

BOARD COMMITTEE
Board of Directors Annual
General Meeting
SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

Date: February 20, 2025
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: AACS Secondary and Online
Attending: Zahida Hirani-Saran (Char)
Fauziat Raji (Vice Char)
Constance Amenaghawon
Ajoke Oimage
Kerry-Ann Sitcheron (7:06)
Ian Gray
Adedayo Ojeleye (Online)
Jennifer Singh
Khryssa Genery
(Recording Secretary)
Guests: None

We acknowledge that Aurora Academic Charter School and our community work, live, and play on the traditional territories of the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Métis, Dene, Nakota Sioux, and Inuit whose footsteps continue to mark these lands in the future. We continually express our gratitude and respect for the land as we honour Treaty 6, its role in education, and the ancestral Knowledge Keepers and Elders who are still with us. Aurora Academic Charter School believes that truth must be acknowledged to move forward in reconciliation. We take this time to reflect on our roles and commit to building and strengthening our valued friendships and partnerships with Indigenous peoples in our teaching and learning. We celebrate the rich diversity of the Indigenous peoples as it connects with the diversity of Aurora Academic Charter School's culture, values, and desire to live in peace and prosperity together on this land we all call home.

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Amiskwaciwâskahikan
Treaty 6

Items

1. Land Acknowledgement (Zahida Hirani-Saran, Board Char)

The Land acknowledgement was read by the Board Char at 7:00 PM

2. Call to Order (Zahida Hirani-Saran, Board Char)

The Board Chair called the Board of Directors Meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

a. Approval of the February 20, 2025, Meeting of the Board of Directors Agenda

Motion: Fauziat Raji Moved to approve the agenda

Seconded by: Jennifer Singh

Vote Outcome: 6 in favour. Motion carried.

b. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for January 20, 2025

Motion: Fauziat Raji moved to approve the meeting minutes of January 20, 2025.

Seconded by: Ajoke Oimage

Vote: 5 in favor, 1 abstention; motion carried.

c. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for January 21, 2025

Correction: The title should be "Board of Directors Meeting Minutes."

Motion: Ajoke Oimage moved to approve the minutes as presented with the title amendment.

Seconded by: Adedayo Ojeleye

Vote: Unanimous; motion carried.

3. Director of Finance Update)

Presented by: Constance Amenaghawon, Finance Chair

a. January Financials

The Board Chair requested that dates be added to each item for clarity. Financial reporting included expenses by program and object. Teacher salaries paid in January were reviewed, with clarification on non-certified staff. A breakdown of expenses by program was presented, including instruction and ECS classification. Total expenses were \$1,337,061 (42% spent) with a projected deficit of \$864,000.

4. Superintendent's Report

Presented by: Ian Gray, Superintendent

The superintendent report commenced at 7:22.

a. Research and Grants

A research grant proposal was submitted to Alberta Education, focusing on pedagogical strategies to increase student resilience, agency, and adaptivity. The Aurora Wellbeing and Flourishing Forever Student Mental Health Pilot Project continues with monthly online sessions for parents and families

b. Leading Learning

i. Principals Report

1. Primary

Sherbrooke Principal's report was reviewed. The Alberta Education survey transitioned from paper to digital. Kindergarten assessments for 2025-2026 are nearly complete.

2. Secondary

Diploma results were reviewed, including a 100% score in Biology noted for special recognition. The honor roll and awards ceremony had a 40% turnout from parents. A parent engagement night was held focusing on cybersecurity. The program is being developed with NorQuest College to expand the dual credit program.

ii. SLS Report

Monthly teacher consultations and community mental health initiatives continue at Sherbrooke. A scholarship handbook has been developed and distributed. Primary referrals increased by 11%. Secondary referrals saw an increase in behavioral cases and counseling related to mental health concerns.

b. School Operations

i. Facilities

1. Sherbrook Campus

Sherbrooke Campus continues to experience heating issues, with potential solutions being explored, including a facility audit.

