

CASS ZONE 2/3
FRIDAY, September 23, 2011
Hosts: Elk Island Public School Division
683 WYE Road, Sherwood Park

MINUTES

Arrival

Call to Order – 9:20 am

Additional Agenda Items:

- As noted in minutes

Agenda approved as amended – Bernadette Provost

Adoption of Minutes from June 3, 2011 – Barry Wowk

Business Arising from Meeting:

- Moved that CASS Zone 2/3 meeting be held in St. Paul on March 9th – Norm Yanitski
 - Carried

Financial Report – see attachment A

- Note that we are changing our banking practices to ensure that there is ease of performing these functions regardless of location of the executive.
- Reminder that dues are payable.
- Moved that CASS fees be increased to \$75.00. – Kevin Andrea
 - Carried

ALBERTA EDUCATION ZONE 2/3 REPORT – see attachment C

- Notable Items:
 - Withdrawal of course codes is no longer in the Guide to Education. Information at: www.education.alberta.ca/media/6542327/courses_coursecodes.pdf.
 - Discussion over the lack of communication in regards to all of the “Action on...” initiatives. Are the silos really talking? Request that Alberta Education remember to communicate with Superintendents first before our trustees and locals as we often are the ones fielding calls.
 - Concern expressed over why certain boards have higher allotments for participation at various meetings held by Alberta Education. Consideration that we all do the same work vs. representation by population.
 - Mathematics courses no longer can be offered (see Mathematics section of the report).

- Beginning 2012/2013 lined paper will no longer be provided for Part A of written –response for humanities diploma exams. The department recognizes that this can be an extra cost and that technology may cause problems. Will look into the acceptance of any lined paper for this portion of the exam.
- Provincial Protocol for Children and Youth in Care Framework – ALL school authorities are to identify a point person to act as the key contact for the regional Child and Family Services Authority. Additionally, there must be a point person at each school for caseworkers and caregivers in cases of children and youth in care being registered in your school.
- AISI funding will be announced in the next budget.

PATS AND DIPS PRESENTATION –John Rymer

- Question about scheduling - why are they so early? PATS early when you start in May. DIPS timing in December and January also seem problematic. No disagreement that they are early. Alberta Education stance is that they (PATs) are not meant to be yearend exams but rather snap shot in time exams.
- DIPS - having two exams in one day and moving the schedule ahead needs to come from external recommendations. If we move to exams on demand, this will eliminate the problem. Assessment on demand has been around for a long time but the need for 1000's of exam questions are necessary to make this happen. Need about 25 million over 5 years to make this happen. It will become a paper/pencil test online if they move this way.
- Desire to compress the exam schedule expressed. Also early submission of marks means that we terminate instruction sooner than we would like to at this time.
- Also the fact that exams cover 100% of the curriculum, how can they be point in time exams?
- Is it time to consider the whole format? A condensed exam that takes less time to write would allow for more flexibility in the schedule. This was somewhat the situation prior to 2004. John Rymer does not have an issue with this but does not have the final say. Explained that when they separated the multiple choice from written that performance improved (in terms of writing in the morning and writing in the afternoon).
- As for having the written portion come back (part B), there is no opposition. What is the issue is making sure it is incorporated into one comprehensive exam no longer than 2 hours.
- Shared that we don't want an Action on Assessment. That said, the Action on Curriculum should be having discussions about assessment as part of the process.
- Question about having less subject focused exams vs. more comprehensive exams that assess multiple skills and knowledge sets from various areas. John Rymer agreed.

PASI PRESENTATION – Sam Radke – See attached

- 9 million that was a recommendation to assist with implementing PASI was

only a recommendation that never was approved. There is no money at this time.

