



REGULAR MEETING
October 7, 2016
Crow Flag Room, Grey Eagle Resort & Casino
Calgary, AB

MINUTES

PRESENT: Alexander Blyth, Marlene Lambe, Yvonne DePeel, Haytham Ghouriri, Samir Jalloul, Issa Mosa, Mohamed Salih, Sohail Sherwani, Dale Bischoff, Shamir Mukhi, Dale Erickson, Jan Jordan, Paul Knapp, Michelle Stonehouse, Teresa Di Ninno, Natalya Nicholson, Geordie MacPherson, Margo Purcell, Susan Chomistek, Denise Kitagawa, Ron Koper, Harold Lemieux, Myra Penberthy, Cindy McGlashan-Beaucage, Andrew Chu, Kurtis Leinweber, Roger Nippard, Meredith Poole, Lorie Skaper-Burtch, Josh Symonds, Wayne Weinheimer, Don Falk, Jill Weiss, Heather Christison, Lynne Paradis, Karen Spencer, Boris Vidal, Jolene Kochendorfer, John Picard, Karen Rosvold, Linda Finlay, Joe Frank, Jordan Lewis, John Liu

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Co-Vice-President Don Falk at 8:30 a.m.

1.1 Introduction and Words of Appreciation – Attendees introduces themselves, and Don expressed the appreciation of the membership for the wonderful musical entertainment provided by the Westmount Senior Jazz Band, and for the generous door prizes provided by Almadina, on the previous evening.

1.2 Consideration of Agenda – Additions: Item 5.3 Executive Director Hiring (Yvonne DePeel, Don Falk), Item 5.4 Meeting with Minister Eggen (Jolene Kochendorfer), Item 6.1 to include discussion

#16/7/10-01 M/C to adopt the agenda as amended.

Denise Kitigawa
Paul Knapp

1.3 Approval of Minutes

#16/7/10-02 M/C to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2016 regular meeting as presented.

Boris Vidal
Jill Weiss

1.4 Financial Report

#16/7/10-03

M/C to receive the May 1 to Aug. 31, 2016 Financial Report as presented.

Joe Frank

Denise Kitigawa

1.5 School Spotlight – Phys. Ed. teacher John Cadman presented on Connect’s Outdoor Education program which is a supporting pillar of the CCS charter. The goals are to enhance executive functioning; foster a strong sense of community; develop critical and creative thinking skills, leadership skills and relationships; and nurture the confidence and the ability to succeed in unfamiliar domains. Every student in every grade is offered biannual day and/or overnight trips in natural settings, and staff take part in professional development to ensure they are well prepared to optimize the benefits from these pursuits. Student comments were a testament to the value the kids see in this initiative.

1.6 Education Research Update - Dr. Lynne Paradis from Suzuki reported on research that they are engaging in with Dr. Jacqueline Leighton from U. of A. that focuses on how learning “climates” or environments influence students emotionally and socially for meaningful and long-lasting achievement. More details about this research initiative are contained in the handout provided by Dr. Paradis at the meeting, and attached to these minutes. It was suggested that at each meeting, updates be provided on any and all research being done by our schools.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

2.1 Charter Board Directors’ Report – Committee Chair Jolene Kochendorfer reported that topics of discussion at yesterday’s meeting had included the TAAPCS Strategic Plan, the search for a new Executive Director, orientation for new Directors, how to proceed in the absence of an official response to our request for a meeting with Minister Eggen, and the key question, “*If TAAPCS was a more effective organization for Charter Boards of Directors, what valued outcomes would be achieved?*”

#16/7/10-04

M/C to receive the report of the Charter Board Directors’ Committee.

Cindy McGlashan-Beaucage

Denise Kitigawa

2.2 Superintendents’ Report – Topics included the Strategic Plan, governance/bylaws, ED search, decision-making in the absence of the Superintendent, audits (e.g. CRA, Workers’ Compensation), Aurora research, FOIPP re access to student information by bus drivers, and Joint Protocol for the Release of PAT/Diploma Exam Results.

2.3 EAC Report

2.3.1 Joint Protocol for the Release of Exam Results – Don Falk pointed out that, although we seem to be bound by the protocol that specifies the schedule for the release of exam results, as charter schools we are not actually signatories to that agreement, nor do we have any input into its development.

#16/7/10-05

M/C that TAAPCS request of Alberta Education that we be allowed to participate in the development, and subsequent signing, of the Joint Protocol for the Release of PAT/Diploma Exam Results.

Geordie MacPherson

Jolene Kochendorfer

2.4 School Leadership Learning Initiative – Sessions were held in October, April and May of this past year with 20-30 members participating in each, a core group of about 12, and most schools represented. The topics covered included instructional leadership, having difficult conversations, supervision and evaluation, observations of learning, coaching, and the new TQS. Participants indicated that most influential learning pieces were developments with Alberta Education, working with charter school colleagues as administrators, the university expertise from professors, and coaching practices. A survey was conducted which will be used to guide planning for the coming year.

#16/7/10-06
Denise Kitigawa
Jill Weiss

M/C to receive the report of the School Leadership Learning Committee.

