

BOARD COMMITTEE
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

Date: January 22, 2026
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: AACCS Alberta Ave Campus and Online

Attending: Kerry-Ann Sitcheron (Board Chair)
Adedayo Ojeleye (Vice Chair)
Constance Amenaghawon
Ajoke Omage
Zahida Hirani-Saran
Todd Walsh left at 920
Yetunde Adesina(Absent)
Ian Gray
Khryssa Genery
(Recording Secretary)

Guests: None

Items

- 1. Land Acknowledgement (Kerry-Ann Sitcheron, Board Chair)**
The Board Chair First, Last read the Land Acknowledgement and called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
- 2. Call to Order (Kerry-Ann Sitcheron, Board Chair)**
The meeting was called to order by the Board of Directors Chair at 7:01 PM, and was held at the AACCS Alberta Ave Campus and virtually for the public via Google Meets.
 - a. Approval of the January 22, 2026 Meeting of the Board of Directors Agenda**
 - i. Motion:** To approve the January 22, 2026 Board of Directors Agenda as presented.
 - ii. Moved by:** Ajoke
 - iii. Seconded by:** Adedayo
 - iv. Vote Decision:** Unanimously accepted
 - b. Approval of the Meeting of the Board of Directors Minutes(Motion)**
 - i. Approval of the Minutes of December 18, 2025 (Motion)**
Motion: To approve the December 18, 2025 Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors as presented.
Moved by: Todd Walsh
Seconded: Adedayo Ojeleye
Vote Decision: The Board voted unanimously in favor, the motion passed.
- 3. Director of Finance Update (Constance Amenaghawon, Finance Chair)**
Constance Amenaghawon presented the December Financial Report at 7:04PM. The report provided a comprehensive overview of the Authority's financial position as of December 31, 2025, including year-to-date actuals compared to the 2025-2026 operating budget.
 - a. December Financials**
 - i. Revenues**
Total revenues for the month of December 2025 were \$1,504,807, with year-to-date (YTD) revenue of \$6,085,777, representing 32% of the full-year budget of \$19,088,860. Alberta Education funding totalled \$5,249,576 year-to-date (31%), and it was noted that some grant funding is typically behind at the beginning of the school year and is expected to catch up by March. Additional revenue highlights included Fees at \$591,158(42%), with fees recognized over 10 months and approximately two-thirds of field trip fees received by December, as well as Investment Income at \$41,519 (40%), reflecting higher-than-forecasted interest rates. Gifts and donations reached \$16,977 (113%). Supported by major contributions including Top Marks (\$14,000) and Dart transport (\$2,500).
 - ii. Expenses by program**
The Finance Committee Chair presented expenses by program and provided a high-level overview of spending patterns. During discussions, the board inquired about Transportation expenditures and whether the Authority was trending over budget. The Superintendent confirmed that two additional buses were added, and while this increased costs, there were budget provisions in place to support the change.
 - iii. Expenses by object**
It was explained that the Expense by Object section is simply a further breakdown of the program expenses into spending categories. As the same information is captured within the Expenses by Program section, the chair did not review the object breakdown in detail.

iv. Discussions

1. Questions

The Board asked whether the Authority had budgeted for joining The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools(TAAPCS), and the Superintendent confirmed that it had not been included in the budget. The board also asked how many sources of grant funding the Aurora receives. The Superintendent explained that core funding is provided through base student grant funding, and that multiple sub-grants(including areas such as Student Learning Services and curriculum supports fall under Alberta Education funding, The Board requested a breakdown of all grant funding sources for further clarity and transparency.

4. Superintendents Report

The Superintendent, Ian Gray, began his report at 7:24 PM and noted that the report was lengthy this month, reflecting a broad range of instructional, operational and governance updates across the Authority. The Superintendent's report provided the Board with a January 2-26 snapshot of instructional progress, student supports, research activity, and operational priorities, noting that overall Aurora Academic Charter School continues to demonstrate strong academic performance, stable operations and alignment with the Charter mandate.

a. Academic report

i. Sherbrooke

The Superintendent reported that Sherbrooke Campus demonstrated a strong and focused return to learning following winter break. Staff quickly re-established routines and continued targeted literacy and numeracy interventions across grade levels, with particular attention to early years reading and upper-elementary mathematics. The Superintendent noted continued collaborative review of assessment evidence by team leads and administration to support instructional alignment and consistent expectations across classrooms. The Superintendent further highlighted strong student engagement through clubs, leadership opportunities, and school-wide initiatives supporting culture, inclusion, and peer connection.

