



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCT. 24, 2013
Greenwood Inn & Suites
Calgary, AB

1	AB ED	Marlene Lambe	Ed. Mgr., Zone 5	(403) 297-5022	marlene.lambe@gov.ab.ca
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5	Almadina	Yvonne DePeel	Superintendent	(403) 543-5078	ydepeel@esl-almadina.com
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10	CAA	Dale Erickson	Superintendent	(403) 532-3020	derickson@calgaryartsacademy.com
11	CAA	Jan Jordan	Sec./Treasurer	(403) 532-3020	jjordan@calgaryartsacademy.com
12	CAPE	Teresa Di Ninno	Superintendent	(403) 957-0403	tdininno@capeisgreat.org
13	CAPE	Riaan Swiegers	Board Chair	(403) 580-5703	riaan50@telus.net
14	CGS	Wendy Jeurgens	Sec./Treasurer	(403) 252-0702	wendy.jeurgens@calgarygirlsschool.com
15	CGS	Oliver Fisher	Vice-Princ.	(403) 220-0745	oliver.fisher@calgarygirlsschool.com
16	CGS	Geordie MacPherson	Director	(403) 828-9051	me@geordie.me
17	CSS	Garry McKinnon	Superintendent	(403) 282-2890	garry.m@calgaryscienceschool.com
18	CSS	Debra Scott	Director		dscott@mtroyal.ca
19	CSS	Wendy Baillie	Director		wendybaillie4@gmail.com
20	CSS	Denise Kitagawa	Director	(403) 889-0451	denise.k@calgaryscienceschool.com
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26	FFCA	Cindy Higa	Vice-Chair	(403) 246-7111	cindy.higa@ffca-calgary.com
27	FFCA	Denise Budgen	NWE Principal	(403) 282-5202	denise.budgen@ffca-calgary.com
28	FFCA	Kurtis Leinweber	Asst. Supe.	(403) 520-3206	kurtis.leinweber@ffca-calgary.com
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33	Suzuki	Heather Christison	Sec./ Treasurer	(780) 468-2598	christison@suzukischool.com
34	Suzuki	Karen Spencer	Principal	(780) 468-2598	spencerk@suzukischool.ca

35	Suzuki	Lee Lucente	Superintendent	(780) 468-2598	lucentel@suzukischool.ca
36	Suzuki	Monica McCormack	Board Chair	(780) 468-2598	mccormackm@suzukischool.ca
37	Suzuki	Nicole Palmer	Vice-Chair	(780) 468-2598	palmern@suzukischool.ca
38	TAAPCS	Garry Andrews	Exec Director	(403) 331-7750	andrews.garry@gmail.com
39	Valhalla	Jolene Kochendorfer	Board Chair	(780) 356-2370	jkochendorfer@gmail.com
40	Westmount	Joe Frank	Superintendent	(403) 217-0426	joe.frank@westmountcharter.com
41	Westmount	John Liu	Sec./ Treasurer	(403) 217-0426	johnathan.liu@westmountcharter.com
42	Westmount	Hal Curties	Principal	(403) 217-0426	hal.curties@westmountcharter.com
43	Westmount	Colleen Groot	Asst. Principal	(403) 217-0426	colleen.groot@westmountcharter.com

