



**The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools
 October 26, 2014
 Coast Plaza Hotel and Conference Centre
 Calgary, Alberta**

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1. Call to order

- 1.1 Introductions – Attendees introduced themselves with their school affiliations and positions. Special thanks were expressed to Almadina Language Charter Academy for the wonderful entertainment provided by the students. It was obvious that much enthusiasm and rehearsal had gone into their heart-warming performances. Thank you also to Connect Charter for providing the draw prizes, and to Calgary Arts Academy for their gracious hospitality after dinner.
- 1.2 Consideration of Agenda – All committee reports were moved to the end of the agenda.
- 1.3 Approval of Minutes
#14/24/10-01 M/C to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2014 regular meeting as presented.
Norm Vaughn
Joe Frank
- 1.4 Financial Report
#14/24/10-02 M/C to approve the Oct. 24/14 Financial Report as presented.
John Liu
Myra Penberthy
- 1.5 School Spotlight – Members of Calgary Arts Academy, from the Superintendent to a parent, gave a multi-faceted and informative presentation on their arts-immersion program, including the use of contract and full-time artists, their invitation to the 2005 UNESCO Commission for the Arts, their use of “molecular modelling” which breaks down all their artistic elements into specific skills and knowledge, their use of portfolios, and their school culture based on the “Circle of Courage”. Their partnership with the Stampede Board has progressed to the point where Dale was able to present master plan illustrations of the new facility which is planned for occupancy in August of 2016. The facility perfectly reflects their philosophy in terms of the physical spaces that will facilitate program delivery. Their excitement was palpable and infectious! Congratulations, CAA!
- 1.6 Research Update: Connect Charter School – Charter Schools as Centres for Research and Innovation: How can we use research-informed practice to foster student success? Beginning in the fall of 2011, Connect (then the Calgary Science Charter School) instituted a program through which teachers could access funding (\$2000 for individual projects, \$4000 for group projects) to try to answer their “burning questions” about teaching and learning. Since then 30

action-research projects have been completed and a conference held (“Innovate West”) to share the results of this initiative. Fourteen new projects have been proposed this year (3rd year).

SPECIAL PRESENTATION - DR. DUANE BRATT:

“The political landscape unfolding in Alberta and potential impacts on education, particularly charter schools, as I see it.”

Dr. Bratt described his recent research related to the outcome of the by-elections to be held on Oct. 27, which he described as “unusual” due to the high stakes and the fact that two of the candidates are Ministers of important portfolios who do not currently hold seats in the Legislature. Dr. Bratt hypothesized a direct correlation between the number of election signs posted on private property (excluding apartment buildings and gated communities) in the three Calgary ridings, and the election outcome in each of those ridings. He and several colleagues drove every street of each constituency over a period of 4 days during the week preceding the election. Only one other such study has ever been done. The results predicted Conservative victories in Calgary Foothills and Calgary Elbow, and Wild Rose in Calgary West. Dr. Bratt suggested that, no matter what the outcomes, charter schools are “institutionalized” in Alberta and would likely suffer no setbacks; indeed, as it stands, the new Education Act does not even specify a cap on the number allowed.

2. Committee Reports

- 2.1 Future Committee Reports – Unknown pending by-elections and committee invitations. We do know that Ian Gray (Aurora) is our rep on the PASI Committee.
- 2.2 Charter Board Directors – Jolene Kochendorfer sent her regrets that she was unable to attend and chair this meeting, which was attended by all Superintendents and a few Directors. After sharing of school initiatives and relaying the request for a volunteer to attend EAC when Jolene is unable (let Garry Andrews know if you are willing), the group had conversations around their 2 main initiatives: government relations and PD for Board members. Re: the former, the planned presentation to Capital Caucus was postponed, and a request has been made to Calgary Caucus for a spot on their agenda. Re: the latter, any suggestions that you may have in relation to PD opportunities should be forwarded to Garry Andrews.

3. TAAPCS Strategic Direction – Small group conversations took place around our association guidelines and objectives (are they still valid?), and the roles of President/CEO/Executive Director (do they need tweaking?) Garry collected the feedback and these issues will be discussed at the November EAC meeting.

