



Regular Meeting Minutes
Greenwood Inn, Calgary
October 22, 2010

Name	School	Position	Phone	E-mail	
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2	Jeff Willan	AB ED	Bus. Oper. Dir,	(780) 422-0930	jeff.willan@gov.ab.ca
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5	Steve Simmons	Aurora	Superintendent	(780) 454-1855	ssimmons@auroraschool.com
6	Don Wilson	Aurora	Board Chair		don@spasofexcellence.com
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18	Meredith Poole	FFCA	Exec. Asst.	(403) 520-3206	meredith.poole@ffca-calgary.com
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31	Garry Andrews	TAAPCS	Executive Director	(403) 328-7350	andrews.garry@gmail.com
32	Jolene Kochendorfer	Valhalla	Co-Chair	(780) 356-2114	jdkoch@gpnet.ca
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36	Barb Mendaglio	Westmount	Director	(403) 242-2698	bmendaglio@shaw.ca
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1. CALL TO ORDER: Jay Pritchard called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

1.1 CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA – No changes.

1.2 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

#10/10/22-01 M/C to adopt the minutes of the May 7/10 regular meeting as presented.
Megan O’Hara
Doug Farrus

1.3 ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL REPORT

#10/10/22-02 M/C to adopt the financial report as presented.
Heather Christison
Joe Frank

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

1.5 SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT: Shelley Geran, Counsellor at the FFCA High School gave an enthusiastic account of her “journey” with FFCA and the successful development of the High School over the last 5 years.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

2.1 ESL: Keith Jones, the new Almadina Superintendent, has agreed to represent the association on the provincial committee. Their next meeting is on November 17; in the meantime Keith will email the latest information, which will be attached to these minutes.

2.2 PRINCIPALS’ GROUP: The Principals’ meeting will be held on November 12 at Almadina. Garry Andrews will be attending these meetings as TAAPCS liaison, and will help to facilitate joint projects, such as the 2011 Conference. The next meetings are Feb. 2, 2011 at Suzuki, and May 11, 2011 at CAPE.

2.3 CHARTER BOARD CHAIRS (CBC): The committee met on Oct. 21 with 3 items on the agenda: Director PD, government relations and media use. Not all topics were thoroughly covered but engagement in the discussion was high. Garry Andrews will be offering a PD session on “Change and Governance” in Calgary on Nov. 6 (at FFCA) and, with sufficient interest, one in Edmonton on Nov. 20 (location TBD). Bill McGregor will also be offering a GR session in Red Deer on Jan. 15, 2011 (following the Jan. 14 TAAPCS meeting). For the future, the CBC committee will meet in conjunction with every regular TAAPCS meeting, and Garry will help to coordinate the agendas.

2.4 INSPIRING ACTION: Judy Gray attended a large meeting in Edmonton on October 7; a number of perspectives were shared around the table on, for example, the issues of how best to define the responsibilities of parents and students, and of how to best organize time in schools (timetables, number of minutes and hours, CEU’s, pace of learning, etc.) Alberta Education will be producing a number of “Transformation Guides” on various themes (e.g. parental engagement, teaching, shared governance.) Judy also talked about the potential impact of the new movie “Waiting for Superman”, which exposes the flaws in the U.S. education system and speaks very favourably about the charter school alternative.

2.5 WORKFORCE PLANNING: The External Advisory Committee has representatives from ABA, ASBA, CASS and, thankfully, now from charter schools. Garry McKinnon attended a recent meeting which revealed that a significant teacher and administrator shortage is projected; currently 25% of Alberta teachers are leaving the profession within 5 years, and 30% are being hired from out-of-province. (It was suggested that it would be interesting to see how the drop-out rate at charter schools compares to this; this will come up at the next EAC meeting.) The committee has formed 13 sub-committees individually devoted to the development of 13 action strategies to address this attrition. Garry circulated information related to a future symposium; the committee meets next in January 2011.

2.6 DEANS' MEETING: Garry McKinnon will attend the Deputy Minister's meeting with the Deans of Education on behalf of TAAPCS on Oct. 28 and 29. The meeting will focus on teacher preparation.