The Superintendent also emphasized the significant amount of time Sherbrooke staff are dedicating to onboarding and training, as well as maintaining responsive and consistent communication with families related to programming, attendance, and student progress.

ii. Skyrattler review

The Superintendent shared that Skyrattler Campus experienced a strong and settled return to learning, with routines quickly re-established and targeted literacy and numeracy support continued based on fall assessment data. Staff maintained a focus on strengthening foundational skills, sustaining engagement, and preparing students for upcoming assessment cycles. The Superintendent highlighted ongoing collaborative planning to strengthen continuity and consistency as the campus continues through its inaugural year.

Student engagement remained high through leadership activity, clubs, and Student Council initiatives that support an inclusive, positive school culture. The superintendent noted continued efforts to strengthen communication and partnership with families, particularly to reinforce routines and respond to attendance concerns.

iii. Alberta ave

The Superintendent reported that Alberta Avenue Campus continues to demonstrate exceptional academic outcomes and strong post-secondary readiness, with a continued emphasis on academic excellence and diploma-level success. A key highlight was continued success in DUal Credit programming, with Fall Semester results reflecting exceptional outcomes at NorQest, including English Composition 1150 results of 99.6% and 97.8%, as well as strong outcomes in Sociology 1000 and Statistics 1151.

The Superintendent highlighted a significant milestone for Aurora: for the first time, the Authority is teaching college-level courses internally, with Mme Tasseva delivering Anatomy 1120 as an accredited NAIT professor, thereby expanding external instructional capacity and strengthening student pathways. WWinter dual credit registrations are underway, and students are currently enrolled in post-secondary opportunities through NAIR, Lethbridge Polytechnic, and NorQest.

In addition to academic programming, the Superintendent provided updates on student achievements and awards, including a 2nd place finish in the UCMAS Internal Mathematics Completion(Grade9), Strong performance at the Alberta Fall Classic Debate Tournament, and three students advancing to Team Regionals for Poetry in Voice. Mr. Gray also noted \$500 in project funding secured through learning for a Sustainable Future to support a student-led scholarship portal initiative for underprivileged Youth.

During discussion, the Board inquired whether dual credit learning is completed at home or at school, the

Superintendent confirmed that it is completed at school.

b. Academic and wellness supports

i. Student Learning Services

Mr. Gray reported that Student Learning Services resumed support quickly following winter break and continued prioritizing early intervention, consultation, and classroom-based support across campuses. Support in January focused on executive functioning, emotional regulation, peer relationships, and academic organization, particularly as students transitioned back into routines after the holiday break.

The Superintendent noted that consultation activity remains steady, supporting proactive responses to emerging needs before formal referrals are required. Referral patterns were consistent with mid-year expectations, including elementary referrals focused on academic stress, workload management, and organizational skills. Mr. Gray also noted that test anxiety and academic workload anxiety remain a high focus area at the secondary level.

ii. Research and Grants

The Superintendent shared that January focused on consolidating ongoing research and advancing initiatives into implementation and reporting phases, supporting Authority priorities in student wellbeing, family engagement, and evidence-informed decision-making. The Superintendent highlighted ongoing work connected to the Student and Community Mental Health and Wellness Pilot Project, including tiered classroom supports, small-group interventions, family-facing resources, and professional learning for staff.

Ian Gray also shared that research connected to parent voice and community engagement continues to inform organizational planning, including themes related to academic expectations, communication practices, school culture, and sustainability as the Authority expands. The Superintendent noted continued monitoring of existing grants and exploration of future funding opportunities aligned with student needs and measurable outcomes.

iii. Transportation

The Superintendent reported that transportation operations in January remained stable and reliable despite winter driving challenges, with only minor weather-related delays and no systemic disruptions. Driver coverage remained stable and ongoing monitoring of ride times and route efficiency continues, particularly as winter conditions place pressure on schedules.

It was confirmed that the Transportation Committee has now held two meetings, and that the committee continues to serve as a constructive advisory form for parent feedback and shared problem-solving. The Superintendent reported that work is underway for the next committee meeting to continue discussions on winter operations, communication practices, and route planning considerations. The Superintendent encouraged increased parent participation in Transportation Committee meetings to support transparency and collaboration.

