



**The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools  
January 15, 2016  
Sheraton Red Deer Hotel  
3310 – 50 Ave. Red Deer, AB**

**MINUTES**

AB ED	Marlene Lambe	Education Manager	<a href="mailto:marlene.lambe@gov.ab.ca">marlene.lambe@gov.ab.ca</a>
Almadina	Yvonne DePeel	Superintendent	<a href="mailto:ydepeel@esl-almadina.com">ydepeel@esl-almadina.com</a>
Almadina	Haytham Ghouriri	Board Chair	<a href="mailto:hghouriri@esl-almadina.com">hghouriri@esl-almadina.com</a>
Almadina	Samir Jalloul	Director	<a href="mailto:sjalloul@esl-almadina.com">sjalloul@esl-almadina.com</a>
Almadina	Abdal Aziz Houmsi	Director	<a href="mailto:aazizhoumsi@esl-almadina.com">aazizhoumsi@esl-almadina.com</a>
Almadina	Tina Grus	Presenter	<a href="mailto:tgrus@esl-almadina.com">tgrus@esl-almadina.com</a>
Almadina	Kama Truch	Presenter	<a href="mailto:ktruch@esl-almadina.com">ktruch@esl-almadina.com</a>
Almadina	Suzanne Bedard	Sec./Treasurer	<a href="mailto:sbedard@esl-almadina.com">sbedard@esl-almadina.com</a>
Aurora	Dale Bischoff	Superintendent	<a href="mailto:dbischoff@auroraschool.com">dbischoff@auroraschool.com</a>
BSEC	John Brosseau	Superintendent	<a href="mailto:jbrossea@telus.net">jbrossea@telus.net</a>
CAA	Dale Erickson	Superintendent	<a href="mailto:derickson@calgaryartsacademy.com">derickson@calgaryartsacademy.com</a>
CAA	Jan Jordan	Sec./Treasurer	<a href="mailto:jjordan@calgaryartsacademy.com">jjordan@calgaryartsacademy.com</a>
CAA	Janice Nigh	Arts/Res. Coord.	<a href="mailto:jnigh@calgaryartsacademy.com">jnigh@calgaryartsacademy.com</a>
CAA	Paul Knapp	Director	<a href="mailto:paul.knapp01@gmail.com">paul.knapp01@gmail.com</a>
CAA	Josh Van Beers	Principal	<a href="mailto:jvanbeers@calgaryartsacademy.com">jvanbeers@calgaryartsacademy.com</a>
CAPE	Teresa Di Ninno	Superintendent	<a href="mailto:tdininno@capeisgreat.org">tdininno@capeisgreat.org</a>
CAPE	Riann Swiegers	Board Chair	<a href="mailto:riann50@telus.net">riann50@telus.net</a>
CGS	Dianne McBeth	Superintendent	<a href="mailto:dianne.mcbeth@calgarygirlsschool.com">dianne.mcbeth@calgarygirlsschool.com</a>
CGS	Geordie MacPherson	Director	<a href="mailto:me@geordie.me">me@geordie.me</a>
CGS	Judi Hadden	Principal	<a href="mailto:judi.hadden@calgarygirlsschool.com">judi.hadden@calgarygirlsschool.com</a>
CGS	Natalya Nicholson	Board Chair	<a href="mailto:natalya@myvfi.com">natalya@myvfi.com</a>
CGS	Margo Purcell	Acting Vice-Chair	<a href="mailto:margo@opentopossibilities.ca">margo@opentopossibilities.ca</a>
Connect	Susan Chomistek	Superintendent	<a href="mailto:susan.c@connectcharter.ca">susan.c@connectcharter.ca</a>
Connect	Phil Butterfield	Asst. Principal	<a href="mailto:phil.b@connectcharter.ca">phil.b@connectcharter.ca</a>
Connect	Myra Penberthy	Sec./Treasurer	<a href="mailto:myra.p@connectcharter.ca">myra.p@connectcharter.ca</a>
Connect	Denise Kitigawa	Board Chair	<a href="mailto:denise.k@connectcharter.ca">denise.k@connectcharter.ca</a>
Connect	Harold Lemieux	Past Chair	<a href="mailto:hlemieux@shaw.ca">hlemieux@shaw.ca</a>
Connect	Scott Petronech	Asst. Principal	<a href="mailto:scott.p@connectcharter.ca">scott.p@connectcharter.ca</a>

