



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 18, 2013
Sheraton Hotel, Red Deer

1	AB ED	Marlene Lambe	Ed. Mngr, Zone 5	(403) 297-5022	marlene.lambe@gov.ab.ca
2	AB ED	Richard Arnold	Bus. Oper. Mgr.	(780) 422-6062	richard.arnold@gov.ab.ca
3	AB ED	Randy Clarke	Zone 5 Director	(780) 427-5382	randy.clarke@gov.ab.ca
4	Almadina	Yvonne DePeel	Superintendent	(403) 543-5078	ydepeel@esl-almadina.com
5	Almadina	Haytham Ghouriri	Board Chair	(403) 264-3023	hghouriri@hotmail.com
6	Almadina	Issa Mosa	Director	(403) 273-3534	issamosa197@hotmail.com
7	Aurora	Dale Bischoff	Superintendent	(403) 454-1855	dbischoff@auroraschool.com
8	Aurora	Ian Gray	Principal	(403) 454-1855	igray@auroraschool.com
9	Aurora	Marianne Grohn	Board Chair	(780) 459-3311	marianne.grohn@gmail.com
10	BSEC	John Brosseau	Superintendent	(780) 466-5946	jbrosseau@telus.net
11	CAA	Josh Van Beers	Principal	(403) 229-3010	jvanbeers@calgaryartsacademy.com
12	CAA	Jan Jordan	Sec./Treasurer	(403) 532-3020	jjordan@calgaryartsacademy.com
13	CAA	Janice Nigh	Director		jnigh@calgaryartsacademy.com
14	CAPE	Teresa Di Ninno	Superintendent	(403) 528-2983	tdininno@capeisgreat.org
15	CAPE	Riaan Swiegers	Board Chair	(403) 580-5703	riaan50@telus.net
16	CGS	Sue Ditchburn	Superintendent	(403) 252-0702	susan.ditchburn@calgarygirlsschool.com
17	CGS	Geordie MacPherson	Director	(403) 589-4175	gpmacpherson@gmail.com
18	CGS	Judi Hadden	Principal	(403) 252-0702	judi.hadden@calgarygirlsschool.com
19	CSS	Garry McKinnon	Superintendent	(403) 282-2890	garry.m@calgaryscienceschool.com
20	CSS	Wendy Baillie	Director		wendybaillie4@gmail.com
21	CSS	Stephanie Davis	Director	(403) 246-5585	mdavis@nucleus.com
22	CSS	Myra Penberthy	Sec./Treasurer	(403) 282-2890	myra.p@calgaryscienceschool.com
23	FFCA	Jay Pritchard	Superintendent	(403) 520-3206	jay.pritchard@ffca-calgary.com
24	FFCA	Meredith Poole	Exec.Asst.	(403) 520-3206	meredith.poole@ffca-calgary.com
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26	FFCA	Justin Kool	SWE Principal	(403) 259-3527	justin.kool@ffca-calgary.com
27	FFCA	Lorie Skaper-Burtch	Coord. Instr.	(403) 520-3206	lorie.skaper-burtch@ffca-calgary.com
28	FFCA	Cathy McCauley	Coord. Sch. Dev.	(403) 520-3206	cathy.mccauley@ffca-calgary.com
29	FFCA	Denise Budgen	NWE Principal	(403) 282-5202	denise.budgen@ffca-calgary.com
30	New Hor	Don Falk	Superintendent	(587) 877-5618	dbfalk@shaw.ca
31	New Hor	Jay-Lynn Loh	Director	(780) 640-5250	jaylynn@shaw.ca
32	New Hor	Ted Zarowny	Principal	(780) 467-6409	tzarowny@newhorizons.ab.ca
33	Suzuki	Heather Christison	Sec./ Treasurer	(780) 468-2598	christison@suzukischool.com
34	Suzuki	Arthur Guimaraes	Vice-Chair	(780) 392-3727	guimaraesa@suzukischool.ca
35	TAAPCS	Garry Andrews	Exec Director	(403) 331-7750	andrews.garry@gmail.com
36	U. of C.	Gene Kowch	Special Guest	(403) 220-5636	ekowch@ucalgary.ca
37	Valhalla	John Picard	Superintendent	(403) 827-5040	jpgicard@valhallaschool.ca
38	Westmount	Joe Frank	Superintendent	(403) 217-0426	joe.frank@westmountcharter.com
39	Westmount	John Liu	Sec./ Treasurer	(403) 217-0426	johnathan.liu@westmountcharter.com
40	Westmount	Hal Curties	Principal	(403) 217-0426	hal.curties@westmountcharter.com