4. Update from Alberta Education

- 4.1 Alberta Education Restructuring – Remains to be seen!
- 4.2 Update re Municipal Government Act - Amendments are on the table but nothing has been verified yet. Avi has offered to attend an EAC meeting early in the new year to bring the latest information.
- 4.3 Status/Times re Education Act & Regulations – The planned date range for proclamation is anywhere from Sept. 2015 to 2018; there is no “drop dead” date on the regulatory review. The Minister has been

thoroughly reviewing both.

- 4.4 Assurance Model vs. Accountability Model – Updates will come out in the Planning and Reporting Guide next April. The Assurance Model will include Accountability Pillar data, as well as student assessment and community engagement information.
- 4.5 Budget 2015 and Inclusive Education Proposal – No inclusive education funding or budget news at this point.
- 4.6 SLA’s Status and Timelines – The Gr. 6 pilot will proceed next fall as planned.
- 4.7 Task Force for Teaching Excellence – Discussions are ongoing as to how best to action the recommendations.
- 4.8 Curriculum Redesign – Continuing as planned. See the Minister’s mandate letter for more.

5. Education Advisory Committee Report

- 5.1 Premier’s Mandate Letter – Attached for information. Garry pointed out that the word “basics” is mentioned 3 times.
- 5.2 PASI Representation – Our rep is Ian Gray. The committee is scheduled to meet in early December, however there may be a delay due to the recent death of John Myroon who was heading this up.
- 5.3 Inclusive Education – Our funding proposal currently sits on the desk of Assistant Deputy Minister Gene Williams; we can have some measure of confidence that it will be accepted. Gene has been asked to attend our regular meeting in January.
- 5.4 Research Protocol - As a follow-up to the U. of C. Research Project, former Suzuki Superintendent recommended that the TAAPCS adopt a 3-part protocol for engaging in any future research projects: 1. Questions must be vetted by the association or a committee of the association, 2. The association must be provided with a draft copy of the report prior to its release, 3. The association establish a process for dissemination of the research result.
- 5.5 Halvar Johnson Award – This award was presented at our banquet to the very deserving Dr. Garry McKinnon, who was equally gracious in his acceptance.
- 5.6 Friends of Charter Schools Acknowledgements – Over and above our annual Halvar Jonson award, members were asked to identify people who had “championed” their own school. It was proposed that names be brought to an open forum at our January meeting, and a data base initiated.
- 5.7 School Leadership Learning Initiative – We are now into Year 3 of this project and the grant contract has been signed and returned. Four sessions were included and this year a new element has been added: two online sessions with Michael Fullan to take place on November 26 and January 13 at 12:00 p.m. Facilitator Jim Brandon and Suzuki Principal Karen Spencer have been invited to the Deputy Minister’s Forum on Teaching Excellence to make a presentation on this initiative. It was emphasized that expense claims related to SLLI Phase 3 must be submitted to Meredith Poole by June 30, 2015 at the latest.

6. New Business

- 6.1 Appointments to Committees – Education Advisory Committee: TBD at AGM immediately following.
New Halvar Jonson Award Committee: Dale Erickson, Teresa DiNinno, Hal Curties, Josh Van Beers, Issa Mosa, Karen Spencer

7. Meeting Reminders

- 7.1 **Jan. 15/16, 2015** (Red Deer): Entertainment – FFCA; Door Prizes – FFCA; Hospitality - Almadina; School Spotlight – Westmount; Research Report –Westmount
May 7/8, 2015 (Medicine Hat): Entertainment – CAPE; Door Prizes – CAPE; Hospitality - CAPE; School Spotlight – CAPE; Research Report –CAPE
October, 2015 (Calgary): Entertainment – ?; Door Prizes – Almadina; Hospitality – New Horizons; School Spotlight – ?; Research Report –Suzuki

8. **EAC Meeting Schedule:** Nov. 21, 2014; Feb. 20, April 17 & June 5, 2015

9. **Remaining SLLI Session Dates (2015):** March 19 (Calgary), May 6 (Medicine Hat)

Adjournment: 1:00 p.m.