FFCA	Roger Nippard	Superintendent	<a href="mailto:roger.nippard@ffca-calgary.com">roger.nippard@ffca-calgary.com</a>
FFCA	Judy Gray	Coord. Sch. Devel.	<a href="mailto:judy.gray@ffca-calgary.com">judy.gray@ffca-calgary.com</a>
FFCA	Meredith Poole	Exec. Asst.	<a href="mailto:meredith.poole@ffca-calgary.com">meredith.poole@ffca-calgary.com</a>
FFCA	Lorie Skaper-Burtch	SWE Principal	<a href="mailto:lorie.skaper-burtch@ffca-calgary.com">lorie.skaper-burtch@ffca-calgary.com</a>
FFCA	Shelley Schroh	Board Chair	<a href="mailto:shelley.schroh@ffca-calgary.com">shelley.schroh@ffca-calgary.com</a>
FFCA	Cindy McG.-Beaucage	Board Vice-Chair	<a href="mailto:cindy.beaucage@ffca-calgary.com">cindy.beaucage@ffca-calgary.com</a>
New Hor.	Don Falk	Superintendent	<a href="mailto:dbfalk@shaw.ca">dbfalk@shaw.ca</a>
Suzuki	Heather Christison	Sec./ Treasurer	<a href="mailto:christison@suzukischool.com">christison@suzukischool.com</a>
Suzuki	Karen Spencer	Principal	<a href="mailto:spencerk@suzukischool.ca">spencerk@suzukischool.ca</a>
Suzuki	Boris Vidal	Board Chair	<a href="mailto:vidalb@suzukischool.ca">vidalb@suzukischool.ca</a>
TAAPCS	Garry Andrews	Exec Director	<a href="mailto:andrews.garry@gmail.com">andrews.garry@gmail.com</a>
Valhalla	Jolene Kochendorfer	Board Chair	<a href="mailto:jkochendorfer@valhallaschool.ca">jkochendorfer@valhallaschool.ca</a>
Valhalla	John Picard	Superintendent	<a href="mailto:jpocard@valhallaschool.ca">jpocard@valhallaschool.ca</a>
Westmount	Joe Frank	Superintendent	<a href="mailto:joe.frank@westmountcharter.com">joe.frank@westmountcharter.com</a>
Westmount	John Liu	Sec./ Treasurer	<a href="mailto:johnathan.liu@westmountcharter.com">johnathan.liu@westmountcharter.com</a>
Westmount	Scott Rankin	Director	<a href="mailto:rankins@shaw.ca">rankins@shaw.ca</a>
Westmount	Tun Myo	Director	<a href="mailto:tmyo@telus.net">tmyo@telus.net</a>
Westmount	Hal Curties	Principal	<a href="mailto:hal.curties@westmountcharter.com">hal.curties@westmountcharter.com</a>
Westmount	Maria Bernardin	HR Manager	<a href="mailto:maria.bernardin@westmountcharter.com">maria.bernardin@westmountcharter.com</a>
Westmount	Colleen Thomas Groot	Asst. Principal	<a href="mailto:colleen.groot@westmountcharter.com">colleen.groot@westmountcharter.com</a>

## **January 15, 2016 – Regular Meeting**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER - 8:30 a.m.**

1.1 Consideration of Agenda – Add Item 5.6 Jeff Reading Proposal. Thanks were expressed to Connect Charter and Calgary Arts Academy for their spectacular entertainment and gracious hosting, at and after last night’s banquet.

1.2 Approval of Minutes

**#16/15/01-01** M/C to approve the minutes of the Oct. 29, 2015 regular meeting as presented.

*John Liu*

*Denise Kitigawa*

1.3 Financial Report

**#16/15/01-02** M/C to approve the minutes of the Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 2015 Financial Report as presented.

*Jan Jordan*

*Riann Swiegers*

1.4 School Spotlight – The Calgary Girls’ School made an informative presentation entitled “Why a Girls’ School?” (CGS is: Community/Technology/”Go Girls”) and featuring several of the students speaking about the program. The video showed the process the girls went thorough in creating the final version of the Go Girls poster with their 6 main themes: Identity, Diversity, Building Relationships, Finding a Voice, Gender Equality and Community Building.