1. CALL TO ORDER – 9:00 a.m.

- 1.1 Introductions and Announcements – Attendees introduced themselves with their school affiliations and their reasons for attending today’s meeting. Thanks were extended to the Calgary Arts Academy for their invitation to our members to their Cinq à Sept event - the hospitality and entertainment were truly first class – and to Almadina for supplying the MANY door prizes at our subsequent banquet. Jay announced this year’s deserving winner of the Halvar Jonson Award, Marc Prefontaine. Marc had been given a superb introduction by nominator Karen Spencer, and responded in kind with heartfelt appreciation.
- 1.2 Consideration of Agenda – Item 4.6 Inclusive Education Funding moved to 1.7.
- 1.3 Approval of Minutes
#13/24/10-01 M/C to adopt the minutes of the May 3, 2013 regular meeting as presented.
Heather Christison
Marianne Grohn
- 1.4 Financial Report (handout)
#13/24/10-02 M/C to adopt the April - August 2013 financial reports as presented.
Johnathan Liu
Bill McGregor
- 1.5 School Spotlight – Aurora Charter School presented a comprehensive 15-minute video explaining what charter schools are, and profiling the school’s programs. They use a customized version of the Madeline Hunter Direct Instruction Model, with obvious success. Their PAT results are outstanding – above provincial levels in every subject - and the school has a wait list of 1000 students. Technology is used to support, not replace, the teacher-directed model. The majority of their Board members are parents.
- 1.6 Education Research Update
1.6.1 Phil Butterfield of the Calgary Science School had been scheduled to present his own research on charter schools but was unable to attend the meeting. This will appear on a future agenda.
- 1.7 Inclusive Education Funding – Handout. John Liu explained that no agreement has been reached among the charter schools as to a preferred model for Inclusive Ed Funding; currently we are being funded on the 2011-12 model. The ramifications of having funding come directly to TAAPCS were discussed. Please send further thoughts to Garry Andrews and Johnathan Liu. This issue will go back to EAC for more discussion.

2. Committee Reports

- 2.1 ESL – No report since no meeting has been held.
- 2.2 Administrators' Group – As was the case last year, administrators' meetings are being replaced by the School Leadership Learning Initiative meetings.
- 2.3 Board Directors' Committee – Jolene Kochendorfer reported that their main issues are increasing Director involvement (all Directors are welcome, not just Chairs and Vice-Chairs), and developing a simple, concise GR message emphasizing key points (e.g. permanence, equitable treatment, choice, positive results).
- 2.4 Workforce Planning/Dialogue on Teaching Quality – See report which details highlights of the
/2.5 May and October, 2013 meetings. Main points include the revision of the Teaching Quality Standard and the development of a strategy to attract teachers to Alberta. Draft documents re: various roles (teacher, principal, Superintendent, etc.) will be circulated. The province has also formed a Task Force on Teaching Excellence; to participate, please go to:
<https://legerweb.com/teachingexcellence/signup.asp>
- 2.6 Regional Collaborative Services – No report at this time.

3. Update from Alberta Education – Randy distributed copies of the October Director's Report for Charter Schools, and expressed the thanks of his department for the recognition of Marc Prefontaine.

Other items:

- AB ED reorganization – due to fewer staff, focus on “Metro Services” with intention of taking advantage of best practice in metro boards & expanding results to province. Marlene Lambe is part of the Metro Services Team and is very involved in the Regulatory Review process.
- 5 charter school evaluations this year; process will be more personalized and collaborative (Superintendents have been given relevant information)
- RFP's for Curriculum Development have been sent out
- Nominations for Excellence in Teaching Awards open since Oct. 18
- Teaching Excellence Task Force focus group dates: Nov. 4 in Calgary, Nov. 12 in Edmonton; report in early 2014
- Deadline to request modulars for 2014/15: Nov. 15
- Nov. 30 – date by which Superintendents must indicate intentions re PAT's/SLA's/both
- Sandra Jansen has been appointed Associate Minister of Family and Community safety; she will be including school authorities in the development of proactive strategies.
- Inclusive Education Library available on website @ <http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/ieptLibrary/index.html> .
- Charter schools have been made aware of which sections of the new Ed Act apply to them; please be particularly cognizant of Section 33 (Board Responsibilities) and Section 11 (Responsibilities to Students)

In response to a question about the measures that might be taken to encourage the large boards to be receptive to the “message” of charter schools, Marlene said that AB ED recognizes the need for a process in this area.

