



**The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools
Friday, May 12, 2017
Valhalla Community School (VCS)*
Valhalla Centre, AB**

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Marlene Lambe (AE); Glenn McClure, Haytham Ghouriri, Abdul Aziz Houmsi, Samir Jalloul, Issa Mosa (Almadina); Dale Bischoff, Paola Mayo (Aurora); Paul Knapp (Calgary Arts Academy); Dianne McBeth, Geordie MacPherson, Wayne Marshall, Natalya Nicholson (Calgary Girls' School); Teresa DiNinno, Janine Bide (CAPE); Susan Chomistek, Denise Kitagawa, Ron Koper (Connect); Roger Nippard, Andrew Chu, Cindy McGlashan-Beaucage, Meredith Poole, Wayne Weinheimer (FFCA); Ed Wittchen (MECCS); Don Falk, Jill Weiss, Nicole Pasemko (New Horizons); Boris Vidal (Suzuki); Kath Rhyason (TAAPCS); John Picard, Nancy Westad, Jolene Kochendorfer, Donna Steyer, Paul Gibson, Brandie Skaksen, Steve Mumert, Karen Rosvold (Valhalla); Joe Frank, John Liu, Scott Rankin, Tun Myo (Westmount)

Valhalla Community School

Principal Steve Mumert began with a presentation explaining the interesting history of the Valhalla Community School and how it came to be a K-9 public charter school in 2008. Described in detail were the three main pillars of the school: 1. whole group direct instruction, 2. instruction in a second language (originally meant to be German or French, now French only), and 3. rural leadership development. Their renewal evaluation commended them on the rural leadership program, their stakeholder support, their stewardship of finances, support from the community, their governance and leadership, and their administrative leadership and communication. They were asked to: update their charter to align with the new Ministerial Order, strengthen the areas of research and partnership, enhance the sharing of best practices, develop enhanced assessment practices for their rural leadership program, develop a framework for teaching and learning, and monitor the school enrolment and finances. Valhalla will be applying for Charter Renewal on Dec. 1, 2017. The morning culminated with videos and demonstrations by students showcasing their impressive public speaking abilities. Thanks to Valhalla Community School for a presentation which gave truth to their claim that "We are Community".

1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 Introductions – Participants introduced themselves.
- 1.2 Consideration of Agenda – No changes.
- 1.3 Approval of Minutes
#17/12/05-01 M/C to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2017 regular meeting as presented.
Denise Kitagawa
Cindy McGlashan-Beaucage

2. REPORTS

- 2.1 Charter Board Directors' Report - Next meeting tomorrow at 8:30 a.m.
- 2.2 Officers' Report – Dianne expressed appreciation for the work of Kath Rhyason, who started in December and has been very busy ever since, and to the officers of TAAPCS. Items of note include: a) the formation of the *ad hoc* Fees and Communications Committees (reports later in minutes); b) submission and approval of revised Bylaws (transition to full implementation at Fall AGM); c) Bill 1 appeals to Minister and MLA's requesting full consideration as public schools; d) appreciation for the work of Yvonne DePeel on TAAPCS executive; e) appreciation to Lynne Paradis for drafting of our research proposal (which, along with all other charter school proposals, was not accepted).
- 2.3 EAC Report – A number of Conference Call meetings have taken place since our last face-to-face meeting in Red Deer last November.
- 2.4 Correspondence – All correspondence is scanned and distributed to Superintendents by Secretary Meredith Poole. The correspondence file was circulated.
- 2.5 School Leadership Learning Initiative – See the report provided by Karen Spencer. Our grant was not renewed and we have been asked to return all unused funds.
- 2.6 *Ad hoc* Communications Committee Report – See report provided. Top two objectives are government relations and community awareness. Three action items were identified: communication with government, communication with the public, and communication with other school jurisdictions. A budget of up to \$40,000 is requested for website improvements and a public relations program. The members are requesting consideration to serve on the standing Communications Committee when it is convened at the AGM.
- 2.7 *Ad hoc* Fees Committee Report – See report provided. The status of our Operating Grant is uncertain at this time. The proposed budget assumes receipt of this grant. See Item 4.1.
- 2.8 Conference Committee Report - Please send suggestions for sessions and keynotes to Janet Rockwood at jrockwood@auroraschool.ca (Chair of the Conference Committee).
- 2.9 Alberta Education Field Services – i) The previous Field Services Directors' Report has been replaced by "In the Loop" which is online and can be accessed on the front page of the AE website; highlights currently include curriculum development, new resources, and high school redesign. ii) There has been a recent memo about the assurance review, and the DM will be scheduling consultations. iii) \$16.4M over next 45 years has been announced to expand Dual Credit opportunities. iv) Eleven research proposals were accepted; Marlene will send out the list. v) There were some technical glitches in the distribution of the A/P results; they will be coming soon. vi) Status of government bills: Bill 1 – received Royal Assent; Bill 8 – at Third Reading Stage; Bill 6 – received Royal Assent; Bill 202 – received Royal Assent.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

- 3.1 Follow-up to Bylaw Implementation
- 3.1.1 Policy Development and Review
#17/12/05-02 M/C to approve the Policy Development and Review Policy as
Dale Bischoff presented.
Cindy McGlashan-Beaucage

3.1.2 Policy Review Committee: Motion to Approve

- Committees of the Board
- Elections Policy (Approval in principle)
- Waiver Policy (Approval in principle)

#17/12/05-03 M/C to approve the formation of a Policy Advisory Committee.
Cindy McGlashan-Beaucage
Paul Knapp

#17/12/05-04 M/C to approve the Committees of the Board, and the Elections
Haytham Ghouriri and Waiver Policies in principle
Scott Rankin

3.1.3 Acting Chair - It was agreed that Boris Vidal and Paul Knapp would perform the role of Acting Co-Chairs during the period of transition to our new Bylaws.