The Board discussed ongoing efforts to address the Authority's 75 -minute ride-time target, noting that weather and operational pressures can make consistent ride-times performance difficult, particularly in September and October. The Superintendent shared that improvements to routes have been made; however, changes have also resulted in increased feedback and complaints from families adjusting to revised routes and stop timing.

The Superintendent also provided early planning updates for 2026-2027 transportation, including consideration of a secondary pre-planned winter readiness schedule designed to be activated during recurring operational pressure and shared with families proactively.

The Superintendent further advised that the Authority is planning to implement a September 30 bus registration cut-off beginning in the 2026-2027 school year due to provincial funding rules. The Superintendent explained that transportation funding is not provided for students who register after the count date, resulting in financial pressure and inequity, as on-time registrants effectively subsidize late registrations. The Board emphasized the importance of clear and consistent communication to families regarding these expectations.

c. Facilities and Capital Planning

The Superintendent provided an update on facilities planning and capital oversight across campuses, including coordination with external partners and a review of infrastructure needs. The Superintendent advised that he conducted walk-throughs of each campus to observe current conditions, identify emerging pressures, validate administrative input, and gather data to inform capital prioritization and upcoming budget cycle discussions.

The Superintendent reported that Alberta Education and Childcare approved \$528,000 in reimbursement funding to support leasehold improvement completion and roof repair work at the Alberta Avenue Campus. He also noted that this represents a significant provincial investment in safety and continuity of

operation.

The Superintendent further shared that the Alberta Avenue Campus remains a key focus due to aging infrastructure, including an original steam boiler heating system approaching end-of-life. Preliminary assessments estimate replacement cost ranging from approximately \$2.9 millions to \$5.1 million. Which will be advised through the capital planning process and is distinct from the approved reimbursement funding.

The Superintendent also provided campus-specific facility considerations and potential future enhancements, including improvements to learning spaces and student-centered infrastructure. The Board expressed appreciation that capital reserve discussions continue to prioritize investments that directly support students.

During discussions, the Board inquired whether the Authority could consider setting aside a dedicated fund to support underprivileged families who may not be able to afford field trips or similar activities. The Board expressed that this would be a positive consideration, and agreed that any such support would require clear criteria and proof of need.

d. Student Attendance

The Superintendent provided a detailed overview of student attendance trends and increasing extended absences, emphasizing that under Alberta's Education Act, parents are legally required to ensure their children attend school regularly. The Superintendent explained that when absences approach or exceed the Provincial threshold for chronic absenteeism (Approximately 10% of instructional days), discretionary absences, including travel, can no longer be supported and formal intervention requirements are triggered.

He highlighted a system-wide increase in holiday-related absences over the past three school years, with the most significant growth in Grade 4-6 and Grades 7-9, and noted that longer consecutive blocks of absences increase the likelihood of exceeding statutory thresholds.

The Superintendent further advised that even when the number of cases appears small, chronic absenteeism presents a serious governance and compliance concern due to legal obligations and the requirement for consistent, documented, defensible decision-making.

The Board discussed the importance of strengthening communication to attendance expectations to families and reviewed the potential implementation of a formal parent acknowledgement process. The Superintendent confirmed the intention to include clear attendance expectation and extended absence requirements within the Returning Student Registration process.

The Superintendent clarified that absences for 10 days or fewer are addressed at the principal level, while absences beyond that threshold requires Superintendent review and may result in further escalation when thresholds are exceeded. The Superintendent discussed that instructional loss associated with extended absences can impact assessment integrity, student progression, and long-term achievement.

e. School Calendar

The Superintendent presented the proposed 2026-2027 calendar and noted that it includes 178 instructional days and meets legislative requirements, while supporting instructional pacing, assessment integrity, and operational sustainability. The Superintendent emphasized that early approval and communication supports family planning and reinforces the Authority's shared expectations regarding attendance and instructional engagement.

During discussion, the Board reviewed staff feedback regarding the winter break structure and discussed calendar refinements to improve operational clarity and instructional scheduling. The Board discussed the proposed movement of an operational date. And recommended adjusting the calendar by moving December 18, 2026 to January 5, 2027.