- The only jurisdictions that will receive additional funds are those that piloted SIS enabled systems.
- We are expected to be totally compliant by September 2013 and there is no guarantee that there will be funding.
- CASS members need to become more involved in understanding what is happening in their own divisions.
- Those who were on PowerSchool are in trouble as there is no longer support for Mac Computers.
- Concerns shared that we are expected to sign and guarantee (December 2011) security and are complaint with the regulations even though we don't know where are vendor are at in meeting the requirements.
- Sam has indicated that this is not to guarantee where we are at now but rather where we will be in March 2013. There is recognition that this is not an easy situation. No one is able to answer (at Alberta Education) "what if we are not complaint?"
- We do not have to sign off in September, it has been moved to December (came out last week).
- Provincial CASS concerned that there will be high costs in ensuring that we can guarantee security.
- Asked "what happens if we don't sign?" Sam cannot answer that question.
- Reality is that we should have had this agreement signed prior to doing PASI prep.
- Sam has indicated that he needs to send out more information in regards to having us sign an agreement that most of us recognize that we cannot commit to at this time. We are just not ready.
- Alberta Education is monitoring vendors and we are trusting that the vendors are going to be ready but we are agreeing to sign a contract for something that is out of our circle of influence?
- Suggested that a security person be hired to work with all jurisdictions to see if they are compliant. Difficult for small jurisdictions to cover the costs of hiring a person to do this job.

CASS DIRECTORS REPORT – see attachment D for all reports

- CASS Zone 2/3 Action on Inclusion Provincial Funding Committee – see attached
- Questions around having non-certified district staff become part of CASS. Concern that this may impact our ability to achieve professional status. Affiliate members cannot vote. Checking to see if associate members can vote.
- Go online to check out Alberta Assessment Consortium document.
- Zone 4 Proposal – See attached - Wanting CASS to have a greater voice. Have us become more political. Other suggestions include having a retired superintendent become our provincial president for at least 3 years so that we have a consistent and immediate spoke person for our organization. Stabilize our leadership. Also create a superintendent advisory committee to the Minister (i.e. 12 superintendents). This is for information only. By-laws would have to change to move this forward. In summary, we need to

explore different ways to enhance our voice without becoming negatively political. Scan and Post with minutes from the meeting.

- Budget disclaimer requested regarding in and out funds from Alberta Education to cover teacher pension.
- Education Act response - see attached

SUPERINTENDENT ISSUES

- **Action on Inclusion** (Stephen Mackenzie)
 - After five years of Alberta Education requesting information we still do not have a new system. What is happening?
- **Action on Curriculum** (Bob Allen)
 - Issues around communication for upcoming meeting. Who is attending? What is the composition of this group? Format and structure? How do all of the "action on..." tie together?
 - CASS Zone 2/3 is asking for clarification on all the initiatives be brought forth on our behalf from CASS Provincial. i.e. Questions on the inequity of funding for Action on Inclusion money considering we all have the same mandate. Example - capacity building vs. change agent. St. Albert Protestant 115 thousand as a capacity builder and St. Albert Catholic 157 thousand as a change agent.
- **What do people do with late night security calls? Who should go?**
- **Question – how many Boards are still monitoring GLA's?**
 - 4 Boards
- **Question – how many Boards have hired full or part-time OH&S officers?**
 - More have than not. Two indicated that they use software to assist in this area. Salary between 50 - 70 thousand depending on part-time/full time and size of jurisdiction.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **ERLC/Learning Network – Michelle Brennick/Roy Ripkens**
 - ERLC - Just a reminder of the types of work they do and how they facilitate learning at a distance i.e. webinars.
 - The consortia executive and committee members in Alberta are being brought together at the end of the month to look at the mandate of consortia in Alberta. This may result in a new format for the delivery of services while still recognizing the importance of meeting regional needs of jurisdictions.
- **Summer Conference – David Quick**

- Summer Conference - Dave - Made a profit this year and that offset small deficit from previous year. August 8,9, and 10th this year 2012. There was 108 in attendance. Negotiations are currently underway for the summer. Although people do not like the cost, the evaluations say that people go due to location so nothing will change. Format was well received so will move forward in their planning.

FUTURE ITEMS

- Have our new ADM come and discuss Inclusion, PASI, Assessments, Modular Classrooms, and other technology.
- Time Out document – attached for next meeting. Henri Lemire

MOTION TO ADJOURN – David Quick