



The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools
Jan. 22, 2010
Greenwood Inn

	Name	School	Position	Phone	E-mail
1	Joe Frank	AB ED	Ed. Mgr, Spec. Prog.	(403) 297-6299	joe.frank@gov.ab.ca
2	David Woloshyn	AB ED	Director, Zone 5	(780) 427-5393	david.woloshyn@gov.ab.ca
3	Richard Arnold	AB ED	Bus. Oper. Mgr.	(780) 422-6062	richard.arnold@gov.ab.ca
4	Garry Andrews	TAAPCS	Executive Director	(403) 328-7350	andrews.garry@gmail.com
5	Steve Simmons	Aurora	Superintendent	(780) 454-1855	ssimmons@auroraschool.com
6	Merle Kennedy	BSEC	Board Director	(780) 437-3404	mlmk1@shaw.ca
7	Dale Erickson	CAA	Superintendent	(403) 532-3020	derickson@calgaryartsacademy.com
8	Garry Schock	CAA	Sec./ Treasurer	(403) 229-3010	gschock@calgaryartsacademy.com
9	Todd Hirsch	CAA	Board Co-Chair	(403) 815-2277	thirsch@atb.com
10	Teresa DiNinno	CAPE	Superintendent	(403) 957-0403	tdininno@capeisgreat.org
11	Jeney Gordon	CAPE	Principal	(403) 528-2983	jgordon@capeisgreat.org
12	Ches Cowley	CGS	Superintendent	(403) 220-0745	ches.cowley@calgarygirlsschool.com
13	Jan Jordan	CGS	Sec./Treasurer	(403) 220-0745	jan.jordan@calgarygirlsschool.com
14	Myra Penberthy	CSS	Sec./Treasurer	(403) 282-2890	myra.penberthy@calgaryscienceschool.com
15	Gordon Welch	CSS	Superintendent	(403) 601-2563	gwconsulting@shaw.ca
16	Darrell Lonsberry	CSS	Principal	(403) 282-2890	darrell.lonsberry@calgaryscienceschool.com
17	Shelley Robinson	CSS	Vice-Principal	(403) 282-2890	shelley.robinson@calgaryscienceschool.com
18	Garry McKinnon	CSS	Superintendent	(403) 282-2890	Garry.mAcalgaryscienceschool.com
19	Meredith Poole	FFCA	Exec. Asst.	(403) 520-3206	meredith.poole@ffca-calgary.com
20	Judy Gray	FFCA	Co-Principal	(403) 258-2728	judy.gray@ffca-calgary.com
21	Jay Pritchard	FFCA	Superintendent	(403) 520-3206	jay.pritchard@ffca-calgary.com
22	Bill McGregor	FFCA	Board Chair	(403) 560-1432	bill.mcgregor@ffca-calgary.com
23	Gerry Schuster	FFCA	Board Vice-Chair	(403) 681-2442	gerrys@layer10.com
24	Lorne McDonald	FFCA	NMS Principal	(403) 253-9257	lorne.mcdonald@ffca-calgary.com
25	Ed Wittchen	MECCS	Superintendent	(780) 222-4022	ed.wittchen@telus.net
26	Jim Rigby	New Hor	Superintendent	(780) 720-4477	wjrigby@shaw.ca
27	Nicole Vanwieren	New Hor	Board Chair	(780) 464-4626	nsvanwieren@syban.net
28	Heather Christison	Suzuki	Sec./ Treasurer	(780) 468-2598	christison@suzukischool.com
29	Doug Farrus	Suzuki	Board Chair	(780) 468-2598	farrusd@suzukischool.ca
30	Lee Lucente	Suzuki	Superintendent	(780) 468-2598	lucentel@suzukischool.ca
31	Freddi Bromling	Valhalla	Superintendent	(780) 882-7671	freddi@telusplanet.net
32	Jolene Kochendorfer	Valhalla	Co-Chair	(780) 356-2114	jdkoch@gpnet.ca
33	Martha Faulkner	Westmount	Principal	(403) 217-0426	martha.faulkner@westmountcharter.com
34	Merv Kurtz	Westmount	Superintendent	(403) 217-0426	merv.kurtz@westmountcharter.com
35	Megan O'Hara	Westmount	Sec./ Treasurer	(403) 217-0426	megan.ohara@westmountcharter.com
36	Constantine Pefanis	Westmount	Director	(403) 283-4282	Pefanis@shaw.ca
37	Barb Mendaglio	Westmount	Director	(403) 242-2698	bmendaglio@shaw.ca

