



**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**EDUCATION CENTRE**  
**2651 CHINOOK WINDS DRIVE S. W.**  
**AIRDRIE, AB**

**MARCH 04, 2010**  
**3:30 P.M.**

## **AGENDA**

1. **Call to Order 3:30 p.m.**
2. Approval of Agenda
3. **In Camera**
4. Superintendent's Report
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

This unofficial agenda is subject to change and is not *official* until approved at the Board meeting.



# SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
March 4, 2010

1. Alberta School Boards' Association (ASBA) Resolutions

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Bass", is positioned above a horizontal line.

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Greg Bass, Superintendent of Schools



To: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
From: The Superintendent of Schools

## Directive for Action

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**Directive for Action Item:** Alberta School Boards' Association (ASBA) Resolutions

**Author:** Darrell Couture, Associate Superintendent of Business & Operations

**Date of Meeting:** March 4, 2010

### BACKGROUND

As part of the Alberta School Boards' Associations' (ASBA) policy development process, each year school boards are requested to submit policy position for consideration by their respective ASBA Zone. Zones, in turn, can submit three policy positions for deliberation by the Association.

Provided below are Rocky View Schools Proposed Policy Positions for consideration by the ASBA's Zone 5 meeting on March 5, 2010.

### PROPOSED POLICY POSITIONS

#### Position 1: OPERATING SCHOOLS OUTSIDE ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

"That the Alberta School Boards' Association develops policy prohibiting member boards from operating schools outside of their own electoral boundaries. Further, the Association defines sanctions for Boards that do not conform to the policy."

#### Background

As of February 2010, two public school jurisdictions within the province of Alberta have entered into agreements to operate one or more schools outside their electoral boundaries. Although an October 30, 2006, Court of Appeal ruling states "nothing exists within the School Act that specifically authorized or prevented such arrangements", these agreements threaten the fabric of Alberta public education system by:

1. Disenfranchising parents from electing a Trustee to serve their children's best interests.
2. Proliferating public schools operated by a variety of jurisdictions within the same municipality.
3. Allowing select public schools to set admission criteria to control student admissions and to screen students for academic performance and emotional and behavioural needs.
4. Redirecting revenues from sister school boards, resulting in operational inefficiencies and diminished access to programs/services to students.

Through Alberta School Boards' Association policy statement 17-1, the Minister of Education has been asked to "clarify the legislature's intention to either permit or prohibit the operation of schools, including virtual schools and non resident home education school programs, outside of the district's electoral jurisdiction." To date, no such clarification has been provided. Further, representatives of the Ministry have verbally stated the Ministry does not intend to propose any legislative requirements relating to such agreements.



To: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
From: The Superintendent of Schools

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Given the above concerns and lack of provincial direction, the ASBA should protect the integrity of Alberta's public education system by defining for its members self-regulatory measures to guide the decisions of school boards.

### **Position 2: SETTING THE DIRECTION**

"That the Alberta School Boards' Association requests the Minister of Education to implement, September 1, 2010, the recommendations set out by the Setting the Direction Initiative."

### **Background**

Through Alberta Education's 2008 Budget announcement, school boards were informed that funding for special needs students would be frozen for a two year period to allow for a new special education framework to be developed through "Setting the Direction for Special Education in Alberta". The scope of the project promised to result in a new special education framework that includes a vision, principles, policy, accountability and funding model. In February 2010, Alberta Education announced it will extend this grant freeze for an additional year. This extension has placed those boards with growing populations under extreme duress as they can no longer achieve the level of service for special need students as outlined by the Standards for Special Education (2004). For this reason, the Alberta School Boards' Association should request the new framework for special education not be deferred another year, but implemented and funded fully for September 2010.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

#### **Alternative One**

"That the Board of Trustees forwards the following motions to the Alberta School Boards' Associations Zone 5 March 5, 2010 meeting for consideration."

#### **Alternative Two**

"That the Board of Trustees defers the submission of its policy positions to the Alberta School Boards' Associations Zone 5 until the 2011/12 school year."

### **RECOMMENDATION**

"That the Board of Trustees forwards the following motions to the Alberta School Boards' Associations Zone 5 March 5, 2010 meeting for consideration:

- That the Alberta School Boards' Association develops policy prohibiting member boards from operating schools outside of their own electoral boundaries. Further, the Association defines sanctions for Boards that do not conform to the policy.
- That the Alberta School Boards' Association requests the Minister of Education to implement, September 1, 2010, the recommendations set out by the Setting the Direction Initiative."