



**The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools
Saturday, January 21, 2017
Sheraton Red Deer Hotel
3310 – 50 Ave., Red Deer, AB**

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Marlene Lambe, Yvonne DePeel, Haytham Ghouriri, Abdul Aziz Houmsi, Samir Jalloul, Mohamed Salih, Issa Mosa, Sohail Sherwani, Dale Bischoff, Paola Mayo, Shamir Mukhi, Dale Erickson, Paul Knapp, Jan Jordan, Dianne McBeth, Geordie MacPherson, Wayne Marshall, Susan Chomistek, Denise Kitagawa, Roger Nippard, Kurtis Leinweber, Cindy McGlashan-Beaucage, Shelley Schroh, Pamela Wilson, Wayne Weinheimer, Lorie Skaper-Burtch, Cristian Rios, Meredith Poole, Ed Wittchen, Don Falk, Michelle Macdonald, Heather Christison, Boris Vidal, Jen Garrison, Rene de Meulles, Jason Gariepy, John Picard, Joe Frank, John Liu, Linda Finlay, Tun Myo, Hal Curties

BREAKFAST – 7:45 a.m.

Celebration of Charter Schools - Spotlight: Aurora School
Superintendent Dale Bischoff presented a video celebrating Aurora's proud 20-year history and the opening of a newly-constructed wing devoted to their Learning Commons. The video featured comments and endorsements from students, staff, parents and Board members, and was a great testament to the success of the school, and why they have a waiting list of 5000!

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER - 8:45 a.m.

1.1 Introductions: Co-President Dianne introduced our new Executive Director Kath Rhyason, who is doing an admirable job of mastering a steep learning curve, and had a few new participants introduce themselves. She also expressed appreciation for the wonderful entertainment provided by the adult choir of the Calgary Arts Academy at dinner the previous evening.

1.2 Consideration of Agenda

#17/21/01-01 M/C to remove Item 1.4 Financial Report from the agenda.

Joe Frank

Denise Kitagawa

1.3 Approval of Minutes

#17/21/01-02 M/C to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2016 regular meeting as presented.

Boris Vidal

Paul Knapp

2. REPORTS

2.1 Charter Board Directors' Report – Co-Chair Paul Knapp reported that in their meeting the previous day, most of the discussion had centered on the proposed Organization Chart. The Directors are in agreement with the concept of Board members being represented on the TAPPCS Board, and Superintendents and Secretary-Treasurers assuming the role of Officers. Some discussion occurred regarding the importance of advocacy as a function of governance (i.e. “governance to governance” conversations).

2.2 Officers' Report – Since the last meeting, the primary activities have been 1. the search for/engagement of our Executive Director, 2. the review and call for input related to our bylaws, and 3. the creation of an organizational chart that reflects the revised bylaws and the new direction of the Association. Dianne introduced the TAAPCS Officers, as well as the Co-Chairs of the Charter Board Directors' Committee, Boris Vidal and Paul Knapp. Topics of discussion at the previous day's Superintendents' meeting included the proposed organization chart & bylaws, fee structure options, a report on Inclusion, the status of our grant application, OH&S, and our Research Grant proposal, as well as additional items from the floor related to the 2017 Conference, appeals regarding student matters, enrolment caps. Superintendents supported a recommendation that all TAAPCS correspondence would be sent to them for distribution within their organizations. This eliminates the confusion of multiple mailing lists based on prior attendance at meetings.

2.3 EAC Report - Since much of what EAC does is prepare the ground for the regular meeting agendas, most of what was discussed at the Nov. 18 meeting will be on today's agenda. In addition the committee considered the purpose & intent of EAC, the 2017 conference, government dynamics and the role of government as they impact our association, and our research mandate.

2.4 School Leadership Learning Initiative – The surplus that remains in the SLL account may not be used without the approval of AE and we have not received this yet. In the meantime, there is a March 10 session scheduled at Connect primarily on Inclusion, but also to discuss the School Leadership Quality Standards, and a May 23 session at MECCS on FNMI.

2.5 Alberta Education Field Services – Marlene reported that the December issue of the Director's Report was the last, as AE is reviewing its communication tools and looking at potentially more effective ways to connect with stakeholders. Current initiatives include: 1. Curriculum Development - responses to the fall survey have been analyzed and will be on the AE website in a month or so. Work on scope & sequence will begin later this year with more opportunities for consultation. 2. Alberta Research Network Call for Proposals – most charter schools have representation on that network and it is a great way to connect to post-secondary research opportunities. 3. New supports around math to improve math education. 4. Flexible timing on Gr. 6 & 9 provincial achievement test administration. 5. Royal Assent of Public Health Amendments Act aimed at improving immunization services and increasing immunization rates. 6. “Future Ready”, which is Alberta's new, integrated approach to education, skills and training “from kindergarten to career” in all areas of government.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Presentation of Organizational Chart – Refer to attachment. A suggestion was made to create a single box for Administration which would include the Officers, Executive Advisory Committee and Executive Director. The effect would mirror the Governance box and clarify that the reporting relationship to the Board is through the Administration. Consensus supported this change for clarification. Committees shown on the chart are suggestions.

