



Regular Meeting Minutes
Coast Plaza Hotel
1316 33 St. NE Calgary, AB
October 19, 2011

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1. CALL TO ORDER: Jay Pritchard called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Appreciation was expressed to the Calgary Girls' School for the previous night's entertainment, to the Calgary Science School for the door prizes, and to Almadina Language Charter for sponsoring the hospitality.

1.1 INTRODUCTIONS: Attendees introduced themselves with their position and organizational affiliation.

1.2 CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA – Under EAC Reports, add Parent Resource Advisory Committee.

1.3 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

#11/19/10-01 M/C to adopt the minutes of the May 6, 2011 regular meeting as presented.
Pat Cavill
Doug Farrus

1.4 ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL REPORT

#11/19/10-02 M/C to adopt the April-August 2011 financial report as presented.
John Brosseau
Bill McGregor

1.5 SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT: Almadina ELL/AISI Coordinator Ashley Rowe gave an informative 10-minute video presentation depicting the Almadina Language Charter School and its programs (reading, writing, listening, speaking), and describing their approach to assessment, technology, character education, sports and AISI (current projects are school readiness and literacy.)

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

2.1 ESL: Keith Jones (Almadina). No report as last meeting occurred last May, and the next isn't until Friday Oct. 21.

2.2 ADMINISTRATORS' GROUP: The group met 3 times in the past year (averaging 16 attendees per meeting) and has 3 meetings scheduled for the coming year: Nov. 28 at the SWE FFCA Campus; January 24, 2012 (Calgary); and May 18, 2012 (Edmonton). They now have an agenda template which includes: 1. professional development, 2. Association business, and 3. topics of interest. Thanks go to Garry McKinnon (CSS) for his leadership in the area of professional development.

2.3 CHARTER BOARD CHAIRS (CBC): Bill McGregor (FFCA) expressed his opinion that charter school parents may have well played a part in the 1500 vote margin by which Alison Redford won the Tory leadership race. Ms. Redford was the only one of the original 6 candidates to grant an interview to representatives of the FFCA Board, and at that time indicated strong support for charter schools. TAAPCS has written a letter to both the new Premier and Minister requesting a meeting at their earliest convenience, and may try to connect with the new Cabinet Policy Committee on Education. Bill will schedule meetings in both Calgary and Edmonton to update the Government Relations strategy and ensure that our message is consistent.

2.4 WORKFORCE PLANNING (handout): Garry McKinnon (CSS) distributed a summary of highlights from the last meeting of the committee (May 18), including TQS, School Leadership Framework, Teaching Workforce, and related Workforce Marketing Plan. The next meeting will be held on Nov. 2.

2.5 SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PREPARATION PERSPECTIVES (handout): Denise Budgen (FFCA) has been representing TAAPCS on this committee, which has fulfilled its mandate. The next step is the Alberta School Leadership framework Study which commences

this month; Denise asked that all participants engage as fully as possible in the 10-20 minute survey when they receive it. A sub-committee has come up with 10 indicators of Quality Leadership Development Programs, which will be edited to become more user-friendly.

2.6 TQS UPDATE (handout): Karen Spencer (Suzuki) reported that this work is similar to the work undertaken by the School Leadership Committee, but the move is toward a smaller number of broad categories. If you have any comments on the handout, please provide them to Karen prior to Oct. 31; a 3-day working session will be held Nov. 8-10 to further refine the draft document.

3. UPDATE FROM ALBERTA EDUCATION

3.1/3.2 MINISTER'S DIALOGUE/SUMMARY OF ON-LINE SURVEY RESULTS: Randy Clarke reported that the release of these documents has been delayed with the appointment of the new Education Minister. The draft documents incorporate Superintendent feedback. It is hoped that these can be shared with Minister Lukaszuk in the next few weeks and subsequently released.