2.7 LEADERSHIP FRAMEWORK: FFCA Northwest Elementary Campus principal Denise Budgen represents TAAPCS on this committee, which has been trying to adapt the Teaching Quality Standard to apply to administrators, and to identify the attributes of successful school leaders. The committee will review its latest draft of the document at its next meeting in November.

3. ALBERTA EDUCATION REPORTS

3.1 SETTING THE DIRECTION UPDATE: Marlene Lambe distributed 2 handouts related to the vision of Setting the Direction, and its short-term priorities. The process involves a lot of cross-ministry work, and there is still a lot of work to be done; it is anticipated that something will be in place by December 2011.

3.2 INSPIRING ACTION UPDATE: Marlene encouraged attendees to consult the *Inspiring Action* website, including the Minister's blog, to access the various Transformation Guides as they become available, and to direct parents to these as well. The *Speak Out* connection is also available to facilitate student participation.

3.3 UPDATE ON EDUCATION ACT AND REGULATIONS: The intent is to table the new *School Act* in the spring of 2011 and have it through the legislature by September 2012; it will be thinner and more enabling, and give a lot more authority to Boards. The details will be in the accompanying regulations. Marlene was asked if she could give us any hints as to the general trends in the new *Act* and if she knew where the information about charter schools would be enshrined (she will try to find out).

3.4 LEASING FRAMEWORK: Capital Planning has completed a study of leasing; recommendations have gone to the Minister, and are awaiting a response. Related financial and infrastructure issues will need to be integrated into the new *Act*.

3.5 CHARTER SCHOOL EVALUATIONS: This year Suzuki, Calgary Arts Academy, Calgary Girls' School and Valhalla will be evaluated. Judy Gray expressed her appreciation for the high quality of the evaluators being contracted to do this work, and requested that the thanks of the association be passed along to them.

3.6 CLASS SIZE INITIATIVE: The differentiated funding which was introduced last February earmarked proportionately more money for primary students, but allowed for more flexibility in

how the dollars are spent. There is also less of an administrative requirement in terms of class size reporting now (only required to report within AERR).

3.7 TRANSPORTATION FUNDING: Further to the change in urban funding which was announced last year, Phase II will include the metro, francophone and charter school boards. Jeff Willan mentioned that the process has been delayed because of the difficulty in designing a framework to support the new *School Act* before the *Act* has even been finished or passed. However, consultations with charters are expected to begin in the spring and Jeff assures us he is well aware of the transportation problems faced by charter schools. Jeff reported that the 10 recommendations for the Safety Study of two years ago have been implemented with a few challenges, most notably the completion by drivers of the bus route assessment checklist. Megan thanked Jeff for providing funding for transportation software to charter schools, and asked whether access to “Geocode” for all jurisdictions could be accomplished by provincial licensing, reducing the expense.

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SPECIAL PRESENTATION: “INNOVATION EXPOSED”

Following a short video (“Where do Good Ideas Come From?”), which emphasized the importance of dialogue and collaboration in the evolution of “good ideas”, CAA Co-Chair and Senior ATB Economist Todd Hirsch presented on the ideas of “Invention, Innovation and Design”. Todd distinguished between the three while suggesting that the word “innovation” is seriously overused in today’s business world:

- Innovation = something brand new
- Innovation = the application of a new idea liberated by invention
- Design = the improvement, or tweaking, of existing systems or products

Productivity can be boosted and wealth can be created in all three steps, and creativity is an essential element of all three. An excellent discussion ensued which connected Todd’s ideas to the charter school arena, and emphasized that steps should be taken to ensure that we and Alberta Education are on the same page in regard to the definition of “innovation”, considering that the concept promises to figure prominently in the future *raison d’être* for charters. Marlene Lambe was asked to seek some clarification around the definition of innovation as interpreted by the Minister. (Garry McKinnon’s dictionary definition: “Doing things in a different way and a better way.”)

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4. EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

4.1 TRANSPORTATION: Nothing further to Jeff Willan’s report.

4.2 TAAPCS BYLAWS: Garry read through and explained the proposed revisions to the bylaws, which will be voted upon at the Annual General Meeting immediately following. If approved, the bylaws will then be sent to Corporate Registry for filing.