- i. Motion:** Ajoke Omage motioned to accept the AACCS 2026-2027 school calendar as presented with the exception of moving the December 18, 2026 to January 5, 2027.
- ii. Seconded:** Todd Walsh
- iii. Vote:** The Board voted unanimously in favour of the AACCS 2026-2027 school calendar.

Break

The Board recessed at 8:47 PM and reconvened at 8:57 PM.

f. Grade Designation and Capacity Management 2026-2027

The Superintendent presented a recommendation related to grade designation and capacity planning, noting that Aurora is entering a period where enrollment growth, facilities capacity, and program sustainability intersect. The Superintendent advised that proceeding with the planned transition of SKyrattler's Grade 7 cohort to Alberta Avenue in 2026-2027 would significantly accelerate space pressures and create a high risk of Alberta Avenue exceeding functional capacity by 2027-2028, potentially resulting in displacement and operational disruption.

The Superintendent recommended a temporary adjustment for 2026-2027, with SKyrattler operating as a Grades 6-8 campus, retaining the Grade 7 cohort to mitigate risk and provide time for fourth-site planning and long-term transition sequencing. The Superintendent confirmed that this is a risk-management strategy intended to preserve student stability and program integrity and support defensible governance decision-making.

The Board discussed capacity impacts across campuses, including Alberta Avenue utilization, potential future enrollment pressures, and the operational need for consistent expectations related to placement and program continuity. The Superintendent clarified that Aurora does not currently support transfers between campuses, noting that stability and sustainability remain priority considerations as the Authority continues to expand.

- i. Motion:** Ajoke Omage motioned to accept the recommendation to redesignate AACs SKyrattler from Grades 5-7 to a Grades 6-8 for the year 2026-2027
- ii. Seconded:** Adedayo Ojeleye
- iii. Vote:** The board voted unanimously in favor, the motion passed.

5. Policy Committee (Ajoke Omage, Policy Committee Chair)

The Policy Committee Report commenced at 9:14PM. The report was presented by Chair Ajoke Omage, who provided an overview of several Board Policies brought forward for Board consideration at various reading stages. The Chair noted that the Committee's work remains focused to ensure Board Policy aligns with current legislation, supports Aurora Academic Charter School's operational realities, and provided clear governance direction through consistent and defensible standards.

a. 2100 BP: Freedom of Information Protection Act(2nd Repeal)

The Chair presented Board Policy 2100 BP: Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy for its third repeal. The Chair advised that FOIP is no longer the applicable legislation, as Alberta's access and privacy framework is now governed through POPA(Protection of Privacy Act) and ATIA (access to Information Act). The Committee recommended repeal of the policy as the application legislative requirements are now clearly outlined within provincial legislation, and governance direction within this policy is no longer required.

- i. Motion:** Ajoke Omage motioned to accept 2100 BP: Freedom of Information Protection Act for its 2nd repeal.
- ii. Seconded by:** Zahida Harani-Saran
- iii. Vote outcome:** The board voted unanimous in the 2nd repealing 2100 BP: Freedom of Information Protection Act.

b. 6040 BP: Student Discipline (2nd Reading)

- i. Motion:** Ajoke Omage motion to accept 6040 BP: Student Discipline for its 2nd reading.
- ii. Seconded:** Adedayo Ojeleye
- iii. Discussion**

The Chair brought forward Board Policy 6040BP: Student Discipline for second reading. The policy was reviewed with a focus on alignment with provincial legislation, including the Education Act, and ensuring Aurora-Pacific expectations remain clear and enforceable.

The Board discussed the revisions that had been removed from earlier versions and questioned whether key definitions and protections-such as language related to intimidation, threats of physical harm, and distribution of intimate images-remain explicitly covered under the Education Act. The Superintendent confirmed these expectations are legislated, including student responsibilities under Section 31.

The Board further discussed that while the policy is aligned with legislation, it may not sufficiently reflect Aurora's internal expectations and Code of Conduct. Board members expressed concern that the discipline policy had become increasingly tied to attendance concerns, and that absenteeism may be better addressed through a separate attendance-focused policy, rather than being embedded within student discipline. The Board discussed the need for clear, unbiased decision-making guidelines to support consistent application in complex situations and to ensure governance-level clarity in contentious matters.

