



BYLAW AMENDMENTS

2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

1. **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Bylaws be amended by striking out Bylaw No. 2: Membership, and substituting the following:

“Bylaw No. 2: Membership

1. **Members:**

- (1) **All boards of education, as defined in clause (b) of Bylaw No. 1, are eligible to become members of the Association.**
- (2) **Payment of the annual membership fee is required to become and remain a member.**
- (3) **A member who wishes to withdraw from membership in the Association shall provide at least 12 months’ written notice to the Executive, and the effective date of the withdrawal from membership shall be December 31 of a year.**

2. **Affiliate Members:**

- (1) **The following are eligible to become affiliate members of the Association:**
 - (a) **the board of an historical high school as defined in *The Independent Schools Regulations*;**
 - (b) **the board of an associate school within the meaning of section 6 of *The Independent Schools Regulations*;**

(c) the board of an independent school within the meaning of *The Independent Schools Regulations* that meets the following criteria:

- i. operated the independent school for a period of not less than five years; and**
- ii. meets the requirements of the Ministry of Education and the regulations with respect to courses of study, qualifications of teachers, operating schedules and supervision by the Ministry of Education.**

(2) Payment of the membership fee prescribed for affiliate members is required to become and remain an affiliate member of the Association.

(3) An affiliate member who wishes to withdraw from membership shall provide at least 12 months' written notice to the Executive, and the effective date of the withdrawal from membership shall be December 31 of a year.

(4) The membership of an affiliate member that is an associate school that ceases to have a subsisting agreement with a board of education terminates at the end of the year in which the agreement is terminated.

(5) Affiliate members have all privileges of membership except the right to vote and hold office on the Executive.

3. Honorary Members:

(1) The Minister of Education, the Deputy Minister of Education and directors of education and secretary-treasurers employed by member school boards are honorary members of the Association.

(2) Honorary members have the privilege of attending General Assemblies of the Association, but have no right to vote at general meetings or to be present during closed portions of Association meetings.

4. Honorary Life Member

(1) The Executive may, by resolution, confer honorary life membership on any person, who meets the criteria established by the Executive, in recognition of the person's contribution to public education.

- (2) **Honorary life members have the privilege of attending General Assemblies of the Association, but have no right to vote at general meetings or to be present during closed portions of Association meetings.**

5. **The membership year is the fiscal year of the Association.”**

Association Executive

Sponsor’s Rationale:

This Bylaw amendment contains the following changes:

- A provision is added to require members to provide notice of withdrawal from membership. This is a gap in the current bylaws, and provides the Association with some reasonable timeframe within which to deal with any implications of the withdrawal from membership. Boards are currently required to provide one year’s notice of withdrawal from participation in the Association’s insurance plans.
- Associate membership is clarified, and renamed as “affiliate” membership. Feedback from discussion at the May, 2008 Members’ Council and the June, 2008 General Assembly indicated that there was some misunderstanding regarding eligibility for this category of membership, calculation of fees and rights of associate members. Some confused “associate schools” with “associate members” of the Association. Generally member feedback indicated that the calculation of fees for associate members bear a relationship to the rights afforded them and that the current eligibility for this category of membership remain as it is. Under current Bylaws, fees for associate members are calculated in the same manner as fees for boards of education. Associate members have all rights, except the right to vote and to hold office on the Association Executive. Consequently, there is no change being proposed to rights of this category of membership or to calculation of fees (other than the impact on the fee that an associate member would pay if the proposed amendments to Bylaw No. 3 are adopted).
- Historical high schools, associate schools, while they have a subsisting agreement with a board of education, and independent schools that meet specified criteria are eligible for the membership.”

