



## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Friday/Saturday, Oct. 26/27, 2018**  
**Best Western Denham Inn & Suites**  
**5207 – 50 Ave., Leduc, AB**

### **OCT. 27, 2018**

#### **CALL TO ORDER: 8:35 a.m.**

Attendees: Alberta Education: Garret Doll; Almadina: Haytham Ghouriri, Abdal Houmsi, Samir Jalloul, Ammar Mahdi, Glenn McClure, Osama Merhi, Mohamed Salih; Aurora: Marcy D'Agostini, Arlene Huhn, Robert Kossick, Paul Wozny; CAA: Dale Erickson, Cole Jordan; CAPE: Janine Bide, Teresa DiNinno; CGS: Gary Care, Christine Jackson, Dianne McBeth, Natalya Nicholson, Margo Purcell; Connect: Chris Gilmour, Ron Koper, Myra Penberthy; FFCA: Andrew Chu, Kurtis Leinweber, Cindy McGlashan-Beaucage, Roger Nippard, Meredith Poole, Faruq Suleman; MECCS: Anita LeMoignan, Ed Wittchen; NHCS: Don Falk, Dan Hanson, Michelle McDonald, Shari Morin; Suzuki: Heather Christison, Treena Gish, Lynne Paradis, Boris Vidal; Valhalla: Paul Gibson; Westmount: Joe Frank, Diane Shirra; TAAPCS: Kath Rhyason

#### **DIRECTORS' MEETING**

Chair Ron Koper went over the three ground rules for the day's meetings:

- Shared Success
- Generous Listening
- Speak Straight, with Respect

**PRESENTATION:** "How to Make Friends and Influence Legislators" – CGS Vice-Chair Margo Purcell  
Margo presented 5 key points related to the relationship-building necessary for influence: 1. advocating, 2. assume positive intentions, 3. mindset, 4. multi-partisan approach, and 5. find common ground. Before meeting with a legislator, do your research: find out their interests and what they are engaged in, learn about them as a person and familiarize yourself with their work as a legislator. Remember the acronym EPIC: E = engage (with a dramatic fact), P = problem (e.g. Act to Reduce School Fees), I = Inform (provide a possible solution) and C = Concrete yes or no question. Other tips for effective meetings: prepare an agenda, agree on roles of participants, practice speaking, prepare your materials, share your story, be concise, know both sides, avoid and argument, make the issue real (connect to people over facts), make a clear request, take a photo, follow up with a thank you, report at your next Board meeting, look for the next engagement opportunity. Note: email petitions are easily dismissed; individual letters (not form letters) are far more effective.

#### **SUPERINTENDENTS' MEETING REPORT**

Much discussion at the Friday Superintendents' meeting revolved around the role of CASS vs. TAAPCS in relation to the Superintendent Compensation issue. It is unfair that Charter Schools are in the lowest band while there are some Francophone authorities with fewer students at a higher level. Boards are cautioned to keep conversations at a high level and centre on the limitation of local Board autonomy, not specific dollar values.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 1.1 Introductions
- 1.2 Consideration of Agenda – Add item 4.6 Proposal for approval of Executive Director compensation.
- 1.3 **#18/10/27-1AGM** Motion to Approve Agenda as amended - Moved by Janine Bide, seconded by Christine Jackson. CARRIED.
- 1.3 **#18/10/27-2AGM** Motion to approve SGM Minutes as Circulated – Moved by Haytham Ghouriri, seconded by Janine Bide. CARRIED.
- 1.4 School Spotlight - New Horizons Charter School  
NHCS Principal Ted Zarowny showed a stunning, self-produced presentation of what was referred to as the “perpetual state of construction” the school has been in for the past 5 years, including a full year of planning, another of construction, another of identifying deficiencies and equipping the building for its Grand Re-opening (although the school did stay open and functional throughout). The increased amount of lighting (among other visible improvements) is very welcome but does not reveal where a great deal of the \$8m in modernization funding was spent: under the floors and above the ceilings. Nevertheless, the conclusion of the project was joyously celebrated by all.
- 1.5 Research Report – Aurora Academic Charter School: Dr. Paul Wozny & Nicole Ofosu  
“Investigating Parent Perceptions of Parent-Teacher Interview Processes as a Lens to Improve Social Connectedness”. Hypothesis: Improved parent-teacher engagement coupled with healthy and robust social connectedness, within school communities, will address student and community diversity and improvement of student academic outcomes and well-being.  
  
This research will take place over the upcoming year with the help of several post-secondary partners in an attempt to answer 3 questions:  
What are the strengths of existing Parent-Teacher interview processes in your school?  
What are the weaknesses/challenges of existing Parent-Teacher interview processes in your school as evidenced in your lived experiences?  
How could Parent-Teacher interview processes be improved to enhance parental engagement and social connectedness within your school context?  
  
Partners include Principal Investigator Dr. Malcolm Steinberg, MD MSc, Simon Fraser University, and Co-Investigators Dr. Paul Veugelers, PhD, PDF, University of Alberta, and Dr. Owen Livermore PhD, Edmonton Public Schools (school TBD). AE support allowed the hiring of Graduate Student Co-Investigator Mrs. Nicole Ofosu, U. of A. PhD Candidate.

### *Elections: First call for Nominations*

*Administrative Officers/Board of Governors – No nominations for any of the positions.*

## 2. REPORTS

- 2.1 Charter Board Directors’ Report  
Ron reported that the learning curve has been steep but we are trying to proceed in a balanced fashion while emphasizing what we stand for and what our needs are. The various Board

committees are gaining traction.

