

DATE: February 17, 2015

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Michelle Draper, Caucus Committee Chair

SUBJECT: Report #7 of the Caucus Committee (From the Meeting Held February 3, 2015)

ORIGINATOR: Dr. Sandra Stoddard, Executive Director Governance and Strategic Support Services

REFERENCE: [Trustees' Handbook](#) – Caucus Committee - Section 5.4
[School Act](#) Section 61
[Alberta School Boards Association \(ASBA\) Budget 2014-2015](#)

ISSUE

Each year the Board is asked to approve the draft Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) budget which is based on a set of budget assumptions. One of the budget assumptions is the continuation of memberships with the National School Boards Association (NSBA) and the Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA). The ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee is recommending the budget assumptions be amended as the members of the Committee do not see the value added for Alberta students. Cost savings could be applied to a reduction of annual membership fees school boards pay to belong to the ASBA.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That Report #7 of the Caucus Committee from the meeting held February 3, 2015 be received and considered.**
- 2. That, in order to benefit Alberta students and maximize dollars in the classroom, the Edmonton Public School Board give direction to the Edmonton Public Director on the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Board of Directors to reduce membership fees by advocating to the ASBA Board of Directors and at ASBA Zone 2/3:**
 - a. That the ASBA give notice to leave the National School Boards Association (NSBA).**
 - b. That the ASBA give notice to leave the Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA).**

BACKGROUND

The ASBA membership cost to the Edmonton Public School Board for 2013-2014 was \$211,080.88. It is anticipated that the ASBA membership cost to the Edmonton Public School Board for 2014-2015 will be approximately \$215,000 (the projected membership fee by ASBA as indicated in the [ASBA's Budget 2014-2015](#) document (Page 54) is \$206,860 based on the 2013-2014 student count of 86,945 students – the District's actual September 30, 2014 student count is 89,660). The Board is fiscally accountable for its use of funds. To that end, the ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee, comprised of Trustees Hoffman, Janz and Johner, met on January 30, 2015 to discuss concerns raised by Trustee Hoffman, who sits as the Board's representative on the ASBA Board of Directors, regarding the efficacy of expenditures specifically related to membership in the NSBA and CSBA.

Outlined below is a chart of some of the actual costs incurred in the ASBA’s 2013-2014 budget year:

	2013-2014 Canadian School Boards Association (CSBA)	2013-2014 National School Boards Association (NSBA)
Annual Membership Fees	\$ 29,433.94	\$ 26,841.75
Costs associated with attending the annual conference (and meeting)	\$ 16,192.93	\$ 52,984.11
Directors Meetings	\$ 9,731.92	\$ 4,501.37
Other Retreats, Institutes and Professional Development	\$ 0	\$ 29,757.20
Total	\$ 55,358.79	\$ 114,084.43

The cost of membership fees and the costs of participating in the governance and leadership of both organizations is significant and worth reviewing. No other Canadian school board association is a member of the NSBA. Individual Trustees may attend NSBA conferences without being a member of the organization; the same is true for CSBA.

Because the ASBA budget requires a double majority (60% of students and 60% of boards), the ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee felt it was incumbent upon the Board to give clear direction to both the ASBA Board of Directors and at ASBA Zone 2/3.

As membership in the NSBA and CSBA is a budget assumption, the ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee recommends that notice be given to withdraw from the NSBA and CSBA and that the ASBA budget assumptions for 2015-2016 be amended. This direction from Edmonton Public Schools would signal to the ASBA and to partner boards, the Board’s concerns and assist the leadership of the ASBA in re-focusing their efforts on supporting Alberta’s students.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

1. Approve the recommendation.
2. Amend the recommendation.
3. Defeat the recommendation - remain with the status quo.

NEXT STEPS

If the recommendation is approved, the Edmonton Public Director on the ASBA Board of Directors will bring forward an amendment to the ASBA budget assumptions at the next ASBA Board of Directors meeting. In addition, ASBA Zone 2/3 will be advised of the rationale and the proposed amendment.

If the recommendation is not approved, the Edmonton Public Director will continue to use their informed judgment to ensure that decisions are made.

ATTACHMENTS & APPENDICES

ATTACHMENT I – NSBA and CSBA Membership Benefits as Provided by the ASBA

SS:mmf

Membership Benefits of NSBA and CSBA

The National School Boards Association (NSBA) is an American organization that *“Working with and through our state associations, NSBA advocates for equity and excellence in public education through school board leadership. We believe education is a civil right necessary to the dignity and freedom of the American people, and all children should have equal access to an education that maximizes his or her individual potential.”* (<http://www.nsba.org>)

Benefits of NSBA from ASBA Budget 2014-2015 – Page 49

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- Access to NSBA staff experts on educational, advocacy, legal and association management issues.
- Staff participation in all NSBA activities. Fees are waived for staff for the annual conference, council of urban boards of education and technology leadership network site visits.
- Full access to the NSBA’s Library and Information Services, including sample governance policies and the NSBA’s policy framework.
- Access to NSBA’s survey services.
- International Partnership Program staff participation in all NSBA work-alike groups
- 50% discounts on most NSBA publications.
- No-cost access to NSBA’s electronic newsletter for state associations, including the right to customize these and co-brand them for distribution to individual members.
- Up to 10 copies of each issue of the American School Board Journal and other print periodicals.
- Participation for international partnership staff in NSBA webinars.
- Access to partnership opportunities in entrepreneurial programs from NSBA and State Associations.
- Participation in Regional meetings of the International Partnership participant’s choice.
- Participation in online discussion groups for executive director and association staff.
- Other benefits as requested by the International Partnership Program and agreed to by NSBA staff.

CSBA

The CSBA is an organization of individual provincial school board associations.
(www.cdnsba.org)