2. **BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Bylaws be amended by striking out Bylaw No. 3: Membership Fees and substituting the following to come into effect immediately on adoption:**

“Bylaw No. 3: Association Finance and Membership Fees

A. Operating Budget:

1. **The fiscal year of the Association is January 1 to December 31.**
2. **The proposed annual operating budget of the Association for the next fiscal year, recommended by the Executive, with explanatory notes, shall be provided to boards of education at least 30 days prior to the annual general meeting.**
3. **A budget resolution specifying the portion of the annual operating budget that is funded by membership fees shall be voted on by members at the annual general meeting prior to the commencement of the fiscal year to which the budget applies.**
4. **Voting on the budget resolution pursuant to section 3 shall be by formal ballot, and requires two-thirds majority of the votes cast to pass.**
5. **If the budget resolution as presented or amended does not pass on the first day of the annual general meeting, the Executive shall bring another budget resolution with a revised amount to be voted on the next day. In that case, the annual general meeting is deemed to continue for the purpose of that vote even if all of the other business to be conducted at the annual general meeting has been concluded on the first day of the meeting.**

B. Membership Fees

1. **Annual Fee for Members:**

- (1) **The annual membership fee for boards of education shall be calculated as follows:**

$$\text{Membership Fee} = A \times \frac{B}{C}$$

A = the portion of the annual operating budget that is funded by membership fees

B = the weighted student enrolment of the member calculated in accordance with the following table using the count of students as of September 30 for the most recent year as provided by the Ministry of Education, including the student enrolment of any affiliate members:

1st to 2000th student	1.0 per student
2001st to 3000th student	0.9 per student
3001st to 4000th student	0.8
4001st to 5000th student	0.7
5001st to 6000th student	0.6
6001st to 7000th student	0.5
7001st to 8000th student	0.4
8001st to 10,000th student	0.3
10,001st to 15,000th student	0.2
15,001st student and over	0.1

C = the sum of the weighted student enrolments calculated pursuant to B for all members, including any affiliate members

- (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the membership fee payable by a board of education shall be:**
- (a) not less than \$20,000;**
 - (b) not more than 6.5% of the portion of the annual operating budget that is funded by membership fees; and**
 - (c) for a board of education that has the City of Lloydminster within the boundaries of its school division and that maintains membership in the Alberta School Boards Association, calculated by reducing the student count by one half.**

2. Annual Fee for Affiliate Members:

- (1) The annual membership fee for affiliate members shall be calculated in the same manner as membership fees are calculated for boards of education.**

3. Membership fees are payable in full by January 1 of the year for which the membership fee is applicable.”

Association Executive

Sponsor’s Rationale:

This Bylaw amendment contains the following changes: of the Association:

Budget:

- The Executive would be required to submit a budget that it recommends to boards of education with an explanation at least 30 days prior to the AGM.
- Adoption of the budget (the portion which is directly funded by fees of members, including associate (affiliate) members) will be voted on at the AGM. Voting to approve the budget would occur after presentation of the budget.
- Adoption of the resolution to approve the budget will still require a two-thirds majority of votes cast.
- Fills a gap in the current bylaws to provide a default if the vote on the budget, as presented or amended, does not carry.

Membership Fees:

- The three components of fee are eliminated. (ie., core, that the membership votes on; research and development, that is 6.5% of core; and member services fee, that is a flat fee set by the Executive to pay for two lawyers and employee relations consultants who provide direct services to boards.) The cost of the operation of the Association office and supports and services provided by the Association will be planned and budgeted, and the amount of the operating budget that is paid for by membership fees will be voted on at the AGM.
- As is currently the case, membership fees do not pay for the administration of the Association insurance or benefits plans. Those costs are funded by premiums paid by participants in the plans. The Executive is not proposing any changes in that regard.
- Over the last several years, various options for calculation of fees have been presented to and discussed by boards. The range of options was narrowed to four and presented at the May, 2008

Members' Council, and feedback was provided to the Executive. Member feedback was considered, and the Executive is recommending the option set out above that is based on a 10-tier weighted student count, with a minimum fee of \$20,000 and a cap on the fee any one board would pay of 6.5% of the Association's operating budget that membership fees, including associate (affiliate members), pay for. After consideration of many options, the Executive considers this option to be a fair distribution of the cost of the operation of the Association amongst small, medium and large boards of education. Associate (affiliate) membership fees will be calculated in the same manner as membership fees for boards.

NOTE: The following proposed bylaw amendment will be presented only if proposed bylaw amendment 2., New Bylaw No. 3, does not pass. The current Bylaw No. 3 would continue to apply (ie. the 3 components of fee), therefore a bylaw amendment that sets the “core” component of the membership fee would be voted on.