1. CALL TO ORDER: Jay Pritchard called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

1.1 CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA – Merv Kurtz requested some time at the end of the agenda.

1.2 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

#10/01/22-01 M/C to adopt the minutes of the October 22/09 regular meeting as presented.
Bill McGregor
Merv Kurtz

1.3 ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL REPORT

#10/01/22-02 M/C to adopt the financial report as presented.
Gordon Welch
Megan O'Hara

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

1.5 SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT: Teresa DiNinno and Jeney Gordon provided an interesting and informative session on CAPE School in Medicine Hat which, along with New Horizons and Suzuki, was one of the first three charter schools in the province. CAPE serves “academically capable underachievers”. The next school to be in the “Spotlight” will be MECCS at the May meeting.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

2.1 ESL (Bev Hammond): Bev Hammond not present – no report. Minutes from the last regular committee meeting were distributed in her absence.

2.2 *INSPIRING EDUCATION* (Steve Simmons): Steve attended the last input session which focused on where the participants saw education going over the next 20 years, in the context of the opening and potential reorganization of the *School Act* later this year. Six themes emerged: choice, citizenship, diversity, excellence, fairness and opportunity. Steve noted that it will take quite a while for all the ensuing regulatory changes to be completed; also that the revised *School Act* will be more skeletal in nature with most of the changes being regulatory.

2.3 PRINCIPALS' GROUP (Ian Gray and Jeney Gordon): Jeney reported that there were 12 attendees at the January 21 meeting; she pointed out that these meetings are open to assistant/associate/vice-principals as well, and encouraged their attendance, as it is a great opportunity for them to network, discuss professional development and current AE initiatives (e.g. Leadership Quality Standard), do conference planning, etc. They will meet at Aurora School on May 6, and plan to get together 3 times each year, with a potential 4th meeting taking place by video-conference.

2.4 *SETTING THE DIRECTION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION* (Steve Simmons): There has not been much progress made recently, as this work impacts other ministries and is heavily tied in with the *Inspiring Education* initiative. No schedule for implementation has yet been worked out due to unanswered funding questions. The first working group will be meeting at the end of January to discuss policy. As yet, it is still unclear what the implications will be for charter schools that do not enrol Special Education students, although Joe Frank pointed out that the new Act will refer to “education for ALL students” relative to current Section 47.

2.5 CHARTER BOARD CHAIRS (Bill McGregor): 1. Nine of the 13 charters were represented at the Jan. 21 meeting of Board Chairs/Directors. 2. We are still awaiting a date with Rural Caucus; a request for information was sent out earlier this week but there has been no response. 3. Directors from the Calgary

Schools have been invited to present to Calgary Caucus on January 29. 4. The north schools are working on getting a meeting with Capital Caucus. 5. Bill encouraged all Boards not to lose momentum with their GR initiatives, as we are having some impact with MLA's. 6. Progress in Calgary has included a meeting with the Chair and Vice-Chair of CBE, as well as a combined meeting of Charter School Councils (one has been held this month and there will be another in mid-February.)

2.6 PROVINCIAL APPROACH TO STUDENT INFORMATION (PASI) (Heather Christison):

Heather reported that the resources for this initiative are expensive, and that some ideas are being proposed to make it more economical for small jurisdictions.

3. EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EAC) REPORTS (Garry Andrews/Heather Christison)

3.1 BYLAWS: Handout. Garry Andrews distributed a draft of the bylaws which have been amended with respect to executive positions, terms of office, etc. Some discussion took place. Lee Lucente has a bylaw "checklist" that he will forward to Garry, and the next draft will be brought to the May meeting.