SPECIAL GUEST: MLA CHRISTINE CUSANELLI, ALBERTA EDUCATION REGULATORY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Ms. Cusanelli is meeting with stakeholder groups throughout the province to hear their wishes/concerns regarding the regulations connected to the new Education Act. Her committee is very dedicated to the ideals of the *Inspiring Education* initiative; charter schools are a “gem” that we offer in Alberta and, as such, can play a significant role in meeting those ideals. The Calgary Arts Academy is in her riding and she has great admiration for their amazing infusion of arts into the curriculum.

Table discussions resulted in the identification of several issues that the participants would ask be kept in mind: 1. the desire for “continuous” terms (replacing 15 year terms), 2. access to equitable facilities, ideally including ownership of new buildings, 3. the recognition that the concept of CHOICE should underlie the regulations, and that removal of obstacles to choice is imperative, 4. equitable treatment in terms of accountability, and 5. timely decision-making. The point was made that some of the consultations so far have revealed an unwillingness on the part of some education stakeholders to recognize that charter schools are here to stay.

Ms. Cusanelli encouraged charter schools to be relentless in sending their message, and will assist in the direction of that message to the appropriate MLA’s. She also invited representatives to attend a sitting of the legislature, where she would be happy to introduce them.

4. Education Advisory Committee (EAC) Report

- 4.1 Leadership Project Part 2 – With the approval of a second \$50,000 grant to continue these sessions into another year, the first session was held on September 18 and was ably presented by Judy Gray and Denise Budgen from FFCA. The next will be held on November 21; more information is forthcoming.
- 4.2 Conference 2013, Oct. 25, 2013 – Thanks were expressed to the Calgary Girls’ School for hosting the conference, and to the committee for all their work in organizing it. Garry McKinnon thanked Garry Andrews for his leadership in pulling it all together.
- 4.3 PSBAA Meeting - After a few exploratory meetings, PSBAA is considering the offer of membership to charters, although cost may be a factor.
- 4.4 Meeting with Thomas Lukaszuk – This meeting was not as productive as hoped in relation to the reasons for our graduation/post-secondary successes. Deputy Premier Lukaszuk would like to see the next high school opened by a charter school to be vocational in focus.
- 4.5 Vendors/Sponsors for Conference - This idea was met with some interest. EAC or a sub-committee will put a position paper together.

5. New Business

- 5.1 Brochure – The brochures are finally up-to-date, at least for the time being; please contact Meredith should you wish any more. (\$0.60 per brochure)
- 5.2 TAAPCS Identity – It was agreed that the acronym TAAPCS would be pronounce “TAPS”.

- 5.3 Regulatory Review Survey Format – Please complete the online survey, if only in relation to charter schools. There is a workbook available for completion as well.
- 5.4 Who Does What and When? – Meredith presented a history of volunteer contributions to our meetings in the hope that it will inform future offers.
- 5.5 C.D. Howe School Ratings – Kurtis Leinweber contacted the researcher responsible for these ratings, in which an attempt was made to control for certain demographic variables not considered in the Fraser Institute school rankings. Two charter schools (Almadina and Aurora) were among the 12 “best” schools in Alberta, and two others (Westmount and FFCA) would have been if the results had been broken down differently. The study proffered three potential reasons for this: 1. charter schools may select students (i.e. reject those who are weaker), 2. charter schools may be able to hire stronger teachers, and 3. charter school mandates may match the interests of parents, students and/or teachers. It is uncertain whether this analysis will be done in future years.

6. Meeting Reminders

- 6.1 January 16/17, 2014 (Sheraton Hotel, Red Deer): Entertainment - FFCA; Door prizes – Westmount; Hospitality – CSS; School Spotlight – Almadina; Research Report – CGS
- 6.2 May 8/9, 2013 (Edmonton): Entertainment – Suzuki/Winspear Event; Door prizes – CAA; Hospitality – FFCA; School Spotlight – Valhalla(?); Research Report - CSS

Adjournment 1:15 p.m.