4.3 CHARTER SCHOOL CONFERENCE 2011: The date is set for Oct. 21, 2011 (immediately following the regular TAAPCS meeting Oct. 19/20) and an “Innovation” theme is being explored. It is hoped that the Minister and/or Deputy Minister will make themselves

available for a Keynote session on the Thursday evening. It was decided that it would be much more economical and sensible to hold the conference in Calgary and use the surplus to subsidize travel costs for those attending from out of town. Appreciation was expressed to Garry McKinnon and the CSS administration for their help in the planning.

4.4 NEWSLETTER: Garry Andrews has proposed that at least 2 schools take the lead in providing content for each newsletter, and superintendents have agreed. Aurora, Suzuki, New Horizons and MECCS will provide content for the December issue, and Westmount, CSS and CGS for the May issue. Garry has emailed dates for submissions.

4.5 PREFERRED FUTURE UPDATES

4.5.1 PARTNERSHIPS

4.5.1.1 ASBA: Garry Andrews reported that ASBA is talking about Associate Membership for charter schools; he will be pursuing this in a conversation with Executive Director David Anderson. Membership for TAAPCS would not preclude individual memberships for charter schools.

4.5.1.2 CASS: CASS representatives met with charter school superintendents on Oct. 21 to explore mutual benefits; all superintendents are encouraged to become active members. Access to mentorship, professional development, insurance, and attendance at the Spring forum are some of the advantages of membership for charter schools. Jay Pritchard and Garry Andrews will be presenting at the CASS Issues Forum on Nov. 4 in Calgary. The charter schools committed to adding a link to CASS on their websites.

4.5.1.3 ATA: Jay Pritchard, Judy Gray and Garry Andrews met with executive members of the ATA to discuss the charter school concept paper and clear up some misconceptions they felt were held. It turned out to be an interesting meeting and relations seemed to be a little less strained by the finish.

4.5.1.4 PURCHASING GROUP: We are unable to join this group because we are not members of the ATA.

4.5.1.5 ALBERTA EDUCATION: Judy Gray expressed the appreciation of the Association that we have been invited to participate in so many committees and discussions. Jay Pritchard took this opportunity to report on a cordial 45-minute meeting he, Bill McGregor and FFCA's Vice-Chair Gerry Schuster were granted by the Premier earlier in the month in which 3 main points were made by the Premier: 1. permanence will happen, 2. there will be no requirement for ATA membership, and 3. most of the pushback for change in relation to charter schools comes from the bureaucracy.

4.5.1.6 DIRECTOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: See item 2.3 of these minutes.

4.5.1.7 STRATEGIC PLAN: Garry Andrews distributed a draft planning document which had its origin in his attempt to "get organized" in his role as Executive Director, and requested feedback in terms of its relevance and suitability as a strategic plan.

4.5.1.8 COMMUNITY SPIRIT PROGRAM: Judy Gray circulated a CBE "Education Matters" document which is funded by a grant from the provincial Community Spirit Program. For us to apply for a similar grant to do a similar publication would require making an application for

charitable status. While it was agreed that the document might be good PR for the Association, the process for attaining charitable status has been seriously tightened up, is lengthy, and is also costly in terms of legal requirements. The idea was declined by the members.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 COMMUNICATING BOARD ROLES: Jim Rigby requested and received ideas on how the different schools perceive and communicate the role of the Board. Please send any further thoughts to Jim by email.

5.2 STUDENT AND TEACHER EXCHANGE PROGRAM: Jim Rigby provided clarification on the eligibility of charter schools to access the Student and Teacher Exchange programs. This topic will be addressed by the EAC at its next meeting.

5.3 FUTURE MEETING DATES:

- **January 13/14, 2011** in Red Deer *NOTE – changed from Jan. 20/21
Door Prizes – Aurora; Hospitality – CSS; Display of Student Work – Westmount; School Spotlight – Suzuki
- **May 5/6, 2011** in Edmonton
Entertainment/Hospitality – Suzuki/Aurora; Door Prizes – BSEC; School Spotlight – Aurora
- **October 19/20, 2011** in Calgary

ADJOURNMENT: 1:24 p.m.