3.3 PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR REGULATORY CHANGE TO SUPPORT EDUCATION ACT: Feedback on Bill 18 has been requested from TAAPCS and all other stakeholders before the proposed changes to the new Education Act are incorporated.

3.4 FACILITY SUPPORTS: Superintendents were encouraged to direct their facility and related funding questions to Avi Habinski (south schools) and Michael Ediger (north schools). Avi and Michael have been invited to attend the Dec. 5 EAC meeting in Red Deer.

3.5 ACTION ON INCLUSION: Marlene Lambe clarified that *Action on Inclusion* is about ensuring that all students are in the most appropriate learning environment for their needs, and that all are valued equally. School authorities were asked to be "change agents" ("capacity builders"), for which grants were made available. The remark was made that such a change is necessarily a long-term process involving evolution of the school culture. The funding framework for this initiative is still in the discussion phase; this information led to a discussion of other unfunded initiatives, e.g. library transformation/"learning commons".

3.6 FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT: Richard Arnold explained the details around the recent Education funding announcement of \$107 million; first installments will arrive in November and will be retroactive to the beginning of the year, and the total allotment will be expended by the end of March to align with the government's fiscal year. The amount per school represents a \$60,000 base payment plus \$43 per enrolled student. As well, Richard reported that the fuel price contingency grant will be reinstated; templates will be provided to Boards.

4. EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EAC) REPORT

4.1 INSURANCE RFP: Megan O'Hara announced that 11 of the 13 charter schools have taken part in the insurance Request for Proposals, which has been posted, and thanked Reta Morgan of FFCA for her leadership in this initiative to save money by standardizing insurance requirements among the participants.

4.2 CONFERENCE UPDATE: Garry Andrews expressed thanks for the support he has received both from the CRC and from administrators and teachers in offering sessions at this Friday's conference. There are 475 people registered for the conference and 36 administrators for the pre-conference offered by Roger Garriock on Thursday. We will be privileged to enjoy a brief

visit by the new Education Minister in the afternoon.

4.3 DIRECTOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Garry Andrews distributed a handout showing the response to his survey of charter school boards regarding professional development opportunities for Directors. Many of topics listed are available from the Saskatchewan School Boards Association; Garry has provided a link on our website. Superintendent Ray Battochio pointed out that Director P.D. could be facilitated through the use of video-conferencing; this idea will be referred to EAC and explored further.

4.4 MINISTER’S DIALOGUE ON CHARTER SCHOOLS: From the perspective of charter school participants, this was a valuable if somewhat difficult process, as many different agendas, perspectives and levels of charter school familiarity were represented at the discussion tables. The exercise produced no consensus but did serve to disseminate information, and in some cases correct misinformation, about charter schools,

4.5 RESEARCH IN CHARTER SCHOOLS

4.5.1 INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS: The EAC will be looking at who is doing what, and Garry Andrews will post that information on our website. This is another area which might benefit from ADLC infrastructure.

4.5.2 TAAPCS: What does “research” mean at the association level? This was discussed in the broader context of an “Action on Planning” initiative in which Garry Andrews facilitated a process to reframe our vision, mission and goals, and strategies to achieve them.

4.6 PARENT ADVISORY RESOURCE COMMITTEE: The association received a letter requesting nominees to sit on this committee, the first meeting of which takes place Nov. 25 in Edmonton. Jay Pritchard volunteered Cathy McCauley as she is currently engaged in the examination of parent partnership opportunities at FFCA.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 RESEARCH REQUEST (handout): Judy Gray distributed information on a potential research opportunity; this will be discussed at the next EAC meeting in Red Deer.

6. REMINDERS

- Jan. 19/20 2012 (Red Deer): Entertainment – CAA; Door prizes – New Horizons; Hospitality – Suzuki; School Spotlight – CAA
- May 3/4, 2012 (Edmonton): Entertainment – New Horizons; Door prizes – CGS; Hospitality – Aurora; School Spotlight - BSEC

7. ADJOURNMENT: 1:33 p.m.