



**The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools  
Jan. 16, 2015  
Sheraton Red Deer, Red Deer, Alberta**

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Westmount	Tun Myo	Director		

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Introductions – Thanks were expressed to FFCA for the entertaining video showcasing their Performing Arts Program, and for providing the draw prizes for this meeting. Thank you also to Almadina Language Charter Academy for their gracious hospitality after dinner.

1.2 Consideration of Agenda – All committee reports were moved to the end of the agenda.

1.3 Approval of Minutes

**#15/16/01-01** M/C to approve the minutes of the Oct. 24, 2014 regular meeting as

*Anita LeMoignan* presented.

*Bill McGregor*

1.4 Bank Report - Distributed.

1.5 Research Report/School Spotlight – Westmount Charter School gave a very informative presentation titled *Solving the Mystery: Unlocking Creativity in the Gifted Child*, describing their project devoted to increasing the writing skills of their students. The project looked at the cognitive, linguistic and neuromotor components of writing in an attempt to mitigate the imaginational, intellectual and emotional “over-excitabilities” to which gifted students are often prone. Results have been very positive. Westmount also presented the School Spotlight “Gifted Education from the Inside Out” – forwarded with minutes.

### **SPECIAL ACTIVITY: REGULATIONS REVIEW**

Maureen Towns, former Crown Prosecutor, Elk Island Trustee and Director for Legislative Services gave us an overview (including handout) of the as-yet-unproclaimed *Education Act* that we might better understand the context of the proposed regulation changes. Don Falk then took over and explained that apart from the Charter School Regulation itself, there are four others to which we need to pay particular attention: the Board Procedures Regulation (new), the Investment Regulation (new), the School Fees Regulation (new) and the ECS Entry Age Regulation. He also distributed an annotated version of our submission of June 2013 outlining what we had hoped to see included in the revised regs, and showing where our requests had been addressed (or not). It was agreed that the Association would put together a response based on the morning’s discussions; Garry Andrews will draft and send to members for feedback.

## 2. TAAPCS STRATEGIC DIRECTION

2.1 Partnerships - Garry commented that, after having done some research into American charter

schools, we may be more like them than we think. The impetus for his investigation was the U. of C. Research Report that noted our unsuccessful attempts to form partnerships with other education and community organizations in Alberta. Is there potential for partnerships south of the border?

## 2.2 Resolutions: Mission, Guiding Principles, Roles

**#15/16/01-02** Be it resolved that the Board of Directors for The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools amend its by-law regarding the President by deleting:  
*Falk*  
*Dale Bischoff* “The President will serve as chief executive officer of the Association and will have the powers and duties as prescribed by the Board of Directors.”  
*Carried.*

**#15/16/01-03** Be it resolved that the Board of Directors for the Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools amend its by-law regarding the Executive Director to read:  
*Bill McGregor*  
*Roger Nippard* “The Executive Director will be engaged by the Association and will serve as chief executive officer. He/she will perform the duties assigned by the Board of directors and will report to the Executive Officers of the Association.”  
*Carried.*

**#15/16/01-04** Be it resolved that the Board of Directors for the Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools adopt as its mission statement:  
*Don Falk*  
*Bill McGregor* “To strengthen education for Alberta’s students by supporting and advocating for high quality public charter schools.”  
*Carried.*

**#15/16/01-05** Be it resolved that the Board of Directors for The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools affirm as its operational guiding principles the following:  
*John Liu*  
*Judy Gray*  
1. Nimble and flexible governance  
2. Learning focused leadership  
3. Meaningful public participation in support of high levels of student success  
4. Rigorously collaborative .  
*Carried.*

**#15/16/01-06** Be it resolved that the Board of Directors for The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools affirm the following as its objectives:  
*Dale Bischoff*  
*Joe Frank*  
1. To promote and facilitate public charter school education in Alberta  
2. To advocate collectively and effectively on behalf of the membership  
3. To promote a forum for public charter schools to meet in support of common goals  
4. To advocate for continued innovation and choice within public education.  
*Carried.*

**#15/16/01-07** Be it resolved that a fifth bullet be added to the revised statement of objectives as follows:  
*Bill McGregor*  
*Don Falk*  
5. To promote and facilitate a forum for dialogue among elected officials Alberta education and the public charter school community.  
*Carried.*

**#15/16/01-08** Be it resolved that the Board of Directors for The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools approve the revisions to the duties of its Executive Director as indicated below  
*Bill McGregor*  
*Teresa DiNinno* *Carried.*

1. **Serve as the chief executive officer of the association**
2. Assist in **developing and** supporting the goals, objectives and strategies of the association

### **3. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

3.1 Charter Board Directors - Jolene Kochendorfer reported on the discussion items from the previous day's meeting: 1. FFCA's Preferred Future process, 2. Board and Superintendent Evaluation, and 3. school choice and competition (CGS). They are currently trying to determine how best to encourage increased participation by Directors, and preparing for their audience with Capital Caucus on Friday January 23.