1. CALL TO ORDER – Jay Pritchard called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Appreciation was expressed to the Calgary Girls’ School for providing the entertainment and to Suzuki School for providing the door prizes. A special thank you went to the Calgary Arts Academy who changed things up in a delightful way and provided themed specialty coffees in the hospitality room – so creative, and so delicious!

1.1 Introductions - Attendees introduced themselves with their position and organizational affiliation.

1.2 Consideration of Agenda – No changes.

1.3 Approval of Minutes

#13/18/01-01

M/C to adopt the minutes of the Oct. 19, 2012 regular meeting as presented.

Sue Ditchburn

Joe Frank

1.4 Financial Report (handout)

#13/18/01-02

M/C to adopt the September-November 2012 financial report as presented.

Myra Penberthy

Bill McGregor

1.5 School Spotlight - New Horizons’ principal Ted Zarowny treated us to “A New Horizons School Production” which began very dramatically and highlighted the goals of the school: 1. improved student learning, 2. student benefit from positive social interactions, and 3. support of student emotional needs. New Horizons students take part in a social contract that is based on ideas about “how we want to be with each other”. The school is currently engaged in action research associated with their accelerated math program.

2. Committee Reports

2.1 ESL – See handout from our new ESL rep, Lorie Skaper-Burtch (FFCA), detailing the progress made at the Oct. 19, 2012 meeting of the ESL Advisory Committee.

2.2 Administrators’ Group - Administrators have begun to engage in inter-school visits as part of the School Leadership Learning Initiative. Denise Budgen reported on her enlightening visit to the Calgary Science School, and it was suggested that these visits, and the blogs which are being encouraged, will result in a stronger sense of community among our diverse members. The group is also focusing on making the Leadership Competencies into a living document which will have relevance beyond charter schools. Regular meetings of the Administrators’ Group will resume next fall.

2.3 Board Chairs’ Committee – Yesterday’s meeting was well attended by Board members. Support was expressed for the proposed regulation changes, which are to be reviewed by each Charter School Board before being brought to the regular May meeting for further discussion. The committee is looking for a new chair; if you are interested, please talk to Garry Andrews.

2.4 Workforce Planning – Garry McKinnon reported that the next meeting of the committee will be held next week, after which he will prepare a written report. Garry is enjoying representing the association on this committee which features open debate and little ‘turfdom’. The committee is looking at how to attract, prepare and retain excellent teachers, as well as examining current issues (e.g. learner & leadership competencies).

2.5 Dialogue on Teaching Quality – The upcoming meeting has been cancelled due to the imminent departure of Deputy Minister Tim Wiles. Garry McKinnon expressed the hope that these dialogues will resume.

2.6 Education Research Update – Dale Bischoff reported on the research that is being conducted by Aurora Charter School: 1. School Effectiveness Review in support of their 15-year charter application examining areas in which the school is doing well, what might be improved, and what can inform planning for the future (report will be available in May or June, 2013), and 2. ICT Implementation Review to inform the development of a planning document. Baseline information related to attitudes, use of resources, PD needs, school culture and leadership needs is currently being collected; this should be complete by the end of the school year. Almadina has offered to present on their research initiatives at our May meeting.

3. Update from Alberta Education

3.1 Regulatory Review – Marlene Lambe will be the department lead for the regulatory review process which will include on-line, written, and face-to-face consultations. The government approval process is scheduled to begin in December 2013; school authorities will have an opportunity to realign their policies and procedures in the 2014-15 school year. The current Act will be in force until September 2015. The point was made that TAAPCS would appreciate being involved right from the start of the consultations.