3.1.4 Appointment of Secretary - It was agreed that Meredith Poole would perform the role of Recording Secretary during the period of transition to our new Bylaws.

3.2 Bill 1 Actions – Several letters were sent requesting inclusion for public charter schools within Bill 1; we were told that this would be considered next year. Thanks were expressed for the support of CASS, and to Liberal Leader David Swann for his comments in the Legislature, during this process.

3.3 Newsletters, brochures, pins – After discussion there is still uncertainty as to whether newsletters will continue to be produced and replacement pins ordered. Members were asked to get all brochure edits to Meredith; a digital file will then be supplied so that members may print their own brochures as needed.

3.4 Halvar Jonson Award - The duties associated with the Halvar Jonson Award will be handled by the newly-approved Awards and Recognition Committee.

4. NEW BUSINESS (& discussion)

4.1/4.2 Membership Fees/Motion to Approve the Fees

#17/12/05-05 M/C to table discussion of the Membership Fees until after
Budget deliberations have concluded. (Not debateable.)

Geordie MacPherson
Denise Kitagawa

4.3/4.4 Presentation of Budget 2017-18, Motion to Approve Budget 2017-18

#17/12/05-06 M/C to approve the 2017-18 Budget as amended.

Geordie MacPherson
Boris Vidal

#17/12/05-07 M/D to increase the budget by \$20,000 under Professional Fees.

Dale Bischoff
Ed Wittchen

#17/12/05-08 Friendly amendment to remove the SLL Grant from both the
Revenue and Expenditure sides of the budget

Don Falk

#17/12/05-9 M/C that the Expenditure under Communication Committee be increased from \$4100 to \$10,000.
Don Falk
Ron Koper

#17/12/05-10 M/C that the Audit Fee be removed from the budget.
Denise Kitagawa
Cindy McGlashan-Beaucage

4.2 (cont'd.) Motion to Approve the Fees

#17/12/05-11 M/C that an alternative fee structure be approved for 2017-18.
Denise Kitagawa
Paola Mayo

#17/12/05-12 M/C that the Membership Fee for schools with fewer than 200 students be reduced to \$500.
Dale Bischoff
Ron Koper

#17/12/05-13 M/C that the Membership Fee for the schools with 601-800 students be raised from \$4250 to \$4500.
Dale Bischoff
Ron Koper

#17/12/05-14 M/C that the Membership Fee for the schools with 401-600 students be raised from \$3500 to \$3750.
Geordie MacPherson
Scott Rankin

#17/12/05-15 M/D that the Membership Fee for the schools with over 801 students be raised from \$5000 to \$6000.
Dale Bischoff
Paul Knapp
First Vote: 6 for, 6 against
Second Vote: 6 for, 5 against with one abstention

#17/12/05-16 M/D to approve the 2017-18 Membership Fees as presented in the table below.
Cindy McGlashan-Beaucage
Geordie MacPherson

FINAL 2017-18 MEMBERSHIP FEE STRUCTURE

Students	Schools	Fees	Revenue
0-200	3	500	1500
201-400	3	2500	7500
401-600	2	3750	7500
601-800	1	4500	4500
801+	4	5000	20000
			41000

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – i) Dianne McBeth: thanked the participants for their forbearance during the fees discussion. ii) Denise Kitagawa: shared that the Outdoor Education Program at Connect has been significantly enhanced. iii) Cindy McGlashan-Beaucage: thanked all the Directors present for both their attendance and contributions, and Dianne and Kath for their leadership in bringing some positive changes to TAAPCS. iv) Ed Wittchen: MECCS has partnered a Gr. 3-4 class

with a Gr. 4 class from Wildwood; took 55 kids to King Edward School in Edmonton; have formed a drumming group and a beading group, built a brush shelter, are doing archery and aboriginal hand games. v) Joe Frank: the Westmount Literacy Development Group is making connections with the National Association of Gifted Children, and the school is involved with 2 more research projects with U. of C. vi) Natalya Nicholson: The Calgary Girls' School is pleased to have their first alumna on their Board of Directors. vii) Dale Bischoff: Aurora's Action Research Committee is in Year 2; Edmonton Journal wants to publish an article about the school. viii) Roger Nippard: FFCA has been given Ministerial permission to obtain a mortgage toward the purchase of a building to house their Central Office and their Maintenance department. ix) Don Falk: New Horizons is undergoing a fully funded modernization (\$8M); enrolment is growing by 16% next year. x) Glenn McClure: Almadina has 700 students on their wait list.

6. ADJOURNMENT: 4:58 p.m.

Notice of Important Dates

- SLL Sessions: May 23/17 (Mother Earth – L. Guthro), 3rd TBD
 - TAAPCS EAC Meeting: June 9/17
 - TAAPCS Biennial Conference: October 27/17 (Aurora School Hosts)
 - TAAPCS Annual General Meeting: October 28/17 (Location TBD)
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