



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 3, 2013
Mother Earth's Children's Charter School
Stony Plain, AB

	Affiliation	Name	Position	Phone	E-mail
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
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4	AB ED	Dean Lindquist	ADM		dean.lindquist@gov.ab.ca
	AB ED	Linda Antunes	ADM Asst.		linda.antunes@gov.ab.ca
5	Almadina	Yvonne DePeel	Superintendent	(403) 543-5078	ydepeel@esl-almadina.com
6	Almadina	Gail Reid	ESL Coordinator	(403) 543-5074	greid@esl-almadina.com
8	Aurora	Dale Bischoff	Superintendent	(403) 454-1855	dbischoff@auroraschool.com
9	Aurora	Ian Gray	Principal	(403) 454-1855	igray@auroraschool.com
10	Aurora	Marianne Grohn	Board Chair	(780) 459-3311	marianne.grohn@gmail.com
11	Aurora	Lynn LeBlanc	Director	(780) 481-5625	mgrohn@auroraschool.com
13	BSEC	John Brosseau	Superintendent	(780) 466-5946	jbrosseau@telus.net
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15	BSEC	Karen Erickson	Director		
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18	CAA	Pat Cavill	Board Chair		pcavill@shaw.ca
19	CAPE	David Gee	Director	(403) 487-4834	david.gee@sirb.ca
20	CGS	Judi Hadden	Principal	(403) 252-0702	judi.hadden@calgarygirlsschool.com
21	CSS	Harold Lemieux	Board Chair		hlemieux@shaw.ca
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23	FFCA	Jay Pritchard	Superintendent	(403) 520-3206	jay.pritchard@ffca-calgary.com
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27	FFCA	Justin Kool	SWE Principal	(403) 259-3527	justin.kool@ffca-calgary.com
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30	MECCS	Ed Wittchen	Superintendent	(780) 848-2881	ed.wittchen@telus.net
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39	Suzuki	Heather Christison	Sec./ Treasurer	(780) 468-2598	christison@suzukischool.com
40	Suzuki	Karen Spencer	Principal	(780) 468-2598	spencerk@suzukischool.ca
41	Suzuki	Lee Lucente	Superintendent	(780) 468-2598	lucentel@suzukischool.ca

42	Suzuki	Monica McCormack	Board Chair	(780) 468-2598	mccormackm@suzukischool.ca
43	TAAPCS	Garry Andrews	Exec Director	(403) 331-7750	andrews.garry@gmail.com
44	Valhalla	John Picard	Superintendent	(403) 827-5040	jpicard@valhallaschool.ca
45	Valhalla	Jolene Kochendorfer	Board Chair	(780) 356-2370	jdkochendorfer@gmail.com
47	Westmount	Joe Frank	Superintendent	(403) 217-0426	joe.frank@westmountcharter.com
48	Westmount	John Liu	Sec./Treasurer	(403) 217-0426	johnathan.liu@westmountcharter.com

1. CALL TO ORDER – Jay Pritchard called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and we began with a prayer offered by several MECCS students. We thank Suzuki for providing the entertainment, showcasing their incredibly talented students, and Valhalla for providing lovely door prizes representing their Norwegian roots. Thank you as well to Aurora for the well attended and enjoyable hospitality.

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

1.2 Consideration of Agenda – Move Item 6.7 to precede Item 6.3. New number 6.2.1.

2. DIRECTORS’ FORUM: Best Practices of Charter Boards/Challenges – postponed.

SPECIAL GUEST: JEFF JOHNSON
MINISTER OF EDUCATION

“Transformation of Education”

Minister Johnson began by recounting the three main issues that have been consuming his time and energy since taking office: the revised Education Act, ATA negotiations, and Capital Planning, the last having culminated in the recent announcement that there will be 50 new schools and 70 school modernizations in the coming years. With these major issues on his plate, as well as a substantial undertaking to rework their budget based on the reality of Alberta’s fiscal situation, they have nevertheless been able to move forward with the recommendations distilled from the *Inspiring Education* consultations to create a picture of an educated Albertan in 2030 (an engaged thinker and an ethical citizen, with an entrepreneurial spirit). This work has implications for policy in four main ways: focus on the student and learning, delivering education vs. managing schools, infusion of technology to create and build knowledge, and a shift from memorizing to gaining skills and competencies. Mr. Johnson sees charter schools as having an incredible role to play in that they provide choice and are able to be flexible and responsive to student needs, and would like to find ways that we might “commercialize” that (for lack of a better term). Part and parcel of this initiative is the Ministerial Order on Learner Outcomes (due for imminent release), the modernization of PTA’s and Diploma exams, and the high school flexibility enhancement program. The Minister also acknowledged our concerns over capital funding & facilities, the use of municipal reserve lands, and inclusion funding, and indicated that he is open to discussion on these issues.

