



**The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools**  
**May 8/9, 2014**  
**Westin Hotel**  
**Edmonton, Alberta**

**MINUTES**

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## 1. Call to order

- 1.1 Introductions – Attendees introduced themselves with their school affiliations. Special thanks to Suzuki Charter School, whose invitation to join the audience at their annual concert made for a very memorable evening. Also to Calgary Arts Academy for providing the creative draw prizes, and to Connect Charter School for their gracious hospitality.
- 1.2 Consideration of Agenda – Item 3.5 report moved forward.
- 1.3 Approval of Minutes  
**#14/09/05-01** M/C to approve the minutes of the Jan 17, 2014 regular meeting as presented.  
*Joe Frank*  
*Teresa DiNinno*
- 1.4 Financial Report – distributed.
- 1.5 School Spotlight – John Picard gave a Power Point presentation highlighting Valhalla Community School and its close ties to its rural roots and the community of Valhalla Centre.
- 1.6 Research Update: Calgary Girls’ School – Redesigning Assessment and Reporting- CGS re-evaluated their approach to assessment and reporting in terms of *Inspiring Education* and the competencies for 21<sup>st</sup> century learners (3 E’s). Regular communication between staff, students and parents takes place through Edmodo, where student work and summative assessments are uploaded, accompanied by teacher feedback and evaluation. CGS uses the following four indicators for evaluation: 1. emerging, 2. formulating, 3. expanding, and 4. consolidating. Reviews of the Edmodo platform with respect to performance on curriculum expectations occur in November and March, with a final review and teacher evaluation at the end of June.

### SPECIAL PRESENTATION THE TASK FORCE FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE: DR. GLENN FELTHAM

Dr. Feltham described how he and his committee approached this project with a blank slate by examining all factors that affect teaching excellence, all the way from an application for a Teacher Preparation Program to retirement, ignoring every political implication and interest group. In doing so, this report became “more than just about Alberta” and resonates with parents and teachers everywhere, as evidenced by the huge consistency in responses. The question now becomes, what is the best regulatory model to ensure the adoption of those recommendations that are accepted?

## **2. Committee Reports**

- 2.1 Charter Board Directors – Discussion centered on 4 main items: 1. the bylaws as they pertain to the role of the President, 2. common messaging for Directors, 3. the use of social media, and 4. the requested Capital Caucus presentation (bumped from original date of May 13).
- 2.2 Workforce Planning – Dale Bischoff has replaced Garry McKinnon on this committee and has attended one meeting so far. He described the multi-stakeholder committee as “outstanding” and very collaborative. The draft 5-year action framework contains multiple “strategic actions” within 3 policy directions, which aim to 1. attract, 2. develop and 3. retain “the right people in the right places at the right times”.
- 2.3 Dialogue on Education – Refer to Garry McKinnon’s written report distributed at meeting.
- 2.4 Regional Collaborative Services - No report.
- 2.5 Curriculum Development Prototyping – Kurtis Leinweber reported that there has only been one meeting of this committee so far, with the next scheduled for May 14. They are determined not to “rush through” this process, and to get it right.

## **3. Update from Alberta Education**

- 3.1 Budget – Richard Arnold reported that the recent budget reflected a 0% increase in almost everything, with the exception of 2% in class size grants and Inclusive Education.
- 3.2 *Inspiring Education* – This has been a difficult process particularly in relation to reactions about mathematics; stakeholder feedback has reflected high engagement on this issue. An internal team has been tasked with communicating the successes of *Inspiring Education* and the Ministerial Order.
- 3.3 Regulatory Review Update – The regulations are being drafted but input is still welcome. Carmen Somers encouraged everyone to read the section on the math issue in the latest Director’s Report, and to follow the links for more information.
- 3.4 Curriculum Update – This work is ongoing, with a draft Scope & Sequence currently being produced. The regional consortia will be doing professional development related to this work.
- 3.5 Facilities – Avi Habinski and Travis Hovland were on hand to report on the welcome progress being made toward more stability for charter schools in relation to their facilities, that being in the areas of approval of long-term (15-year) leases (e.g. Connect Charter School) and transfer of title (e.g. CAPE School). The latter (transfer of title) is heavily dependent on modifications to the Municipal Governments Act, and whether the property in question is on new or existing reserve or non-reserve land. However, it may be possible that some of these issues can be resolved prior to the new MGA being approved.

## **STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS - FACILITATOR: DR. JIM BRANDON**

Jim Brandon and Garry Andrews facilitated an exercise which asked each participant to make a note of “three stars and a wish”; the submissions will be analyzed and used to help create a strategic plan for our Association.

#### **4. Education Advisory Committee (EAC) Report**

- 4.1 Leadership Project Part 2 – The final session for 2013-14 was held on Wednesday May 7 in Edmonton; there may be leftover money which would allow us to continue this initiative into next year. Jim Brandon will be preparing a report as per his contract obligations.
- 4.2 Co-President Signing Authority –  
**#14/09/05-02** M/C to approve signing authority for Yvonne DePeel.  
*John Brosseau*  
*Joe Frank*
- 4.3 MGA Input – John Liu reported that public consultation closed on April 30; it his opinion that the process is heading in the right direction.
- 4.4 Transportation Analysis – John is not prepared to proceed on this request until the regulations are finalized.
- 4.5 Inclusive Education Funding – Two possible courses of action were discussed at the preceding day's Superintendents' meeting: 1. wait for the completion of the regulations to make our next request for equity, or 2. meet with the Deputy Minister beforehand to lay the groundwork. It was decided to take the discussion to the May 30 EAC meeting and invite the Deputy Minister (Greg Bass) to attend.
- 4.6 Meetings with Deputy Minister - None lately.
- 4.7 Inspiring Education Professional Development Support – EAC will create a letter to inquire about/request this.
- 4.8 Halvar Jonson Award – The nomination form can be found on the website; the deadline for nominations is September 30.
- 4.9 TAAPCS Decision-Making Protocols – How do we make decisions on issues that are not money related or subject to the bylaws? Do we delegate authority to the CEO. The discussion will resume at the May 30 EAC meeting.

#### **5. New Business**

- 5.1 Partnerships with Universities and Industry – It was decided that our impressive array of connections and partnerships should be shared at a future meeting, and also highlighted on our website.
- 5.2 Input into Teaching Excellence – Garry McKinnon and Judy will collaborate on a response to the report from TAAPCS.
- 5.3 Request for Exemption from Fee Increase  
**#14/09/05-03** M/C to approve exemption from fee increase for Mother Earth's  
*Lee Lucente* Children's Charter School.  
*John Brosseau*

- 5.4 2014-2015 Budget (handout)  
**#14/09/05-04** M/C to approve the 2014-2015 budget as presented.  
*John Brosseau*  
*Yvonne DePeel*
- 5.5 Tributes – Words of appreciation for their service to TAAPCS were expressed in relation to the loss of two of our members, Jay Pritchard and Susan Ditchburn. Jay in particular was recognized for his immense contributions to the growth of our Association and the countless hours he devoted to ensuring its success. His leadership will be greatly missed. (Lee Lucente and Garry McKinnon were honoured at the previous night’s banquet, and Randy Clarke at yesterday’s Superintendents’ meeting.)

**6. Meeting Reminders**

- 6.1 **Oct. 23/24, 2014** (Calgary): Entertainment – Almadina; Door Prizes – CCS; Hospitality - CAA; School Spotlight – CAA; Research Report – ?  
**Jan. 15/16, 2015** (Red Deer):

**Adjournment:** 2:30 p.m.