3.2 CHARTER SCHOOL CONFERENCE SURVEY: Handout. Possible new formats for the conference were discussed (e.g. "planned collaboration"). Garry will collect information from schools to facilitate the setting of a date in Fall 2011.

3.3 DIRECTOR PD: Handout. Garry will choose dates for both a north session and a south session on "Leading Self and Others", and gauge interest prior to booking venues. The minimum number of participants for each session would be 8.

3.4 CASS EXECUTIVE MEETING: Handout. Garry and Jim Rigby attended this meeting to receive and provide clarification on some of the recommendations of the Charter School concept paper, specifically the issues of Enrolment (vis-à-vis inclusive education) and Funding (are charter schools not seen as "public" education?). They felt that they were well-received and that some doors may have been opened by virtue of their attendance.

3.5 PREFERRED FUTURE PLANNING DOCUMENT: Handout. The Committee met recently in Calgary to refine this document.

3.6 ASBA: Garry has talked to ASBA Executive Director David Anderson about allowing membership for charter school boards; they seem amenable to at least considering associate membership which would allow us to access legal services, PD for Directors, etc. Directors are asked to gauge interest in this at their respective schools, and report this back to Garry. The opposition to this is primarily from the ASBA executive, so conversations with these individuals are encouraged (consult website for names: www.asba.ab.ca).

3.7 CENTRES OF INNOVATION: There are several questions which arise in relation to the consideration of charter schools as Centres of Innovation; it was proposed that a letter be drafted to the Deputy Minister to clarify the impact of this proposal (e.g. current charter parameters, funding, opting in or out, whose research?)

3.8 NEWSLETTER: The newsletter was sent out in December and is posted on the website. Garry requested that schools provide him with information that he can use to develop articles for future issues.

4. BUSINESS ARISING: Shawna Ritchie, Policy Analyst with the Canada West Foundation, was at the meeting to discuss her findings and answer questions regarding her recently-released report *Innovation in Action: An Examination of Charter Schools in Alberta*. A very informed and articulate presenter, Ms.

Ritchie concluded through her research that the full potential of charter schools will not be realized until they are granted permanent status and their place in Alberta's education landscape is clarified. Delegates were urged to distribute this report widely, and speak about it to as many people as possible.

5. ALBERTA EDUCATION REPORTS (Joe Frank):

5.1 BUDGET MEETING – NEXT STEPS: The budget is scheduled for a February 9 release.

5.2 LEADERSHIP AWARDS: Work continues on development of the charter school equivalent of the MELRA awards. In response to a delegate's question, Joe will look into why the association has heard nothing in relation to a promised consultation on this.

5.3 PROFESSIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT: This is currently regulated under the Teacher Practice Review regulation which expires on February 28, 2010. The Professional Code of Conduct will be part of the new regulation which comes into effect on March 1, 2010.

5.4 SCHOOL ACT REVIEW: This review is in process and the Act will hopefully be opened in the Spring of this year. As the new Act will be less prescriptive and more "enabling", the bulk of the work around this will involve rewriting the relevant regulations and policies. The delegates were advised that the turnaround time for the 3 reading process may be quite short, so we may wish to call a Special Meeting of the Association to consider our input. (**NOTE:** Since this meeting we have been informed that the opening of the Act will most likely not occur until Fall 2010.)

5.5 OTHER: SUPERINTENDENT APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS: Forms should be submitted 6 months ahead of contract expiry; no contracts are to be signed nor announcements made until appointments have been approved by the Minister.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 CHARTER SCHOOL CONCEPT PAPER – CASS RESPONSE: See Item 3.4.

6.2 FUTURE MEETING DATES

May 6/7, 2010 – Edmonton, Matrix Hotel

Oct. 21/22, 2010 – Calgary

6.3 MERV KURTZ – On behalf of all the members of the Association, Merv thanked departing CSS Superintendent Gordon Welch for his dedicated service, presented him with a token of appreciation, and wished him all the best in his "second retirement".

ADJOURNMENT: 1:20 p.m.