



**The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools
May 7, 2015, Medicine Hat, AB**

MINUTES

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Westmount	Johnathan Liu	Sec./Treasurer	(403) 217-0426	johnathan.liu@westmountcharter.com
Westmount	Tun Myo	Director		

8:30 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 Introductions – Attendees introduced themselves with their school affiliations and positions. Very special thanks were expressed to CAPE School for assuming responsibility for each and every facet of this meeting: dinner, entertainment, door prizes, hospitality, School Spotlight and Research Report, and for doing it all so graciously and so well!

- 1.2 Consideration of Agenda – The 9:00 a.m. Guest Speaker (Randy Billey) is not available.
- 1.3 Approval of Minutes
#15/07/05-01 M/C to approve the minutes of the Jan. 16/15 regular meeting as presented.
Yvonne DePeel
Don Falk
- 1.4 Financial Report
#15/07/05-02 M/C to receive the Jan. 1- March 31, 2015 Financial Report as presented.
Johnathan Liu
Jan Jordan
- 1.5 School Spotlight – CAPE’s recent Charter Review prompted a “re-envisioning” of their purpose, resulting in a revised document that is ready to present to their Board. The revision reflects the principles of Inclusive Education; key features of CAPE are their personalized program, integrated approach, and their assessment program. An informative video featured many obviously sincere parent and student testimonials. More information is available at www.capeisgreat.org.
- 1.6 Education Research Update – CAPE is currently conducting research that is intended to result in increased engagement on the part of both students and parents. The student engagement research focuses on the effect of the Total Integration program on student achievement, in particular regard to three broad areas of student performance: Emotional; Social/Behavioural/Participatory; and Cognitive/Intellectual/Academic. The parent piece has several elements, including satisfaction surveys, Brown Bag lunches, feedback from staff and students, and the *Parent’s Parcel*, which uses on-line media supports designed to enhance student success. This is a 3-year project, in which CAPE hopes to partner with the University of Lethbridge.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 2.1 Charter Board Directors’ Report - Discussion mainly revolved around the surprising results of the provincial election, and the potential implications for Charter Schools. Efforts will be made to reach out to the new MLA’s to familiarize them with our schools, and charters in general. Other topics included sharing of school news, strategic planning, and suggestions for topics for Director sessions at the October conference. The need for a central repository for research initiatives was also discussed.
- 2.2 Regional Collaborative Service Delivery – In a holding pattern currently (there has been no response to two requests for appeal of the current framework for Calgary schools). Phil will be meeting with Don Andrews next week to get further clarity if such is possible.
- 2.3 Superintendents’ Report – It was noted that the Education Platform of the NDP has been removed from their website. Representatives of the association have met with Rachel Notley in the past; she was polite but largely uninformed about charter schools, giving rise to the potential for reduced government support in the future. Our message will have to be tailored to the new reality. There was also a round table discussion of benefit plans, a conference update, transportation, action research projects, and how to use leftover SLLI funds (which we have applied to retain). There is still no resolution to the Inclusive Ed Funding question posed by Johnathan and Heather; the conflict between Ed Act expectations for inclusion and funding is still an issue, and poised to become even more of one.

ACTIVITY (LARGE GROUP): Impact of the Provincial Budget on Charter Schools – postponed as it is unknown at this point the implications of the election on the provincial budget.

3. EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

- 3.1 Conference 2015 – Update + Directors’ Breakout Suggestions: The conference will be held on Oct. 30 at the Calgary Girls’ School, at a cost of \$50 per person and \$25 for student teachers. It will be done in an “open space” format, with breakout sessions that will be appropriate for teachers, administrators, secretary-treasurers, education assistants and Directors. Garry will be sending out a survey to determine what people want. Ember Reichgott Junge will be a keynote speaker; she is a former Minnesota state senator who authored the first charter school law in the U.S.
- 3.2 Bylaw Change Update – Submitted and accepted by Corporate Registry.
- 3.3 Bosetti/Butterfield Research – “The Politics of Educational Reform: The Alberta Charter School Experiment 20 Years Later”. The purpose of this research is to provide a critical policy analysis of the experiment in ‘controlled choice’ - to understand the political motivation that shaped and framed the evolution of charter schools, their impact as a mechanism for system-wide reform, and why they have not burgeoned into a viable alternative stream within the Alberta public education system. This is a pilot study that will lead to a more expansive research study in the future; the lines of inquiry that are expected to emerge from this will relate to market theory and competition.
- 3.4 Sharing Information re: Our Schools (and acting on it) – It was agreed that it would be beneficial to share information on our schools in ways additional to the School Spotlight report at each meeting. If you have any ideas for doing so, please forward them to Garry Andrews.
- 3.5 School Leadership Learning Initiative – The final session of the third year of this initiative will take place tomorrow. No renewal of our grant is anticipated, however we have applied to use any leftover funds to finance another session or two in the coming year.
- 3.6 Summary of AE Study re: School Leadership in Alberta – No report.
- 3.7 Shared Services in Ontario Schools (Deloitte Study) – Alberta Ed has been looking into this study that identified savings of 13-28% over time using a shared services model in the areas of finance/accounting, human resources, OHS, IT, supplies, facilities and planning/corporate services.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- 4.1 Charter Schools in the News (request to forward articles) – Please forward to Garry.
- 4.2 Communication within the organization – It would be much appreciated if correspondence that is circulated to Superintendents and Board Chairs could be forwarded as appropriate. Please ensure that Meredith is kept informed of relevant changes (e.g. Board Chairs).
- 4.3 Strategic Planning Process for TAAPCS – Should TAAPCS undertake a formal strategic planning process? If so, when, and who will facilitate? Judy suggested that this question be addressed at the October meeting, pursuant to discussion at the next EAC meeting.

- 4.4 TAAPCS Handbook – Garry is proposing the creation of a TAAPCS Handbook containing the following: bylaws, procedures, position papers, Board/Superintendent evaluation processes, school review processes, best practices/common mistakes of charter boards. This list is not definitive, so please send any further suggestions to Garry. The handbook would be placed on the website for access by members only; a hard copy would also be available.

5. MEETING REMINDERS

- 5.1 **October 28/29, 2015 (Calgary):** Entertainment – CGS; Door Prizes – Almadina; Hospitality – New Horizons; School Spotlight – Bosetti/Butterfield Research Report –Suzuki
October 30, 2015 Charter School Conference at Calgary Girls’ School
January 14/15, 2016 (Red Deer)
May 5/6, 2016 (Edmonton)

6. EAC MEETING SCHEDULE: June 5, 2015

ADJOURNMENT 1:13 p.m.