

DATE: June 6, 2023

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Trustee Dawn Hancock, Governance and Evaluation Committee
Trustee Marcia Hole, Governance and Evaluation Committee
Trustee Sherri O’Keefe, Chair, Governance and Evaluation Committee

SUBJECT: Proposed revision to Trustee representation for ASBA

RESOURCE STAFF: Karen Mills

REFERENCE [Trustee Handbook](#) 5.1 - Organizational Board Meeting Process
[Trustee Handbook](#) 6.2 - ASBA Issues and Resolutions Committee

ISSUE

The Governance and Evaluation Committee is proposing that the positions of Alternate Director and Zone 2/3 Representative for the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) be held by one Trustee. A decision on whether to combine these two positions is desired before the June 20, 2023 Organizational Board meeting to facilitate sufficient time for trustees to consider this new position prior to nominations.

BACKGROUND

The Alberta School Boards Association is charged with promoting the interests of public, separate and francophone school boards throughout the province. In addition to lobbying the provincial government, the Association provides member services in the areas of employee relations, legal services, professional development and employee benefit programs (through ASEBP).

As members of the Association, metro boards are required to provide one Director to sit on the Board of Directors, an Alternate Director, one Zone 2/3 Representative to attend Zone 2/3 meetings, and an Alternate Zone 2/3 Representative.

RELATED FACTS

- Currently, at its annual Organizational Board Meeting, the Edmonton Public Schools Board elects four individuals to fill each of the following positions: Provincial Executive (Director), Provincial Executive-Alternate (Alternate Director), Zone 2/3 Representative and Zone 2/3 Representative -Alternate.
- The ASBA Board of Directors consists of representation from four metro boards and six Zone Directors from across the province representing metro, urban and rural boards.
- The role of a Director is to actively participate in, contribute to, and make decisions in business meetings by being familiar with position statements, governance policies, meeting agendas and board reports. The Director is required to attend all board meetings, regularly submit a written EPSB report, represent metro board issues and vote in the best interests of the Association considering the broader provincial scope behind issues.
- The Alternate Director’s role is to attend ASBA Director meetings in the absence of the ASBA Director. This would include voting, reporting and participating in discussions.

- The Zone 2/3 Representative is required to attend all Zone 2/3 meetings where other Trustee Representatives from boards across the Zone area meet to discuss issues impacting all school boards, share concerns and collaborate on potential advocacy. These meetings are held monthly and are a full-day commitment.
- Due to the interrelationship that exists between Zones and ASBA, one Trustee holding both the Zone 2/3 Representative and the Alternate Director roles would have a better understanding of issues and foundation to naturally support or replace an ASBA Director.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Trustees elect one Trustee at each annual Organization Board meeting to serve as both ASBA Zone 2/3 Representative and Alternate Director.

CONSIDERATIONS and ANALYSIS

The Zone 2/3 Representative is required to attend full-day, monthly Zone meetings and, in their absence, the Zone 2/3 Alternate is required to be present. At these meetings, emergent issues are presented to the members and open, generative discussions are encouraged. This provides the Zone representative opportunities to connect with Trustees from other rural, urban and metro boards to hear their perspectives and challenges. In addition, the Zone 2/3 Directors and ASBA Executives attend the meetings to provide updates and reports on their engagements on behalf of the Association.

There is an established line of communications between the Association and Zones to gather feedback and information to assist the ASBA Board of Directors in supporting members in professional development, representing their concerns to governing bodies and obtaining input on the strategic plan and direction of the Association. These regular communications include surveys, strategic plan input, budget consultations, and bylaw updates which are sent directly to Zones for generative discussions with Zone representatives. The ASBA President, Vice-President and Chief Executive Officer attend all Zone meetings in-person or via Zoom to answer questions and provide updates, interacting with Zone representatives.

The Alternate Director is responsible to attend Board of Directors meetings in the absence of the Director. However, with the Edmonton Public Board's current practice of electing separate Trustees for the Zone 2/3 Representative and the Alternate Director, the Alternate Director may never have attended an ASBA Board of Directors or Zone 2/3 meeting. This makes it difficult for that individual to stay current on the issues and have background and context on discussions. Unless the Alternate Director is able to make the time commitment to attend Zone meetings, there is little opportunity for them to engage with ASBA Board of Directors or the Executive, or to understand the interconnected roles of these organizations, ASBA and Zones.

By having one Trustee hold both the Alternate Director and the Zone 2/3 Representative positions for Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA), would ensure that the input shared would be based on greater continuity and depth of knowledge on the issues being discussed.

Edmonton Public Schools' current ASBA Director has confirmed with ASBA that having one individual serve as the Zone 2/3 Representative and Alternate Director does not contravene any ASBA bylaws or other directives.

NEXT STEPS

If the recommendation carries, the change will be reflected in the voting options at the June 20, 2023 Organizational Board meeting.

ATTACHMENTS and APPENDICES

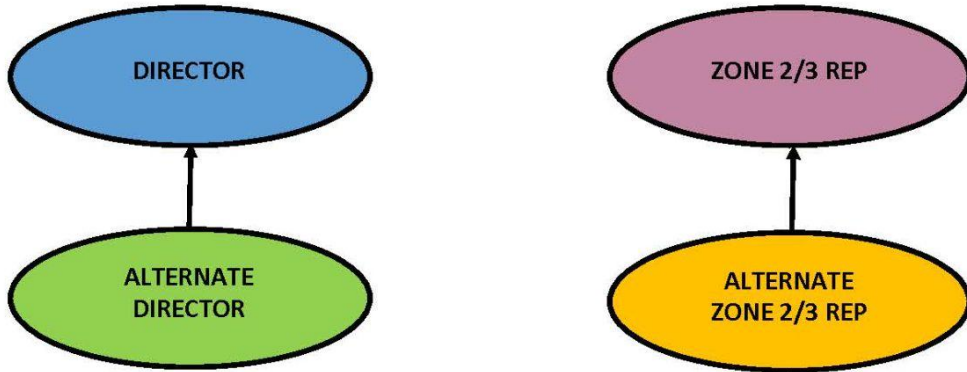
ATTACHMENT I Proposed Structure Diagram

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ATTACHMENT I - PROPOSED STRUCTURE DIAGRAM

ASBA REPRESENTATIVES

CURRENT STRUCTURE



ASBA REPRESENTATIVES

PROPOSED STRUCTURE

