

SUB: Expense Concerns

Michael Janz <michael.janz@epsb.ca> Thu, May 28, 2015 at 4:39 PM

To: "Helen Clease (ASBA)" <hclearse@asba.ab.ca>

Cc: Scott McCormack <smccormack@asba.ab.ca>

Hello Helen,

As you may have been made aware by Scott, two items surfaced as I was going through his expense receipts that I was not comfortable approving. As I indicated in my board report, expenses are done twice annually (or as they are processed) and as such the October to present batch was presented to me. As I said to Scott, most of it was fine, but there were two areas that I did not feel comfortable approving.

The first was his hotel at the FGM November 2014 and the second was with regard to the associated costs for the trip to Washington in February 2nd-4th. I know that you are well aware of my numerous concerns I have raised in the past with regard to hotel use by ASBA staff, including my February 27th email cautioning against hotel use by those living in Edmonton or our March 13th conversation with the former Executive Director where he told us that the practice of hotel use by Edmonton staff would cease. I recall that you told me at the FGM in front of Scott that you had told him it was okay for him to stay in the hotel, but I was not consulted prior to you offering him the hotel room. That being said, he still could have refused the expenditure and stayed at home. I know others Trustees travelled further and did not expense hotels. I am reminded that MLAs are not allowed expensing accommodation if they live within 60KM of the legislature. I'm not comfortable approving this expenditure, even if you gave permission.

As I was going through the expenditures, I understand that Scott approves your expenses, but I was reminded through his expenses that you were charged a \$695 registration fee, even though it is my understanding from my conversation with Scott and your board reports that you didn't attend the conference. Could you clarify please? Why was this not waived? Additionally, at the January Board meeting during discussion on this matter, Cheryl Johner asked for confirmation about whether Helen was charged the \$695.00 fee for the NSBA conference. I then asked for this information again in an email to you on February 6th— unless I missed it in the board package, this has not been provided to the board.

Furthermore, I would appreciate if the Board could get further clarity on this trip as I do not agree that the expenditure was merited. Based on the board report, I understand that you both did not attend the ASBA Advocacy conference (your flight landed Feb 2nd at 12:20PM and the closing general session was 4PM) but instead had meetings with other NSBA officials on the Feb 3rd and departed early on the morning of Feb 4th. As I said to Scott, we teleconference important meetings within our own province, I'm not sure what meeting could have constituted an expensive trip for both of you, especially considering Heather T. was already on site in Washington. After the cautions from the board and myself, I would have thought that other communication tools would have been higher priorities. As I recall the board was made aware, but left it up to you and Scott to "use your best judgement" as per our policy. As

I look through the expense reports, I have concern about the efficacy of these expenditures. As such, I'm not comfortable approving the expenditures related to this trip as I do not believe there was justifiable business need. I have left a letter in the file (below).

I'm sure you can appreciate with heightened public scrutiny on expenses in this political climate my hesitancy in signing off on anything I would have trouble defending to the board, or the membership, public etc.

Thank you,

Michael Janz