- 3. BE IT RESOLVED THAT Bylaw No. 3, clause (a) be amended by deleting “\$1,571,981.00”, the provincial annual core fee requirement, and substituting “\$1,515,476.00”.**

Association Executive

Sponsor’s Rationale:

The Association’s fee structure includes three components:

1. The Core Services Fee, determined by the annual general meeting by bylaw amendment;
2. The Member Services Fee, a flat fee determined by the Executive; and
3. The Research and Development Fund determined by a bylaw provision.

This proposed bylaw amendment reduces the Core Fee for 2009 by \$56,505. This figure results from the retirement of the Director of Provincial Bargaining and Special Projects and the elimination of this position, and, the economic adjustment of 4% for Association staff scheduled to take effect in September 2009. The economic adjustment for Association staff is tied to the teachers’ economic adjustment, but lags a year behind.

The Core Fee covers the cost of:

- the implementation of the Executive’s Strategic Plan. With the input of the membership, the Executive will focus its efforts on three strategic goal areas:
 - Services: Saskatchewan school boards benefit from effective and responsive Association services.

Association services will be defined based upon the expressed needs of boards and the staff component of the Association will reflect and support the achievement of the Association’s strategic goals.

- Advocacy: Saskatchewan school boards will benefit from the collective actions of the Association and boards in strengthening public education.

The Association will focus and work intensely on a limited number of advocacy issues which clearly reflect the priority areas identified by boards (e.g., school capital). Boards will actively participate in the advocacy process and will be kept up to date on the Association's advocacy efforts and results.

- Member Engagement and Ownership: Boards of education will benefit from belonging to, and feel ownership of, the Saskatchewan School Boards Association.

Association communication with the membership will be enhanced through "The School Trustee" newsletter, the new email "E-News" service, and a reorganized and redesigned website. The Executive will carefully review the inservice and board development opportunities currently being offered to ensure Association events and activities are of benefit to boards and reflect the fact that the Association belongs to and serves member boards.

- the provision of education services and board development.
- communications and linkages with membership (e.g., workshops, seminars, general assemblies, members' councils, president's academy, newsletter, website).
- policy and research support from the Association's policy analyst staff member to advance Association goals and support Association services (e.g., research to support the Association's capital funding advocacy efforts, support for school divisions through the creation of an Employee Relations Data Base).
- the services of the Association's General Counsel in providing in-house counsel and legal advice on issues of provincial interest and analysis and advice regarding provincial legislation, and paralegal support.
- the operation of the Executive, internal and external committees, and allowances and memberships for the Catholic Section, Public Board Caucus, Aboriginal Council, Conseil scolaire fransaskois, the Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials, the Canadian School Boards Association and Canadian Catholic School Trustees Association.
- the administration and operation of the Association office.
- administrative support for projects funded by other agencies and government departments (e.g., Aboriginal Employment

Development Program, Breakfast for Learning, School
Community Council initiatives).

The Member Services Fee has been set by the Executive at \$13,034 per member (32 members) and provides funding for two Solicitors and one Employee Relations Consultant who provide direct services to members. The total amount of the Member Services component for 2009 is \$417,100 which is a reduction of \$215, 850 from 2008. This results from the elimination of two Employee Relations Consultant positions.

The Research and Development component, which is 6.5% of the Core Fee, is \$98,506 in 2009, a reduction of \$3,673 from 2008.

4. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Bylaws be amended by striking out Bylaws No. 8, Catholic Section, No. 9, Councils, and No. 9.1, Caucus Groups, and substituting the following:

“Bylaw No. 8: Organization of Groups within the Framework of the Association

A. Section:

1. A group of members that shares a unique legal status or possesses a distinctive position within the legal framework for education in Saskatchewan, or a member that has a unique legal status, may apply to the Executive for approval as a Section of the Association.
2. The purpose of a Section is to:
 - (a) provide a forum for members of the Section to network and discuss issues unique to or of exclusive concern to the Section;
 - (b) liaise with the Executive on those issues; and
 - (c) advocate on those issues to government in a manner that is not inconsistent with these Bylaws and the approved terms of reference of the Section.
- 3(1) A Section may make submissions to government on issues unique to or of exclusive concern to the Section.
- (2) Whenever practicable, the development of joint submissions by a Section and the Association and co-ordinated advocacy shall occur.
- (3) The activities of a Section shall not be inconsistent with, and may supplement, the activities of the Association, and a Section may adopt a position that expands upon the position of the Association on the same or a similar issue to reflect the impact on the needs or interests distinct to the members of the Section.
4. The application of a group of members for establishment of a Section shall:
 - (a) clearly identify the unique legal status or distinctive position of the group of members;
 - (b) list the members, that would be eligible to be part of the Section, that support the application for establishment of a Section;