4. ALBERTA EDUCATION REPORT – As reported by Marlene Lambe, the highlights from Alberta Education are 1. The Director’s Report (just circulated to staff and Boards), 2. In the Loop (published online 6 times per year by the Deputy Minister), 3. Public release of PAT/DIP Exam results today (outstanding), 4. Curriculum redevelopment: face-to-face & on-line consultations planned; working groups set up by some charters; all subjects will have same format, digital platform, 5. SLA Gr. 3 pilot going ahead, no charter schools involved; Gr. 6 & 9 PAT’s are continuing, 6. Proclamation date of new Ed Act still uncertain, 7. Teacher, School Leader and Superintendent Standards close to finalization.

Report from Alexander Blyth, Business Operations and Stakeholder Support:

School Finance: 1. Staffing update – Sharon Johnson replaces Richard Arnold as the Senior Manager, Financial Accountability with School Finance. Sharon can be reached at (780) 422-0865. 2. School authorities are not permitted to provide funding to students or families in cases where a student is enrolled in an online or regular school program. The only permissible instance for grant funding to be provided to parents is for students enrolled in a home education program. 3. Declaration of Management form for 2016-2017 school year is due **October 31**. 4. Delegation of signing authority form due to the School Finance Branch is due **October 31**.

Financial Reporting and Accountability: 1. Year to date (April 2016 – September 2016) Revenue and Expenses due to Financial Reporting and Accountability Branch due **October 15**. 2. Any questions regarding audited financial statements should be directed to Robert Mah at (780) 427-3855 or Mei-Ling Irwin at (780) 415-8940.

Business Operations and Stakeholder Support: 1. Staffing Update – Richard Arnold replaces Jeff Willan as Director of BOSS. Jeff is Executive Director of the Policy and Planning Sector. 2. Enrolment verifications will be undertaken between October 2016 and February 2017.

TABLE DISCUSSION: PROPOSED BYLAW REVISIONS – Discussions were held at each table around the following four items:

Question #1. *Are you satisfied with the current structure of the Board of Directors, where there is one director from each school (either a Charter Board member or a Senior Administrator) and this person carries the vote at TAAPCS meetings, and three or four Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer) elected or appointed from among the Directors? What, if any, changes would you suggest?*

Question #2. *The term of office for Officers is one year, which makes sense for an organization in which member schools have annual elections. The question is what should be the maximum number of successive terms in any one Officer position and in total on the Executive, or should there be any maximums?*

Question #3. *The Executive Director is an employee of TAAPCS, and as such, the position should not be described in the Bylaws; however, it’s a very important position for the organization. So, given the limited number of hours allocated to the position, what should be the priority responsibilities of the Executive Director? From whom should the Executive Director take direction and report back?*

Question #4. *Is the current schedule of meetings good for your school? Would you like to see more or fewer meetings per year? Do you like the current model of meetings where everyone who wishes attends all parts of the meetings? Would you prefer to have some general sessions (as now) and some specialized sessions (where admin meet together on topics of interest and directors meet together on common issues)? Or some other configuration?*

Responses were gathered and will be compiled for sharing at our January meeting.

FACILITATED DISCUSSION: COMMUNICATIONS PRIORITIES – As identified by our own strategic plan, the Hill+Knowlton Strategies report, and our own interactions with the public and government MLA's, there is an obvious need for improved communications and information sharing. How can this best be accomplished over the coming year, both internally and externally? Ideas were recorded at the tables and will be compiled and shared.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Waiver Request

#16/7/10-07

*Cindy McGlashan-Beaucage
Paul Knapp*

M/C that the 2015/16 and 2016/17 Membership Dues (\$2200/year) be waived for Valhalla Community School.

5.2 Valhalla Invitation re May Meeting

#16/7/10-08

*Paul Knapp
Linda Finlay*

M/C that the May 2017 meeting be held in Valhalla Centre, AB.

5.3 Executive Director Search – It was agreed that the ad needs to be posted (our website, CASS website) asap with an application deadline of the end of October. Suggestions/questions: mention of remuneration, FTE, experience in education, necessity for Master's degree?

5.4 Meeting with Minister Eggen – There has been no formal response to our January request for a meeting with the Minister. However since Jolene, Dianne, Yvonne and Garry were able to meet with him on April 1st, it was decided that any follow-up to the January letter could wait until we have a new executive and ED in place, and the focus may very well be different.

6. IMPORTANT DATES

6.1 Regular Meetings

#16/7/10-09

*Geordie MacPherson
Boris Vidal*

M/D that future TAAPCS meetings be condensed to one day.

#16/7/10-10

*Boris Vidal
Cindy McGlashan-Beaucage*

M/C that the January 2017 meeting be held on January 20/21 (Friday/Saturday).
(2 opposed)

The dates for the May 2017 meetings (May 11/12 OR May 12/13) will be decided at the January meeting.)

6.2 EAC Meetings: Nov. 18, Feb. 24, Apr. 17, June 9 – These dates are to be considered TENTATIVE.

6.3 SLLI Sessions: TBD

6.4 Board Development Seminars (Becky Kallal): Oct. 5, Jan. 24, Mar. 23

PLEASE NOTE that these are being hosted by the Calgary Girls' School in partnership with several Calgary-area boards, but any/all directors are welcome to attend. Suzuki has organized the same sessions in the Edmonton area and will be circulating those dates (also open to all).

ADJOURNMENT: 1:37 p.m.