1.5 Education Research Update – Almadina ELL Coordinator Tina Grus and Consultant Kama Truch (The Reading Foundation) detailed their “Discover Reading” project and research (2012-2016) aimed to help every ELL student reach his/her reading potential. “Discover Reading” is supplemented with “Discover Meaning” to effect positive learning gains in both decoding and comprehension, to the point where most students have reached grade level. Almadina has issued an invitation to learn about their strategies at their “Literacy Event” to be held at the Ogden Campus on May 24, 2016, 8:15-11:30 a.m. (\$50. registration fee).

## 2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

2.1 Charter Board Directors' Report – CBD Chair Jolene Kochendorfer reported that the Directors met for 1½ hours the previous day. 1. The main topic of discussion was how charter schools fit in the NDP's education plans for the future, and what strategies Boards might use to positively influence this. The suggestion was made that some effort to “brand” ourselves, according the 4 key messages given to us by Ember RJ in October, would be helpful. 2. Phil Butterfield presented the Directors with information on the research and paper on which he and Lynn Bosetti had collaborated. 3. There was also discussion of how meetings might be better timed to increase participation; this will be looked at further.

2.2 Regional Collaborative Service Delivery – RCSD is comprised of an Executive and Working Committee; the Terms of Reference for the former call for a Superintendent to sit as a member. Phil Butterfield has asked if there is any interest among the Calgary area Superintendents in doing so.

2.3 External Diploma Exams Committee – No report.

2.4 Superintendents' Report – Topics discussed: 1. Uncertainty over the future of charter schools under this government. In this respect, Dale B. talked about the research model being used by the north charters and how we need to “own” the research piece, and Judy G. informed the group that their proposal for Re-Think was turned down (along with one other), 2. The data from the Strategic Planning exercise was presented; the 3 themes/goals that have emerged are Communication, TAAPCS (ideal state) and the Research Mandate, 3. Phil B. presented Butterfield/Bosetti research, 4. SIS/Pasi compliance, 5. Inclusive Ed, 6. Regional Collaborative Services, and 7. the “Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe and Learning and Working Environments” policy mandated by AE.

**Special Activity - Strategic Planning Follow-up** – Dianne McBeth presented the preliminary findings from the initial stage of our strategic planning exercise. Ideas put forward regarding our mission were distilled into a few statements (requiring further refinement), our primary successes and challenges were identified, and three areas were identified as goals areas (see Item 2.4.2 above). Participants formed groups to discuss one of the 3 goals at each table and feedback was gathered. Work will continue at our next meeting.

**Special Presentation - Research Mandate/Framework** – Dale Bischoff reported on the strategies being employed by the Edmonton area charters to ensure that our research mandate is being fulfilled as per government expectations/requirements. They have created a “Community of Practice” within which there is agreement to encourage action and academic research by ensuring that support is provided and partnerships are forged with external institutions. The rationale for this was given in 5 points: 1. fulfillment of the government mandate, 2. improve instructional practice/student learning, 3. support reflective practice to enhance a professional culture, 4. enhance school instructional priorities, and 5. promote collaborative partnerships in Edmonton charter schools, with the goals of: 1. Creating schools where teachers engage actively in the process of Action Research, 2. demystifying research so that teachers can create evidence-based practice that empowers teachers to better study their own teaching practice and to improve it, and 3. Engaging teachers as agents in their own teacher professional learning. Some examples of research to date were provided.

## 3. EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

3.1 SLLI Update - 25 people took part in the October session; these are being planned and facilitated by our own school administrators. Remaining meetings (Fri. Apr. 8, Wed. May 25) will be the final ones pending budget re-examinations.

3.2 Conference 2015 Report – 482 people attended; not all fees have been collected yet. It is expected that we will see a slight shortfall from this event.

3.3 Leadership Standards Update/Discussion – James Trodden from EA has been gathering feedback on the 2 draft documents (TQS and Leadership Standards) which correspond with the AE Business Plan calling for quality teachers and leaders, and FNMI success. School Authority Standards are a new element that will be added as well. Implementation support plans for each practice standard will be in development from April to June 2016. TAAPCS input is being provided by Dale Bischoff through the Deputy Minister’s Advisory Committee, and on the External Working (Writing) Committee by Susan Chomistek, and through meetings with Connect and FFCA (to this point).