3.2 Regional Collaborative Service Delivery - Phil Butterfield is our new rep and is trying to "get up to speed" after having attended one orientation meeting. He will be attending an urgent meeting next week which has been called to deal with a disagreement over the distribution of the \$15 million in funds (i.e. census vs. complexity model). He warns that charter schools should be prepared for a reduction in funds.

### **4. UPDATE FROM ALBERTA EDUCATION**

4.1 Assistance in adapting to new *Education Act* - Pam Halverson commended the group on having Maureen Towns present on the new act, and collaborating on a response to the proposed regulations. She mentioned that there is a small team at AE working on creating supports.

4.2 New Minister's priorities? Deputy Minister? – The department is looking at establishing work and staffing priorities going forward based on the Ministerial Order on Student Learning.

4.3 "Inspired Curriculum" – implication for charter schools – The "Inspired Curriculum" emerged from the CBE-led prototyping group; it will be reviewed by the department but must meet 2 essential criteria: attend to the basics and incorporate 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. PD support will be offered.

4.4 SLA's – The Gr. 3 pilot is being evaluated and the data being used to inform the Gr. 6 roll-out. The original timeline is still in effect.

4.5 Weighting of diploma exams – The Minister will be looking for feedback on this at his Feb. 4 meeting with charter schools.

4.6 Funding for capital projects/ownership update – Advice was given to keep completing Capital Plans. Several charters have had projects approved; hopefully this is indicative of a trend(?).

4.7 Task Force for Teaching Excellence. Status? - A branch has been formed to work on this and is currently waiting for some direction.

### **5. EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EAC) REPORT**

5.1 Conference 2015 – The date set is October 30, 2015, and the registration fee will once more be held to \$50 per attendee. Calgary Girls' School has graciously offered to host again.

5.2 Inclusive Education Funding – The meeting requested with Gene Williams has been cancelled and no new date set. This will be raised at the Feb. 4 meeting of charter schools with the Minister.

5.3 CASS Conference Presentations – TAAPCS has been asked to submit proposals for the March 11-13 conference and there are a couple of possibilities: the School Leadership Learning project (Jim Brandon) and “Charter Schools 101”.

5.4 Update re: Leadership Learning Initiative – We are currently in Year 3; remaining sessions this year are March 19 at the Deerfoot Inn in Calgary, and May 8\* in Medicine Hat. The January on-line session with Michael Fullan had to be cancelled but will be rescheduled.

(\*This represents a date change; it was agreed that the dates of our regular meeting and SLL session should be rearranged such that those who wanted to attend both would not have a “down” day in between. See Item 7.1 below.)

5.5 Bosetti/Butterfield Research – handout. This research follows up on the role and impact of charter schools 20 years in, and the implications for their future. 45-minute interviews will be scheduled with key stakeholders. Please contact Phil Butterfield ([phil.b@connectcharter.ca](mailto:phil.b@connectcharter.ca)) if you would like to participate.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Request to meet with Minister and Deputy Minister – The Deputy Minister will not be present at his Feb. 4 meeting of Superintendents and Board Chairs with the Minister in Edmonton.

6.2 Request for Review of Fees – MECCS has requested a reduction in relation to their membership dues to the level they were assessed two years ago. This was agreed to by the members.

**#15/16/01-09** Be it resolved that the TAAPCS Executive Officers create a process to receive and  
*Roger Nippard* consider requests for reduction or waiver of association membership dues.  
*John Liu* Carried.

## 7. MEETING REMINDERS

7.1 May 6/7, 2015 Regular Meeting (Medicine Hat): Entertainment – CAPE; Door Prizes – CAPE; Hospitality – CAPE; School Spotlight – CAPE; Research Report – CAPE

7.2 October 28/29, 2015 (Calgary): Entertainment – ?; Door Prizes – Almadina; Hospitality – New Horizons; School Spotlight – ?; Research Report –Suzuki

7.3 EAC Meeting Schedule (Red Deer): February 20, April 17, and June 5, 2015

**ADJOURNMENT:** 2:44 p.m.