2.2 Officers' & EAC Report

Joe reported that the Superintendents were able to capitalize on some good conversation with Jeff Johnson and a few of the MLA's that arrived early for the Friday dinner. Though some of the issues facing charter schools may appear to be minor, they might best be viewed as incremental steps which could impact our survival (e.g. Superintendent compensation, talk of one north and one south Superintendent with only two Boards, etc.)

2.3 Correspondence

Meredith distributed a list of correspondence sent and received over the past year.

2.4 Committees Update

Kath expressed her appreciation for the work the committees have done over the past year, and will send out an all-call for volunteers to fill the vacant and vacated spaces.

2.5 Communications Committee Report

Major initiatives have been looking at improving communication through Google, becoming familiar with the political landscape, website upgrade, and developing an advocacy strategy that will serve us well in preparation for next year's election. The committee plans to put together and distribute an information package detailing the positions of the various political parties on charter schools.

2.6 Strategic Planning Report

Progress needs to be made on the furtherance of our three strategic plan goals (governance, speaking with one voice and research); this will come forward to the Directors' Committee.

2.7 Alberta Education Field Services

- The future K-4 curriculum is now available and can be accessed at: <https://new.learnalberta.ca/?sections=%5B%7B%22name%22:%22Home%22,%22autoHeight%22:true%7D%5D>. It will be past the draft stage by December and ready for implementation after that.
- New resources will not be developed; present ones will be reviewed for alignment.
- An AE committee is drafting guidelines for isolation rooms; these will go to school authorities for feedback.
- The Transportation Ministry is looking at Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) of bus drivers; retraining will also be provided and funded by government.
- You can access good information about cannabis at [www.drugsafe.ca](http://www.drugsafe.ca)
- The government will continue to use Canada Post despite the rotating strikes.
- Two charters are due for evaluation next spring; please consider these formative assessments in support of an action plan prior to your application for renewal.

***Elections: Second call for Nominations***

***Administrative Officers/Board of Governors – No nominations for any of the positions.***

### **3. BUSINESS ARISING**

- 3.1 Annual Report – Distributed with thanks for the contributions of all schools.
- 3.2 Financial Report
  - 3.2.1 **#18/10/27-3AGM** Motion to accept the report of the 2018 Audited Financial Statements as presented. MOVED by Boris Vidal, seconded by Haytham Ghouriri. CARRIED.

### **4. NEW BUSINESS (& discussion)**

#### *Elections: Third and final call for nominations*

#### *Administrative Officers/ Board of Governors*

*Natalya Nicholson nominated Gary Care for Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors. Nomination seconded by Arlene Huhn.*

*Cindy McGlashan-Beaucage nominated Faruq Suleman for the position of Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors. Nomination seconded by Arlene Huhn.*

- 4.1 Gary and Faruq agreed to act as Co-Vice-Chairs.  
**#18/10/27-4AGM** Motion to accept the results of the 2018 nominations. Moved by Faruq Suleman, seconded by Janine Bide. CARRIED.
- 4.2 Speech from Elected Chair – Gary and Faruq thanked those present for this opportunity to serve the Association.
- 4.3 EAC Officers
  - 4.3.1 **#18/10/27-5AGM** Motion that Secretary Treasurers from all schools be voluntary members of the Executive Advisory Committee. Moved by Janine Bide, seconded by Paul Gibson. CARRIED.
- 4.4 Response to Government re: superintendent compensation – There has been no response to our letter of Oct. 15. If we do get some traction with this, Ron will be requesting assistance from his fellow Directors. There was a concern raised about the tone of the letter but the consensus was that it was not inappropriate. Where deemed necessary and when time permits, draft letters may be forwarded to Board Chairs for feedback.
- 4.5 Awards and Recognition Policy 8 Appendix 3  
**#18/10/27-6AGM** Motion that the document developed to determine the recipient of the Halvar Jonson Award be appended to the Awards and Recognition Policy. Moved by Faruq Suleman, seconded by Christine Jackson. CARRIED.
- 4.6 **#18/10/27-7AGM** Motion to approve the Executive Director Compensation for one year commencing December 1, 2018 at the level of \$750/day for up to 50 days. Moved by Diane Shirra, seconded by Janine Bide. CARRIED.
- 4.7 The suggestion was made that we find a way for departing Directors to still have a role within TAAPCS. This will go to the Directors' Committee for discussion.

## **5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Ron Koper expressed his appreciation for the help of Kath and Joe during a steep learning curve and commended their wealth of knowledge.
- CAPE will be holding an Open House in the spring. All are invited; more information to follow.
- Natalya Nicholson recognized and expressed appreciation for the important contributions made by Geordie MacPherson to both CGS and TAAPCS over the past several years.
- Dianne McBeth acknowledged the calibre of this year's Halvar Jonson award winners and is pleased that these are now reserved for supporters outside our organization.
- Ron Koper thanked Andrew Chu for his extensive work on a comprehensive charter school data base which will serve as a repository for important information and as a historical record.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT 2:05 p.m.**

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### ***Important Dates***

- TAAPCS EAC Meetings: Nov. 23, 2018 (Red Deer); Jan. 18, 2019 (Conference Call); April 12, 2019 (Red Deer); June 14, 2019 (Conference Call)
  - TAAPCS Spring Meeting: May 3 & 4, 2019
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