

Liaison Minutes of Meeting – Discussion & Response to Questions

December 3, 2008

➤ Kudos from ATA to BRSD

- **Appreciate relationship building activities (superintendent visiting schools, ATA president invited to admin meetings, board attending ATA functions)**
- **Consultative process a good idea**
- **Support for professional development (sub costs covered for Beginning Teachers' Conf., Leadership Essentials for New Administrators Conf., etc.)**

➤ Kudos from BRSD to ATA

- **Appreciate relationship building (being invited to speak at teacher induction and retirement events)**
- **MERLA Awards recipient**
- **Greatly appreciate the work schools and staffs are currently doing through the Battle River Project to make schools healthy environments. As a result of the staff enthusiasm, a Healthy Schools Policy will be created for our region**
- **Teacher contributions and hard work during the current reporting process**

➤ Teacher Workload (brought to the table by ATA). The BRSD response included:

- **Interim Report Cards – this has been occurring in many divisions as a result of the Assessment for Learning initiative and in an attempt to ensure that parents are not surprised when they receive their report cards. However, the Superintendent did identify that this should not be a “cumbersome process” for teachers.**
- **A committee will be established in January to begin a complete revision of the current BRSD assessment admin. procedure.**
- **Collaborative Model Needed – principals are being encouraged to work with staffs to find creative solutions for collaborative release time at each school**
- **Data Management – requirements for Alberta Education (reason for increased email)**

- **Class Size (brought to the table by ATA). The BRSD response included:**
 - **BRSD provided additional money directly into spring budgets for Division 1 class size. After September 30th, BRSD provided an additional \$150,000 to bring the Div 1 class size average from 18.3 to 17.3**
 - **Learning Condition Class Size Initiatives – BRSD recognizes concerns with how the formula is calculated and the standard (17) set in the ACOL. Therefore, both the Board Chair and Superintendent have already met with the Learning Minister to raise this concern**
 - **Access to the class size computer program before Oct. 1 to deal with large class sizes so we can deal with “hot spots” before mid October – this problem has been raised by the Superintendent with Alberta Learning**

- **Classroom Composition/Special Ed. Funding (brought to the table by ATA). The BRSD response included:**
 - **Special Education department has been reconfigured to provide stronger and more support than in previous years.**
 - **Schools have site surpluses available to them to provide further financial support if they so choose.**
 - **A special education facilitator was provided to each school this year, with no additional costs to the school. The purpose of the facilitators is to build staff capacity. This will hopefully prepare schools for potential cut backs as a result of the Special Education Audit. BRSD are advocating and participating the provincial Setting the Direction initiative.**
 - **Across Alberta, many school districts (including BRSD) are moving towards an “inclusive model”.**

- **Other (Brought to the table by BRSD)**
 - **Revised 2009/10 BRSD #31 Calendar**
 - **Learning Institute Feedback**

- **Other (Brought to the table by ATA)**
 - **Information Pamphlet - Shaping Our Future: Current Contexts and Strategic Possibilities on Enhancing Alberta’s Teaching Profession, 2008 – 2012**