 3 vacancies available for a 2-year term. Each Standing Committee is encouraged to participate in the process of naming a representative to the Nomination Committee (by March 25) that will make recommendations to the Board. The new Board will be announced at the May 2016 AGM.

The call for Vice President candidates was distributed in late January. Eligibility is based on 7 years’ consecutive OASBO membership and individuals must have served as a Chair of a Standing Committee. Nominations are due by the end of March.

Work continues on the improvement of the OASBO website. Updates such as Twitter have been added to the website. Menu items have also been improved for greater user friendliness. A YouTube account has been set up for video resources. Videos will need approval by the OASBO Board before posting. Another upgrade (Office 365) is being undertaken to migrate the office email system from the current server to a Cloud environment. Discussion Forums will also be a focus enabling Committees to include postings and attachments.

An update was given on the Orphaned Benefits Plan for the non-union employees, management and principals/vice-principals group. While CODE represents the Directors of Education, there is no organization for the other non-union employees. A group of 10,000 members or more is needed to achieve economies of scale, establish a trust and procure a provider.

OASBO continues to participate in the CANASBO (Canadian ASBO Association) meetings. Typically, there have been two meetings a year; this year one meeting was held in Calgary in January which I had the privilege of attending with our Executive Director. This leadership group is a solid networking mechanism among the Canadian affiliates of ASBO (Ontario, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta and New Brunswick).

Privacy videos have been produced by the Privacy & Information Management (PIM) Network and will be posted in the Resources section on the OASBO website. PIM will have a larger presence on the OASBO website and a more collaborative relationship with the ICT Committee. It is essential that PIM be re-introduced to the education sector regarding privacy and records management issues.
Committee Chairs joined the Board meeting in the afternoon. Discussion took place on current issues. Reference was made to OASBO’s Active Files List and copies were distributed to members. Committees were encouraged to bring forward particular items in which their Committee is currently involved and to keep the list updated.

Discussion took place regarding OASBO’s publication The Advocate. The publisher (Naylor Canada) has proposed moving into digital format. Members felt that it would be acceptable to proceed with the digital version if the document is printable in PDF format.

The Child Care Early Years Act was released on February 1, 2016. In the previous submission to the Ministry, OASBO had asked to be consulted as enactment of further stages of legislation was being considered. Several proposals contained in the newly issued Phase 2 Regulatory Posting are of concern, including permitting child care operators to assign OEN’s, new requirement for toddler sleep areas, changed licensing requirements for 4-12 year olds, and increased operating and capital costs to school boards. There is an added concern that child care rental fees are not uniform across the province. A memo was sent to last year’s task force asking members to serve on Phase 2. The intent is to develop a position paper that would be representative of school boards in Ontario. OASBO may be the only group from the business side that would be responding to the report.

Plans are in place for the May 2016 Annual Conference at the Caesar’s Conference Centre in Windsor. Dr. Mark DeVolder has been engaged to deliver the keynote address based on the theme “Adapt-Innovate-Engage”. Dr. Brynn Winegard will head the Plenary Workshop on the topic “Building Engagement Using the Secrets of Brain Science”. Bill Carr will present the closing plenary session “Acting Up: Creating your Future with a Positive Approach to Change”.

Feedback from OASBO members are most welcome. Please feel free to contact any member of the OASBO Executive with comments.

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Best wishes,

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