3. Current Business

3.1 Approval of Minutes

#13/03/05-01 M/C to adopt the minutes of the Jan. 18, 2013 regular meeting as presented.
Dale Bischoff
Dale Erickson

3.2 Financial Report (handout)

#13/03/05-02 M/C to adopt the September-December 2012 and January-March 2013 financial reports as presented.
Johnathan Liu
Marianne Grohn

3.3 School Spotlight - FFCA Southwest Elementary Principal Justin Kool showed a video commissioned and funded by the Society for Quality Education in Ontario, featuring FFCA's Southeast Elementary Campus and making a statement about the success of Alberta's charter schools in general.

4. Committee Reports

4.1 ESL – No report.

4.2 Administrators' Group - It is unclear at this point whether the School Leadership Learning Initiative will be continued for another year, or whether administrators may resume the meetings that were being held previously (3 times per year to address association business, professional development and topics of mutual interest). Garry will keep the membership informed of developments.

4.3 Directors' Committee – Jolene Kochendorfer (Valhalla) has agreed to chair this committee, which has 2 primary purposes: to act a political voice for the association, and 2. to facilitate professional development for directors. Informally, the committee exists for networking and motivational purposes. The committee will formulate their political message and members have been asked to assemble a list of “who they know” (i.e. connections), in order to get that message across. A sub-committee (Jolene, Garry Andrews, Monica McCormack and Cindy Higa) Skype session is planned for September to address strategic planning.

4.4 Workforce Planning – See written report from Garry McKinnon on the January 31, 2013 meeting.

4.5 Dialogue on Teaching Quality – In Garry McKinnon's absence, Joe Frank reported on having attended the first of these meetings to be held in a year (yesterday). There was strong representation from all stakeholders, and a lot of talk around competency sets for teachers going forward (e.g. paradigm shift to emphasis on the teacher as 'resourceful' person rather than a 'resource' person), as well as implications for teacher preparation, curriculum redesign, and the challenge of developing the 3 “E's”.

4.6 Education Research Update – Gail Reid, ESL Coordinator at Almadina, reported on their elementary campus reading project in partnership with the Reading Foundation, beginning with a video defining literacy as competency in 4 areas: reading, writing, thinking and arithmetic. The Discover Reading Program is being piloted in K-Gr. 3, and began in September 2012 with teacher/EA training and pre-testing of all students. Post-testing will be done next week and preliminary results are positive, indicating increased phonemic awareness and confidence in decoding.

4.7 Regional Collaborative Services – Please refer to the information circulated by Cathy McCauley pertaining to the initiative to integrate services (CYCN, SHP, REACH) to improve the provision of supports and services to Alberta children and youth.

5. Update from Alberta Education

- 5.1 Department News – Randy reported on three recent AE initiatives:
- a. New Business Plan: 4 goals which reflect the direction for 2013-16 (excellent start to learning re ECS and supports; success for every student re curriculum redesign, dual credit and new assessment model; quality teaching and leadership; and engaged and effective governance.)
 - b. “Assurance” Model/Accountability Pillar: AE is mindful that the conversation is broader than the 16 categories of the Accountability Pillar and is conducting a pilot implementation of the new Assurance Model.
 - c. High School Credential Review Process (currently in Phase 2: external review): Is the current set of HS credentials appropriate for today’s and future students?
- 5.2 Amendments to Education Act – None.
- 5.3 Regulatory Review Timeline – Regulations are possible at about 30 places in the Act and will be made at the discretion of the Minister. The Regulatory Review Committee (Chair -Maureen Kubinec, MLA for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock) will be seeking input from stakeholders in the next few weeks. It is hoped that the regulations will be in place by June 2014, and the Act in force by September 2015.
- 5.4 Inclusive Education Funding/Other Budget Information – Richard Arnold reported that changes in the recent budget resulted in a modest increase in funding, including a 2% hike in the Inclusive Education Class Size Grant (\$55 to \$56.10) but, as we know, no funding above this for charter schools. Money was added to the Equity of Opportunity Grant but “re-profiled”, AISI has been eliminated, the fuel contingency is gone, and ESL funding was reduced from 7 years to 5. (It was pointed out that this is problematic in that pre-school and kindergarten can eat up 2 years of funding even though these are ½ year programs.) Richard said that he learned a lot in his consultations with charter schools regarding their Inclusive Education profiles and encouraged the charter schools to share this information with each other.

10:30 a.m.