3.4 Request to meet with Minister of Education – A letter bearing the signatures of all 13 Charter Board Chairs was sent in early January to Minister Eggen requesting a meeting; no response has yet been received.

Several members offered their stories of recent dealings with the Ministry on various issues, such as facilities. Some of the disturbing “signs” that have been noted are 1. Delays in capital projects, 2. Denied applications for new charters, 3. Failure to be included in discussion groups/committees, 4. Enforcement of enrolment caps, and 5. Lack of responsiveness (to requests for meetings, etc.). Three charters are up for renewal; responses are expected by mid-February and should be very telling.

Both a Plan A (in the event that we are able to schedule a meeting) and a Plan B (in the event that we hear nothing back or that there is a refusal to meet) need to be developed. Plan A – Who should participate? (Board Chairs and Superintendents) What should the agenda be? (2 things – vision for charter schools and clarification of research expectations – were seen as priorities.) Plan B – How long do we wait for a response? (1-2 weeks?) What if we are denied a meeting? (Request should be made to explain the reason.)

It was agreed that we need to call to ascertain the status of our request and that, in the meantime, Directors need to be calling for appointments for their individual schools. The Executive will confer by phone to formulate a plan within the next 2 weeks. It was agreed that some sort of PR campaign might be helpful in increasing awareness of the success of charter schools.

**16/15/01-03** M/C to engage a consultant to advise TAAPCS on a public relations and communications strategy to be funded by TAAPCS.  
*Geordie MacPherson*  
*John Liu*

**16/15/01-04** M/C that the 2015-16 TAAPCS budget be amended to include \$50,000 (inclusive of consulting fees) for a PR campaign.  
*Dianne McBeth*  
*John Liu*

3.5 Messages to stakeholders – These will be considered in consultation with the PR strategist.

#### **4. ALBERTA EDUCATION REPORT**

4.1 Ed. Act/Regulations update: Consultations took place in October regarding residency, age of access and school fees; input is being analyzed. There is no official date for proclamation of the new *Education Act* as yet.

4.2 SLA’s Pilot Results – Lots of feedback was received on the Gr. 3 pilots, in which almost all charters participated. The potential extension for another year is currently being considered; this will be decided in February and communicated in early March. These deliberations will include a larger

conversation around the assurance piece.

4.3 Alberta Mental Health Review results – There were 100 written and 2900 online responses to this survey; data has been compiled and the draft report submitted in December is being reviewed.

4.4 Facilities update – No report.

4.5 Inclusive Education Funding – Almadina had provided AE with a proposal, which has gone to Finance and is under consideration. More will be known with the release of the budget.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 The Politics of Educational Reform: The Alberta Charter School Experiment 20 Years later - Information on the Butterfield/Bosetti research will be available on the TAAPCS website.

5.2 Fee structure proposal

**16/15/01-05** M/C that the revised 2016-17 TAAPCS Dues Schedule be adopted as follows:

<i>Don Falk</i>	Type of School	Annual Dues	Schools
<i>Roger Nippard</i>	S: 2-200	\$2200	BSEC, MECCS, NH
	S/M: 201-400	\$2400	CAPE, Valhalla, Suzuki
	M: 401-600	\$2700	CAA
	M/L: 601-800	\$3100	Connect, Aurora, CGS
	L: 801+	\$3600	FFCA, Almadina, Westmount

5.3 Website update – Work is continuing.

5.4 Collaborative Policy Development – Members are encouraged to share their work in relation to the development of policies, particularly those that are required to support the new *Education Act* when it is proclaimed. Thanks to those who have already been doing so!

5.5 Evaluation Procedures re: meetings, Executive Director – Dianne will be preparing a questionnaire to solicit feedback on our meetings and on the role of the Executive Director, and subsequently on the role of TAAPCS.

5.6 Environmental, Energy and Outdoor Literacy Proposal – Hal Curties brought forward a proposal submitted by Jeff Reading to advance environmental, energy and outdoor literacy in students, staff and communities, to be funded jointly by TAAPCS members. This will be discussed at the Feb. 26 EAC meeting.

**6. MEETING REMINDERS:** May 5, 6, 2016 Regular Meeting (Edmonton)

**7. EAC MEETING SCHEDULE:** Feb. 26, Apr. 8, June 10

**8. REMAINING SLLI SESSION DATES:** Friday April 8, Wednesday May 25

**ADJOURNMENT:** 3:10 p.m.