- (c) specify the name proposed for the Section;
 - (d) provide draft terms of reference for the Section; and
 - (e) include any other information that the Executive considers necessary to properly consider the application.
- 5. The terms of reference for a Section must relate directly to the unique legal status or distinctive position of the Section.
- 6. Upon receipt of an application containing all of the required information, the Executive shall consider the application, and may require the applicant to provide additional information that the Executive considers necessary for consideration of the application.
- 7. After consideration of an application to establish a Section, the Executive may recommend the establishment of a Section on any terms and conditions, including terms of reference, that it considers advisable, and that recommendation shall be presented to members as a bylaw amendment, sponsored by the Executive, at a general meeting of the Association.
- 8. A Section may adopt a constitution not inconsistent with the Bylaws of the Association and the Act incorporating the Association, and provide for any officers of the Section that it considers advisable.
- 9. If a Section wishes to employ any staff, it is the responsibility of the Section, at its own cost, to make arrangements that ensure that all legal requirements for employment of staff are complied with.
- 10. The Association shall make provision for an annual meeting of a Section, and, may provide a Section with funds annually, as the Executive considers advisable, to assist the Section with its activities.
- 11. The Executive may recommend that a Section be disestablished:
 - (a) if the Section, without reasonable explanation, fails to provide information that the Executive reasonably requests;
 - (b) if the Section engages in activities or adopts positions beyond its approved terms of reference after being notified by the Executive that the Section has acted beyond its approved mandate; or

- (c) if a majority of the boards eligible to participate in the Section choose not to belong to the Section;

and that recommendation shall be presented as a bylaw amendment, sponsored by the Executive, at a general meeting of the Association.

12. A Section shall:

- (a) promptly provide the Executive with copies of correspondence to and from government departments or others outside the Association related to issues that the Section is advocating on;
- (b) provide copies of minutes of Section meetings to the Executive;
- (c) promptly provide the Executive with copies of briefs or submissions made to government; and
- (d) report to the Executive as the Executive may require.

13. If the activities or positions adopted by a Section conflict with those of another Section, or, if any other dispute arises between Sections, either Section may notify the Executive, and the representatives of the Sections and the Executive shall meet to attempt to resolve the issue.

14. The Catholic Section established in the former Bylaws of the Association is continued.

B. Caucus:

- 1. A group of members, who share a special interest and serve an identifiable need appropriately and directly connected to the aims and objectives of the Association, may apply to the Executive for approval as a Caucus of the Association.
- 2. The purpose of a Caucus is to:
 - (a) provide a forum for members of the Caucus to network and discuss issues related to the special interest and identifiable need that they share; and

- (b) identify issues and provide information and advice on those issues to the Executive to support the Association's advocacy initiatives.
- 3. The application of members pursuant to this section shall:
 - (a) clearly identify the special interest and identifiable need of the members;
 - (b) list the members that would be eligible to be part of the Caucus;
 - (c) specify the name proposed for the Caucus;
 - (d) provide draft terms of reference of the Caucus; and
 - (e) include any other information that the Executive considers necessary to properly consider the application.
- 4. Upon receipt of an application containing all of the required information, the Executive shall consider the application for approval as a Caucus, and may require the applicants to provide additional information that the Executive considers necessary for consideration of the application.
- 5. The Executive may approve the establishment of a Caucus on any terms and conditions that it considers advisable, and the Caucus shall conduct itself in accordance with the approved terms of reference.
- 6. The Executive shall, in approval of an application to establish a Caucus, specify the term of the Caucus.
- 7. The Association shall make provision for a meeting of a Caucus at the Fall General Assembly, and, provide a Caucus with funds annually, as the Executive considers advisable, to assist the Caucus with its activities.
- 8. A caucus group in existence on the day before this Bylaw becomes effective is continued.