SPECIAL GUEST: DR. DEAN LINDQUIST

Assistant Deputy Minister, Learning Supports and Information Management

“Innovative Learning Environments and Charter Schools”

Mr. Lindquist reported that his department is at work in the following areas:

- The Alberta Approach to Early Childhood Development – an ECD mapping initiative established by the Premier that syncs with the *Inspiring Education* findings regarding developmental readiness and its implications for programming.
- Inclusive Education – Who are the diverse learners in Alberta schools and what do they need? One of the department’s biggest challenges is landing on a common definition of diverse learning needs, and how to appropriately apply the continuum of services.
- High School Completion Strategic Framework: enhancing teacher practice, increasing student engagement, improving student achievement.
- Learning and Technology Policy Framework – draft to be ready by Sept. 2013.
- FNMI Student Success – development of a new conceptual collaborative model.
- Revised Design Standards – how we plan, design and build new schools.
- PASI Contributions to Teaching Quality – “Katy’s Story”

Mr. Lindquist was asked about refresher funding for technology pursuant to the initial technology grants (there is none but they have recognized that the need would be about \$30 million per year), and Inclusive Education funding vis-à-vis equitable access for all public education students (“charter schools are looked upon differently by the public and separate boards”; Dr. Lindquist suggested that we meet with Randy Clarke to initiate a conversation with Michael Walter; this issue will be taken up by EAC.)

“The Minister supports you folks to the greatest extent and wants these things to happen.”

6. Education Advisory Committee (EAC) Report

6.1 Leadership Project – The data is being compiled and the project will be completed by the end of June; we should receive a report from Dr. Brandon in July or August. There may be funds available to carry this work on for another year, potentially using two streams of participants (those who went through this year’s sessions and those who did not.) The data may help to determine how we deliver professional development, and the ways in which this might be replicated in other parts of the province.

6.2 U. of C. Research – Special guests Diane Gereluk and Gene Kowch reported that the project is on budget; Phase 1 has been completed and Phase 2, the interview stage, is almost complete as well. The timeline for completion has been delayed by about 3 weeks, but once the coding and analysis are underway, patterns will begin to emerge related to organizations as innovative ecologies and the concept of ‘shallow to deep innovation’. Their work on this subject has been accepted at 3 international conferences, and their report should be available for us in October.

6.2.1 ASBA & PSBAA Meetings – Our Co-Presidents and other members of the executive met with ASBA regarding the potential for charter school to become associate members. In response to the argument that our boards are not publically elected, it was pointed out that Francophone boards are elected in the same way as charter boards, and yet they are welcomed members of ASBA. The stumbling block is really the lack of knowledge about charter schools and the bias against them. The meeting with PSBAA is tentatively scheduled for May 31.

6.3 Regulation Sub-Committee – Feedback on all recommendations was gathered from participants; Garry will rework the document based on this, and redistribute it.

6.4 Conference 2013 – It was agreed that the conference should go ahead if the cost can be kept to \$50 per person; it will be financially viable if 300 people register. CGS will host.

6.5 ATA Brochure – No response has been received in relation to the letter that was sent objecting to the content of the brochure.

6.6 Facilities – The EAC will address the use of IMR funds and the requirement that they be directed appropriately toward charter facilities.

6.7 Halvar Jonson Awards – Karen Spencer and Yvonne DePeel will join Judy and Justin on a small sub-committee to accept nominations and make one recipient selection for our October meeting.

7. New Business

7.1 Brochure – Since there are some potential address/name/logo changes currently in the works, production of the revised brochure will be delayed.

7.2 TAAPCS Identity – Discussion postponed to October.

7.3 TAAPCS Budget 2013-14 – Since the decision has just been made to proceed with the 2013 conference, Heather and Johnathan will be reworking the budget. In the meantime, it was proposed that we increase fees as suggested in Option C of the budget document.

#13/03/05-03 M/C to accept the fee structure as proposed in Option C, Table 4 of
Monica McCormack the budget document.
Bill McGregor

2014 Fee Structure Recommendation (Table 4)

Type of Charter School	Number of students	Annual dues
Small	<250	\$1,875
Medium	250-600	\$2,250
Large	>600	\$3,000

8. Reminders

8.1 October 23/24, 2013 (Calgary): Entertainment & Hospitality– CAA event (more information to follow); Door prizes – Almadina; School Spotlight – Aurora; Research Report – CGS.

8.2 January 16/17, 2014 (Red Deer): Entertainment - ?; Door prizes – Westmount; Hospitality – CSS; School Spotlight – Almadina; Research Report – U. of C.

Adjournment 2:50 p.m.