- iv. Vote outcome:** Defeated- the motion was killed and the policy did not pass second reading

c. 6050 BP: Field Trips(3rd Reading)

The Chair presented Board Policy 6050: Field Trips for third reading, opening the policy to the floor and reviewing key revisions. The policy outlines Aurora's expectations regarding the educational value of field trips, administrative approvals, supervision responsibilities, and student safety requirements.

i. Motion: Ajoke Omage the Policy Chair motioned to accept 6050BP: Field Trips for its 3rd reading.

ii. Seconded by: Adedayo Ojeleye

iii. Discussion

The Board reviewed changes related to compensation and confirmed that field trips may be cancelled or approvals withdrawn if circumstances affecting student safety and well-being arise, including adverse weather, staffing shortages affecting supervision, travel advisories, and safety concerns at the destination.

The Board also reviewed policy requirements regarding parental consent forms, including confirmation that consent must include authorization for supervising staff to arrange necessary medical treatment in the event of an emergency.

During discussions, Board members asked whether Administrative Regulations identify supervision ratios by grade and trip location and whether these ratios are reviewed during the approval processes. The Superintendent confirmed that supervision requirements are reviewed and approved through the principal approval process, and expectations are identified prior to trip authorization.

iv. Vote outcome: The Board voted unanimously to approve the third reading of 6050BP: Field Trips.

d. 6170 BP: Extended Absences (2nd Reading)

The Chair presented Board Policy 6170: Extended Absences for second reading. The policy emphasizes that students learn best when they are present and engaged, and that Aurora's structured academic program is impacted by prolonged absences. The policy also confirms that, in accordance with Section 7 and 31 of the Education Act, parents and guardians are responsible for ensuring regular school attendance.

i. Motion: The Policy Committee Chair Ajoke Omage motioned to accept the policy 6170BP: Extended Absences for its 2nd reading.

ii. Seconded by: Adedayo Ojeleye

iii. Discussion: a review of the new edits that have been completed on the policy

The Board reviewed recent edits and discussed the need for clear governance-level guidelines, including thresholds and defined expectations to support consistent decisions and defensible outcomes when extended absences become contentious or impact program continuity. Trustees noted that while the Administrative Regulation may include operational thresholds, the Board may require the "Hard Line" expectations to be present within the policy itself in order to properly support decision-making and ensure consistent application.

iv. Vote outcome: Withdrawn - the second reading motion was withdrawn for further revision and strengthening.

e. 8050 BP: School Emergencies (2nd Reading)

The Chair presented Board Policy 8050: School Emergencies for second reading, noting that the policy outlines Aurora's responsibilities for coordinated emergency planning and responses. The policy confirms that emergency plans must be in place, clearly defined, practiced, accessible to relevant parties, and are contained within the Emergency Procedures Manual.

i. Motion: The Policy Committee Chair motioned to accept 8050 BP: School Emergencies for its second reading.

ii. Seconded by: Constances Amenaghawon

iii. Discussion

The Board reviewed the policy guidelines, including required procedures related to fire, evacuation, lockdown/shelter-in-place, relocation, bomb threats, hazardous substance release, school bus incident, and emergency communications.

The Board members reviewed the referenced updates and confirmed the policy supports safe operations and emergency readiness

iv. Vote Outcome: The Board voted unanimously in favor of the second reading of 8050BP: School Emergencies.

6. Board of Directors (Kerry-Ann Sitcheron, Board of Directors Chair)

The Board chair provided an update on ongoing governance at 9:52 PM.

a. The Alberta Association of Public Charter Schools (TAAPCS)(Ajoke Oimage)

The TAAPCS Board rep reported that the Alberta Association of Public Charter Schools(TAAPCS) is undergoing a rebrand and will now be known as APCS- Alberta Public Charter Schools. It was noted that this shift reflects a clearer and more inclusive representation of Alberta's public charter school actor. The TAAPSS rep further shared that APCS is actively working to strengthen its media presence and refine its visual identity, with the goal of improving public awareness, clarity of messaging , and advocacy impact for charter schools across the province

7. Next Meeting

At 10:05 PM the Board Chair notified that the next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for February 19, 2026 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be hosted at the AACs Sherbrooke Campus.

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Directors on January 22, 2026 was motioned by Constance Amenaghawon and seconded by Adedayo Ojeleye.

The meeting of the January 22, 2026 Board of Directors was adjourned at 10:06 PM.