2. Alberta Avenue Campus

The Alberta Avenue Campus is awaiting a government announcement.

3. Skyrattler Campus

The Skyrattler Campus has reviewed flooring colors, and a building graphic design is underway.

4. School Name Designation

Discussions on Skyrattler's designation, including whether it will be a middle school, are ongoing. A Google document will be created for board members to propose names, and the vote has been postponed to the next board meeting.

ii. Daycare Partnerships

Potential daycare partnerships are being discussed due to the lack of mid-day kindergarten busing. Concerns were raised regarding availability for Aurora students, logistics, and third-party agency constraints. Research into other school boards' daycare policies has been recommended.

iii. Enrollment

1. Enrollment Trends

Enrollment projections for 2025-2026 were reviewed, highlighting a large waitlist and the potential for an additional grade.

Break 10 Min

The Board Chair called a five-minute break at 8:31 PM. The meeting resumed at 8:39 PM.

5. Policy Committee

Presented by: Kerry-Ann Sitcheron Policy Committee Char at 8:39 PM

b. 2040 BP: Code of Conduct for Members(1st Reading)

Motion: Kerry-Ann Sitcheron

Seconded by: Fauziat Raji

Clarification was requested on terms such as "courteous and respectful." Concerns were raised about the policy's alignment with the Education Act.

Vote: Unanimous with amendments.

c. 2060 BP: Role and Supervision of School Based Administration(1st Reading)

Motion: Kerry-Ann Sitcheron

Seconded by: Ajoke Oimage

Compliance with the Alberta Education Act was discussed. Clarification was provided on principal reporting requirements post-September 30.

Vote: Unanimous with presented changes.

d. 2062 BP: Administrative and Leadership Staffing (3rd Reading)

Motion: To accept 2062 BP: Administrative and Leadership Staffing for its third and final reading was motioned by Kerry-Ann Sitcheron

Seconded by: Adedayo Ojeleye

A discussion took place on whether candidate selection should require a majority or unanimous decision. The Superintendent retains final decision-making authority if the decision comes to a stand still.

Vote: Unanimous.

e. 5052 BP: Employee Benefits - Non Teaching Staff (3rd Reading)

Motion: To accept 5052 BP: Employee Benefits - Non Teaching Staff for its 3rd and final reading was motioned by Kerry-Ann Sitcheron

Seconded by: Ajoke Oimage

The policy was discussed in relation to ensuring explicit benefits for non-teaching staff in alignment with teaching staff. The necessity of the policy was affirmed.

Vote: Unanimous.

f. 6101 BP: Student Medical Needs(1st Reading)

Motion: Kerry-Ann Sitcheron

Seconded by: Adedayo Ojeleye

Concerns were raised about the policy's alignment with Alberta's Good Samaritan legislation. The policy statement was found to be confusing, requiring simplification into layman's terms. The board decided to take it back for revision, ensuring clearer direction on the responsibilities of parents, guardians, physicians, and school personnel. It was suggested that the policy should either be more concise or limited to a handbook.

Decision: Tabled for further revision.

**g. 6180 BP: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
(Tabled for research and development)**

The superintendent explained that the policy has been tabled for further research and development. He has reached out to other superintendents and is hosting a seminar to develop a plan for implementing the policy in response to new legislation.

Decision: Tabled until the next board meeting.

6. Board of Directors

The chair commenced the Board of Directors update at 9:11pm.

h. Charter Document Revisions

i. Aurora Academic Charter School Charter 2022

ii. Minister Signed Letter 2022

iii. Suggested Revisions to the Aurora Academic Charter School Charter Document

Charter document revisions to reflect the addition of the secondary division were discussed. Edits are being prepared for the Annual General Meeting in November. Term limits and membership criteria for board members were also discussed.

7. Next Meeting

Date: March 17, 2025 at 7pm

Agenda Items: Pre budget discussion at this meeting

8. Adjournment

Motion: Fauziat Raji moved to adjourn the meeting.

Time: 9:15 PM

Meeting adjourned.