



The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools
MINUTES
Spring General Meeting
Saturday, May 5, 2018
Deerfoot Inn and Casino, Calgary, AB

ATTENDEES: Garret Doll (AE); Glenn McClure, Haytham Ghouriri, Mohamed Salih, Osama Merhi, M. Salman Mazhar (ALCA); Paul Wozny, Paola Mayo, Arlene Huhn, Robert Kossick, Shazin Mohamed-Standing (Aurora); Dale Erickson, Cole Jordan (Calgary Arts Academy); Dianne McBeth, Gary Care, Christine Jackson, (Calgary Girls' School); Teresa DiNinno, Janine Bide (CAPE); Susan Chomistek, Ron Koper, Myra Penberthy (Connect); Kurtis Leinweber, Cindy McGlashan-Beaucage, Faruq Suleman, Andrew Chu, Meredith Poole (FFCA); Ed Wittchen, Anita LeMoignan (MECCS); Don Falk, Nicole Pasemko (New Horizons); Lynne Paradis, Boris Vidal, Rene deMeulles, Nicole Palmer (Suzuki); Kath Rhyason (TAAPCS); John Picard, Paul Gibson (Valhalla); Joe Frank, Tun Myo, Dianne Shirra (Westmount)

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT/RESEARCH PRESENTATION BY CGS

Several teachers from CGS joined our meeting to talk about what is offered at CGS, most specifically the Go Girls curriculum. The foundations of the program include engaging in critical thinking, taking up multiple perspectives, exploring controversial issues, engaging in activism, creating a personal belief inventory, and cultivating a sense of hope and resiliency. This offers opportunities for students to value diversity, respect the dignity and support the equality of all human beings; demonstrate social compassion, fairness and justice; appreciate and respect how multiple perspectives shape our realities; develop a sense of personal identity; develop a legitimate sense of belonging to their communities; and demonstrate consciousness with respect to social issues. Student projects relate to the curriculum and are designed to teach and reinforce these concepts (e.g. student self-image reflections, Mapping my Closet, critical analyses of media/cultural messages). The presentation was very informative, and demonstrated what great things are being done for the girls at CGS.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION – led by Board Chair Ron Koper.

Ground rules: 1. Speak straight, with respect, 2. Listen generously, and 3. Commit to shared success. Each area of the Strategic Plan (as defined in October of 2015) was examined to define and prioritize key issues. Specifically, ideas were generated in relation to each

1. Governance: i) speaking with one voice, ii) continuity, iii) internal communication/coordination, iv) external communication, v) roles and responsibilities in supporting each school.

2. Communication: i) tools for communication, ii) overcoming geography, iii) focus on what we share, iv) clear & dynamic communication of key messages.

3. Research: i) collaboration & relevance (clear expectations/relevance to students), ii) capacity

development, iii) dissemination. The process determined which committees would be responsible to decide the key issues (e.g. Directors), to prioritize them (e.g. Directors' Committee), and to plan and execute the actions in each area (e.g. various committees), and timelines. Ron will collate and distribute the information gathered.

1. CALL TO ORDER - 12:55 p.m.

1.1 Consideration of Agenda – No changes.

1.2 Approval of Annual General Meeting Minutes

#18/05/05-01 M/C to adopt the Oct. 28, 2017 AGM minutes as circulated.

Janine Bide

Arlene Huhn

1.3 Approval of Minutes for Special Meeting

#18/05/05-02 M/C to adopt the Feb. 8, 2018 Special Meeting minutes as amended.

Paul Gibson

Janine Bide

2. REPORTS

2.1 Charter Board Directors' Report – On behalf of himself and Vice-Chair Geordie MacPherson, Ron expressed his pleasure with the engagement of members of the various TAAPCS committees, and their very impressive demonstration of commitment to our shared success. They feel that the Minister is reaching out to our members as never before, as evidenced by 5 face-to-face meetings, and his expressed desire to know what we need to be successful. Ron and Geordie have represented TAAPCS at various meetings and networking opportunities, and commend the great work being done in our core strategy areas.

2.2 Officers' and EAC Report - Susan and Joe report a productive year in relation to our 3 strategic goals, activity serving on TAAPCS committees, invitations to represent our association on various government committees, and an encouraging meeting with DM Curtis Clarke on April 12/18. Susan commended the excellent work of our Executive Director and thanked the other members of the EAC executive for their support.

2.3 Financial Report

#18/05/05-03 M/C to accept the Statement of Financial Position as presented.