C. Council:

- 1. A group of school board members, who share a special interest and serve an identifiable need appropriately and directly connected to

the aims and objectives of the Association, may apply to the Executive for approval as a Council of the Association.

- 2. The purpose of a Council is to:**
 - (a) provide a forum for members of the Council to network and discuss issues related to the special interest or identifiable need that they share; and**
 - (b) identify issues and provide information and advice on those issues to the Executive to support the Association's advocacy initiatives.**

- 3. The application of school board members pursuant to this section shall:**
 - (a) clearly identify the special interest and identifiable need of the school board members;**
 - (b) list the criteria for eligibility of school board members who could be part of the Council;**
 - (c) specify the name proposed for the Council;**
 - (d) provide draft terms of reference of the Council; and**
 - (e) include any other information that the Executive considers necessary to properly consider the application.**

- 4. Upon receipt of an application containing all of the required information, the Executive shall consider the application for approval as a Council, and may require the applicants to provide additional information that the Executive considers necessary for consideration of the application.**

- 5. The Executive may approve the establishment of a Council on any terms and conditions that it considers advisable, and the Council shall conduct itself in accordance with the approved terms of reference.**

- 6. The Executive shall, in its approval of establishment of a Council, specify the term of the Council.**

- 7. The Association shall make provision for a meeting of a Council at the Fall General Assembly, and, provide a Council with funds**

annually, as the Executive considers advisable, to assist the Council with its activities.

- 8. A Council in existence on the day before this Bylaw becomes effective is continued.”**

Association Executive

Sponsor’s Rationale:

For the last several years, the Public Boards Caucus has been seeking a mechanism for the establishment of a Public Section in addition to the one Section that currently exists within the Association, ie., the Catholic Section. More recently, there was the suggestion that specific boards of education might also at some point wish to seek establishment of a Section to address a unique legal status or distinctive position that a group of boards might share.

This issue has been the subject of discussion by members, the Executive, and, this fall, by representatives of the Association Executive, Catholic Section and Public Boards Caucus. The Executive believes that the long-term resolution to this issue is to establish, by bylaw, a mechanism pursuant to which a group of boards, that share a unique legal status or distinctive position, could seek to be established as a Section of the Association. This mechanism could be utilized not only by boards that participate in the Public Boards Caucus to seek establishment of a Public Section, but by other boards in the future.

In support of establishment of a Public Section, the Public Boards Caucus has articulated some key differences in the issues faced by public boards of education as contrasted to those faced by other publicly funded boards, ie., boards of separate school divisions and the Conseil scolaire fransaskois. The capacity to be established as a Section would provide the same opportunities to public boards to advocate on those issues that are distinctive to public boards and to supplement the Association’s advocacy.

The Executive recognizes that the Association cannot be all things to all boards of education, and that groups of boards, that share a unique legal status or distinctive position, should be provided with an opportunity to clearly voice the implications of government policies, decisions, etc., that have are unique to that group of boards; that have a different impact than the impact on other publicly funded boards.

The objective of a mechanism for other Sections to be established within the framework of the Association is to strengthen the Association and its identification of and advocacy on important education issues for the publicly funded education system in Saskatchewan.

This proposed Bylaw amendment provides:

Section:

The proposed bylaw would allow a board or a group of boards to apply to the Executive to be a Section. Currently there is no provision for establishment of a Section, only provision specifically providing for a Catholic Section, which reflects the historical agreement when the Catholic Boards, which were a separate entity, joined the Association in the 1950s. The key criterion for establishment of a Section is that the group of members must share a unique legal status or distinctive position as contrasted to the other boards of education.

The requirements set out in this Bylaw that a Section must meet, once it is established, reflects the requirements that the Executive has expected the Catholic Section to meet. The key difference between a Section and the other two kinds of groups provided for in this Bylaw is that a Section can advocate externally, i.e., can engage in advocacy directly with government, in addition to liaising with and providing information to the Executive to support the Association's advocacy initiatives.

