Greetings to Everyone,

The OASBO Board of Directors and Committee Chairs held their semi-annual Joint Meeting. It was a very engaging and informative gathering with representation from all of OASBO’s now 18 Standing Committees.

This year’s Annual Conference theme is “Invest, Empower, Motivate”. The three speakers have been selected as follows: the Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Wayne Hammond, President and Executive Director of Resiliency Initiatives; the Plenary Workshop Speaker will be Dr. Brynn L Winegard, Expert on Business Brain Science and the Closing Speaker will be Paul Alofs, President & CEO Princess Margaret Hospital.

The Board approved the School Board Environmental Representatives Association (SBERA) as a full Standing Committee commencing January 1, 2017.

Pearl Street Communications had the chance to present to the Board and Committee Chairs their 1st communication plan update. Their theme is building relationships and influence through strong communications. Some of the specific steps were: Learn OASBO perceptions about stakeholders, Identify and describe internal and external target audiences, Develop an OASBO positioning statement, Perform a Marketing Audit, Build messaging for internal and external target audiences and Clarify branding objectives and tools. Pearl Street distributed flyers to everyone attending encouraging individuals to book a 30 minute chat by November 4th related to OASBO communications and future plans for each Committee Chair and Board of Directors. A survey will be sent to the general membership, by November 14th and closes November 25th.

The Board and Committee Chairs received an update on the Privacy & Information Management (PIM) Network. In relation to the partnership with Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC) and OASBO regarding Online Educational Services, the IPC would like to partner with OASBO on this initiative. More information is forthcoming in the near future.

The Executive Director and the President attended the ASBO Annual Conference in September. The Board of Directors will send the Executive plus two other members to the ASBO Executive Leadership Forum in February 2017.

P. Derochie shared information with the Directors to review and discuss the Conseil des associations en éducation pour les avantages sociaux – Education Council of Associations for Benefits (i.e.CAEAS-ECAB) Project. There is a very strong leadership and support group establishing the CAEAS-ECAB.
OASBO has been designated as the “banker board” in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Trustees’ Associations, Principals’ Associations, and CAEAS-ECAB to fund the establishment of the ELHT. The communication packages will be distributed to the English and French boards, once funding is received. Details will be posted on the OASBO website in order for members to have access to the information.

C. Demers provided a training session at the Joint meeting on the website (YourMembership), encouraging adoption by all committees to replace using the NING environment.

As examples, Upper Grand DSB and Toronto DSB have a designated person to support technology specific for the Committee meetings to ensure all the logistics are in good order. Committee Chairs were advised to contact the IT department at school boards hosting their meetings.

During the course of the Joint Meeting, there was a positive exchange of information among Directors and Committee Chairs. Each Committee Chair highlighted their activities, hot topics and future plans.

PowerSchool from the US recently purchased SRB which includes the Trillium Student Information System, used at a good number of boards in the province. There was some concern expressed about the impact this may have on support and the future of the product.

Peter Derochie
OASBO President