3.2 Bylaws

3.2.1 Background to Revised Bylaws – The version of the bylaws presented for approval at this meeting has evolved over several meetings and input gathered since the priority goal “to improve governance” was identified in the Strategic Planning process of October 2015. “Draft 2” was completed and circulated in Dec. 2016 and tries to negotiate a “middle ground” in recognition of disparate feedback from various sources.

3.2.2 Presentation of Bylaws (Revised) – Displayed on screen: please note that a “Definitions” page was added since Draft 2 was circulated, as well as the wording that appeared in blue.

3.2.3 Special Resolution

#17/21/01-03 M/C that the existing bylaws of The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools Society are repealed in their entirety and are replaced with the bylaws attached hereto as Appendix A.
Paul Knapp
Geordie MacPherson

#17/21/01-04 M/C that the Committee be authorized to correct article and section designations, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, and cross-references, and to make other such technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the Association.
Haytham Ghouriri
Geordie MacPherson

3.3 Communications Strategy – Roger Nippard led a discussion of the results of our Hill+Knowlton communications strategy and what our next steps should be; various opinions/suggestions were offered as to how aggressive we should be going forward and whether we should expend any more of the allocated funds at this time. It was generally agreed that the goals for the communications committee were achieved (i.e. opportunity to meet with the Minister of Education, budget confirmation of continued support for charter schools, assurance that the Minister had no plans to eliminate the TAAPCS member schools, support for the TAAPCS request to be “at the table” for any discussions regarding charter schools, and next steps in the Communications Strategy. A next step includes a detailed plan, forthcoming from a proposed communications committee, along with a proposed budget for achieving the plan. Any further expenditure on Communications depends on budget approval.

4. NEW BUSINESS (& discussion)

4.1 Presentation of Budget 2016-17 – See attachment presenting Draft Budget based on Options A, B & C. Each results in a significantly different financial position for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

4.2 Membership Fees – Option A is status quo, Option B offers alternatives based on student FTE’s, Option C is a combination of Basic Fee plus FTE assessment.

4.3 Motion to Approve the Fees

#17/21/01-05 M/C to approve Membership Fee Option A for the 2016-17 fiscal year.
Cindy McGlashan-Beaucage
Linda Finlay

#17/21/01-06 M/C that the meeting be extended until 2:30 p.m. to enable completion of the agenda items.
Haytham Ghouriri
Paul Knapp

#17/21/01-07
Cindy McGlashan-Beaucage
Michelle Macdonald M/D that the Association commit up to \$33,000 from the accumulated operating surplus to the development and implementation of a communications initiative focused on 1. creating greater understanding of and support for Alberta charter schools among Alberta citizens, and 2. enabling the Association to achieve its key strategic objectives.

Paul Knapp
No seconder
Without a seconder, the amendment was not considered. Proposed amendment – that the amount specified in the above motion be reduced to \$29,000.

#17/21/01-08
Boris Vidal
Geordie MacPherson M/C that a committee be formed to determine a Fee Structure to be presented at the May general meeting.
Note: Heather will put out a call for volunteers through Superintendents.

#17/21/01-09
Denise Kitagawa
Geordie MacPherson M/C that the aforementioned committee commence prior to May in order that they may bring spending recommendations to the May general meeting.

4.4 Motion to Approve Budget 2016-17

#17/21/01-10
Haytham Ghouriri
Paul Knapp M/C to approve the budget containing Membership Fee Option A.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – As per the favourable feedback received to this suggestion last fall, John Picard reminded the membership that Valhalla Community School is looking forward to hosting our May meeting. Further information will be forthcoming as to accommodation and transportation.

#17/21/01-11
Geordie MacPherson
Michelle Macdonald M/C that the May TAAPCS meeting be held on May 12/13, i.e. Friday/Saturday.

6. ADJOURNMENT: 2:30 p.m.

Notice of Important Dates - 2017

- TAAPCS Regular Meeting: May 12/13 (Valhalla Centre)
- TAAPCS Biennial Conference: October 27 (Aurora School Hosts)
- TAAPCS EAC Meetings: March 3, April 17, June 9
- SLL Sessions: March 10 (R. Clarke), May 23 (Mother Earth – L. Guthro), 3rd TBD

Other Events by TAAPCS Member Organizations

Calgary Area: (Contact CGS at 403-252-0702)

- Board Development Seminar #2 January 24 with B. Kallal
- Board Development Seminar #3 March 23 with Communications Consultant

Edmonton Area: (Contact Heather Christison at 780-468-2598 or christison@suzukischool.ca)
Effective Meetings Seminar Thursday March 9, 2017. Dinner at 5:30, Session 6:00-8:30
Suzuki Charter School 10720 – 54 St.