Section 3 specifies the information that the applicants must include in an application, so that the Executive can properly consider the application. The terms of reference of a Section must be approved by the Executive and relate directly to the unique characteristic or distinctive position of the group of boards.

If, on consideration of an application, the Executive decides to recommend the establishment of a Section, it will sponsor a bylaw amendment to establish the specific Section that will be voted on by members at a general meeting of the Association. For example, if this Bylaw were to be adopted and if the Executive were then to recommend establishment of a Public Section, it would sponsor a bylaw amendment to add a section 15 to Part A of this Bylaw stating that the Public Section is established. The same process would be required for the disestablishment of a Section. It is the membership that ultimately would decide whether a Section would be established or disestablished.

The Bylaw requires the Association to provide for an annual meeting of a Section, and, can provide funding at the Executive's discretion, to assist a Section in its activities. A Section of the Association is not a legal entity, that is, it has no capacity to contract. Consequently, if a Section wishes to employ staff, it is the responsibility of the Section, not the Association, to ensure that employment of staff or other matters that require the legal capacity to contract, are properly executed and costs incurred are borne by the boards that participate in the Section.

If disagreements arise between Sections, Sections, together with the Executive, are expected to meet, discuss and resolve their differences.

The Catholic Section is continued. The Catholic Section is specifically provided for in the current Bylaws.

The Executive will adopt policy/procedures to address other details regarding groups within the parameters of this Bylaw, such as criteria for determining funding.

Caucus and Council:

The purpose of a caucus and a council are the same. The difference is that a group of members comprise a caucus and a group of individual school board members comprise a council. For example, a group of boards that does not meet the criteria to establish a Section might, however, meet the criteria to establish a caucus.

The purpose of these two groups is defined to clarify that they serve an advisory role to the Executive to identify issues or needs specific to the caucus or council, and provide information to the Executive in that regard. Their activities are "internal" as contrasted to the activities of a Section.

In most cases, because the reason for establishment of the caucus or council is issue-specific, the term of a caucus or council will often be of a shorter duration than that of a Section, for example, could be two or three years. The reason for which a Section is created results in a group within the Association of more permanence than a caucus or council because of the unique characteristic shared by the members of a Section.

5. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Bylaws be amended:

- (a) by striking out Bylaw No. 11: General Assembly Delegates and Bylaw No. 11.1: 2005 Convention – Voting on Governance Bylaw Amendments and Resulting Election of Members to a Newly Structured Executive, and substituting the following:**

“Bylaw No. 11: Delegates and Voting

- 1. School board members who register and pay the registration fee are delegates at the general meetings of the Association.**
- 2. Every member shall inform the Association as to which of its delegates it has authorized to be accredited delegates to cast the votes of the member on questions for which a formal ballot is used, and the number of votes each accredited delegate is authorized to cast.**
- 3. Formal ballots shall be used for:
 - (a) election of members to the Executive;**
 - (b) adoption of the Association budget;**
 - (c) votes on bylaw amendments and resolutions; and**
 - (d) approval to the Executive to petition the Legislative Assembly for changes to the Act incorporating the Association.****
- 4. The number of votes to which each board of education is entitled when a formal ballot is used shall be determined in accordance with the following table using the student count of the board of education as of September 30 for the most recent year as provide by the Ministry of Education:**

<u>Student Count</u>	<u>Number of Votes</u>
1 to 2000 students	2
2001 to 3000 students	3
3001 to 4000 students	4
4001 to 5000 students	5
5001 to 6000 students	6
6001 to 7000 students	7

7001 to 8000 students	8
8001 to 10,000 students	10
10,001 to 15,000 students	15
15,001 students and over	17

- 5. Only accredited delegates in attendance at the time a vote is taken shall be entitled to vote.**
 - 6. Absentee voting shall not be allowed.**
 - 7. On matters where voting is by show of hands, such as motions on procedural matters, each delegate in attendance at the time the vote is taken shall be entitled to vote, and shall have one vote.**
 - 8. Delegates who are not accredited delegates may participate in General Assembly and general meeting discussions and debate”; and**
- (b) by striking out “weighted ballot” wherever it appears in the Bylaws and inserting “formal ballot”.**

Association Executive

Sponsor’s Rationale:

At the 2005 AGM, members adopted Bylaw No. 11.1, which addressed the state of restructuring of boards of education that was in process at the time, and provided for an interim method of voting, when a ballot vote was taken, to apply until the membership adopted another method of allocating votes. The Executive has considered various bases on which votes could be allocated, and is currently considering two options that are set out in the draft bylaw:

The method for allocating votes set out in this bylaw amendment uses a basis similar to the BCSTA method. The number of votes increases with an increased student count, but the number of votes is not determined on a proportionate basis that a board’s student count bears to the total student count in the province.