Mohamed Salih

Tun Myo

2.4 Correspondence – List circulated with agenda.

2.5 Committee Reports

a. School Leadership Learning Initiative – Since losing funding, the decision was made that these sessions will only be offered in non-conference years in order to minimize costs.

b. Awards and Recognition Committee Report – This is the only committee that does not have a chair. Kath has developed Terms of Reference, but there were not enough Directors to establish quorum at the last meeting.

c. Board Professional Learning Committee Report – A survey to determine topics of interest has been distributed, and an Advocacy session (led by Margo Purcell) will be offered in October.

- d. Communications Committee Report – Four meetings (including yesterday) have been held and some excellent work done: draft agenda for advocacy session (Margo Purcell); Google site development progress (Wayne Weinheimer), website upgrade initiative (Rene De Meulles/Ian Gray), determination of the need for a budget. There has also been a focus on government relations, particularly in relation to input into the transportation review.
- e. Conference Committee Report – Dale E. is concerned that a date be set asap; this will be discussed at EAC.
- f. Research Support and Promotion Committee – There have been 2 conference call meetings where the support role of the committee has been discussed, as well as external committee representation (Bellina Cassi has agreed). Items in progress include: i) drafting an endorsement letter template for TAAPCS, ii) amalgamating a summary of association research projects (both FFCA and Aurora have been awarded research contracts), iii) development of an ethics process, and iv) collaboration with the communications committee. The next meeting will be on May 31.
- g. Ad Hoc Directors' Committee - The committee met yesterday and a list of Directors' issues is being developed; quorum was not attained but a Terms of Reference was drafted.

#18/05/05-04 M/C to approve the Terms of Reference for the TAAPCS Directors' Committee.

Andrew Chu
Paul Gibson

- h. Ad Hoc Charter School Regulation Committee – The Charter School Regulation was renewed with no changes. It is recommended that the current committee be dissolved and a new one struck for August 2021 in advance of the next review. See 3.3.

2.6 Alberta Education Field Services - Garret Doll

- a. Important to have our Charter School Regulation input prepared 9-10 months prior to next review.
- b. Current AE budget described as “stable”; 2.2% increase to fund growth. Only critical vacancies in the department are being filled and travel minimized in order that costs are kept as low as possible.
- c. Field Services has offered support for charter schools developing the Safe & Caring policy required in 45.1 of the *School Act*. Assistance is still available. These policies must be posted on websites by June 30.
- d. Important to give our feedback on the Transportation Study, and the Assurance Review.
- e. Focus on key strategies in Business Plan, including Education for Reconciliation.
- f. There are currently 6 charter school requests before the Minister, at different points in the process. Garret had no updates.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Follow-up to Bylaw Implementation

3.1.1 Research Support and Promotion Committee

#18/05/05-04 M/C to approve the Research Support and Promotion Committee Terms of reference as amended.

Mohamed Salih
Shazin Mohamed-Standing

3.1.2 Ad Hoc Committee Policy 7

#18/05/05-05 M/C to approve the Ad Hoc Committee Policy 7 as amended.

Janine Bide

Shazin Mohamed-Standing

3.1.3 Awards and Recognition Policy 8

#18/05/05-06 M/C to approve the Awards and Recognition Policy 8 as presented.

Janine Bide

Shazin Mohamed-Standing

3.2 Advocacy Efforts – Main topics are Inclusion Funding, School Fees, Nutrition Program Funding, Charter Renewals, Expansion (caps & grade levels), Ownership Transfer/IMR Funding, Transportation, and Research Expectations.

3.3 Ad Hoc School Regulations Committee

#18/05/05-07 M/C to dissolve the AD Hoc School Regulations Committee, ensure this item is entered into our 3-year plan, and form a new ad hoc committee in Spring 2020.

Janine Bide

Mohamed Salih

4. NEW BUSINESS (& discussion)

4.1 Presentation/Motion to Approve Budget 2017-18

#18/05/05-08 M/C to approve TAAPCS Budget 2017-18 as presented.

Boris Vidal

Tun Myo

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Joe Frank expressed the appreciation of our association and our best wishes to those who will be leaving us at the end of this year - Susan Chomistek (Connect), Dale Bischoff (Aurora), and John Brosseau (Boyle Street) - as well as thanks to Ron Koper for assuming and so capably executing a leadership role in TAAPCS. Andrew Chu commended all committees on the great work accomplished.

6. ADJOURNMENT

#18/05/05-09 M/C to adjourn the 2018 Spring General Meeting of TAAPCS.

Gary Care

Tun Myo