3.2 Inclusive Education Funding – Charter schools were consulted with regard to their inclusive education needs during November and December, 2012, and a report has been made to the Assistant Deputy Minister. The decision on whether the lack of equitable charter school Inclusive Education Funding will be redressed will be communicated in the budget announcement.

3.3 Tripartite Agreement – Talks to date have not been productive, and are likely not to be.

SPECIAL GUEST

MR. TIM WILES, DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION

Mr. Wiles reported that Minister Johnson is a “big supporter” of charter schools and that they are “here to stay”. The Inspiring Education report is the touchstone document that is guiding the direction of the department; fundamental to this is the focus on the student and the 3 “E’s” (“Engaged thinkers and Ethical citizens with an Entrepreneurial spirit”). February will see a focus on the Teaching Profession Act and the Employment of Teachers, and later in the year the department will be working on student learning outcomes and curriculum. The more significant changes in the new Education Act are that it 1. does a better job of laying out the responsibilities of all parties, 2. directly addresses bullying, and 3. increases awareness of the importance of education. Mr. Wiles reported that the tripartite negotiations were a difficult process, with the work load issue being the major bone of contention, but the Minister would welcome the opportunity to re-engage. With regard to the facility issues that plague charter schools, Mr. Wiles commented that there is pressure all across the system, most notably in the high growth communities, and that this continues to be something that is constrained by limited resources.

4. **Directors’ Forum** – Participants got together in small groups to share and discuss 1. the compositions of their respective Boards and their advantages/disadvantages, and 2. their opinions about the format and timing of the TAAPCS meetings (Garry will take a list of suggestions to the next EAC meeting).

5. Education Advisory Committee (EAC) Report

5.1 Insurance – TAAPCS now has Directors’ and Officers’ Insurance (\$2 million at an annual cost of \$1750) purchased through LloydSadd. Thanks to Heather for taking the lead on this.

5.2 Leadership Project – Two of the four sessions have been held. Inter-school visitations are in process, and blogging and journaling are being encouraged. The latter helps to encourage ongoing dialogue and will be useful in the preparation of the final report. Contact Scott Petronech at CSS if you are having blogging difficulties.

5.3 U. of C. Research – Special guest Gene Kowch reported on the U. of C. “respectful, truthful and independent” research into what makes charter schools successful, and how we can build on that success. They hope to use these findings to formulate a model to chart the growth of emergent organizations in situations of high change potential. It certainly sounds like an extremely thorough and professional job is being done despite the limited resources we were able to provide! An interim report will be available at our May meeting.

5.4 Regulation Sub-Committee – Garry Andrews went through the document and recommendations that resulted from the recent committee meeting. Members of the committee are himself, Jay Pritchard, Judy Gray, Joe Frank and Sue Ditchburn.

5.5 Regional Collaborative Service Delivery (RCSD) – See Cathy McCauley’s handout which presents an overview of this initiative to create a continuum of supports and services which will facilitate access to medical, psychological, learning, social/behavioural, communication, etc., services for vulnerable children. Cathy is the rep for the Calgary area and encouraged others to get involved in this – admittedly “messy” – work in their own jurisdictions.

6. New Business

6.1 Budget Proposal – Thanks to Heather Christison for presenting a budget document based on deliberations which took place at the October meeting. This budget proposes no increases in fees, but these will likely appear in the October 2013-14 budget.

#13/18/01-03

M/C to adopt 2012-2013 TAAPCS budget as presented.

Dale Bischoff

Johnathan Liu

6.2 Revised Brochure – Meredith presented the latest draft of the TAAPCS brochure for any further edits. An email will be circulated to request quantities.

6.3 Conference 2013 – The Calgary Girls’ School will host the 2013 conference, the theme of which is “Living the Challenge of Transforming Education”. Facilitators are being solicited from all schools. The program will be available at the May meeting and will include offerings for Secretary-Treasurers and Directors.

7. Reminders

7.1 May 2/3, 2013 (Stony Plain): Entertainment – Suzuki; Door Prizes – Valhalla; Hospitality – Aurora; School Spotlight – FFCA

Oct. 17/18, 2013 (Calgary) – Volunteers TBD.

Adjournment 2:15 p.m.