Boards with larger student counts receive a higher number of votes. With this method, each vote essentially carries more value than one vote carries in

many other options; all boards, including small boards, have some meaningful influence on decisions.

Both the Executive and our members have articulated their desire for equity, communication and unity in the Association. This option for allocation of votes recognizes those objectives and facilitates consensus-based decision making by members.

This new method of allocation of votes would become effective after this General Assembly. The current method of voting applies to ballot votes conducted during this General Assembly.

A provision is added that requires a board to inform the Association of the board members whom it has accredited to cast the votes of the board. This has been a requirement in practice for many years. This information allows for a board's ballots to be packaged in advance of the AGM to prevent long line-ups for ballot pick-up during registration, and has resulted in less error in distributing ballots. It also provides a method for keeping track of ballots. If an accredited delegate does not subsequently attend the AGM or must leave unexpectedly during the AGM, the procedure for a board to provide information to have that board member's ballots reassigned to another board member would apply.

The amendment in clause (b) is a housekeeping amendment to change the phrase "weighted ballot", wherever it appears in the Bylaws, to "formal ballot" because, under the proposed method of allocating votes, ballots are not weighted.

BUDGET RESOLUTION

NOTE: The following Budget Resolution will be presented only if proposed Bylaw amendment 2, that amends Bylaw No. 3, passes. This requires a 2/3 majority of the votes cast to pass.

Budget 2009 **“BE IT RESOLVED that the Association’s annual operating budget, that is funded by membership fees, for 2009 of \$1,982,576.00 be approved.”**

Association Executive

Sponsor’s Rationale

This budgeted amount reflects the change to one membership fee which covers the cost of all Association advocacy efforts, member services and supports.

The budgeted amount supports the implementation of the Executive’s Strategic Plan. With the input of the membership, the Executive will focus its efforts on three strategic goal areas:

- Services: Saskatchewan school boards benefit from effective and responsive Association services.

This budgeted amount provides for the funding of Association services that boards have indentified as most important: legal services and trustee/board development. All legal services, employee relations services and research and development are included in this amount. Association services will be defined based upon the expressed needs of boards and the staff component of the Association will reflect and support the achievement of the Association’s strategic goals.

Insurance and employee benefits have also been indentified as very important. These services, however, are funded by the premiums paid by members, not through the Association’s membership fee.

- Advocacy: Saskatchewan school boards will benefit from the collective actions of the Association and boards in strengthening public education.

The need for the Association to become a recognized and respected voice for public education has been the major issue of concern raised by boards. The Association will focus and work intensely on a limited number of advocacy issues which clearly reflect the priority areas identified by boards (e.g., school capital). The policy and research functions of the Association will

become more closely aligned with the advocacy goals identified by the membership. Boards will actively participate in the advocacy process and will be kept up to date on the Association's advocacy efforts and results.

- Member Engagement and Ownership: Boards of education will benefit from belonging to, and feel ownership of, the Saskatchewan School Boards Association.

This budgeted amount reflects the Association's goal to improve communication with the membership, to provide board development and inservice opportunities that respond to the expressed needs identified by boards, and to sponsor events and activities that allow for meaningful interaction among and between member boards and the Association.

Association communication with the membership will be enhanced through "The School Trustee" newsletter, the new email "E-News" service, and a reorganized and redesigned website. The Executive will carefully review the inservice and board development opportunities currently being offered to ensure Association events and activities are of benefit to boards and reflect the fact that the Association belongs to and serves member boards.

This resolution calls for a 2009 Association budget of \$2,409,010, a reduction of \$336,095 from 2008.