



Aurora Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 17, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m., Virtual – Ratified

Chair: Arlene Huhn

Recording: Marla Leganchuk

Attending: Zahida Hirani-Saran, Fauziat Raji, Constance Amenaghawon, Tejinder Bansal

Regrets: Keira Hanrahan, Brandon Plaizier

Guests: Jacquie Harman, Mary Healy, Elizabeth Lund, Peter Dang

1. **Land Acknowledgement** (Arlene Huhn, Board Chair)

The Aurora community affirms that we stand upon Treaty Six Territory, the traditional and ancestral territory of the Blackfoot, Cree, Dene, Nakota Sioux, and Salteaux. We respect the history, languages, and culture of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all indigenous peoples who came before us, and are grateful to acknowledge this as an act of reconciliation to those whose territory we reside on or are visiting.

2. **Call to Order** (Arlene Huhn, Board Chair)

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 7:02pm, and was held online in compliance with COVID – 19 Pandemic social distancing regulations.

Motion to approve the February 17th, 2022 agenda.

Made by: Constance Amenaghawon

Seconded by: Zahida Hirani-Saran

In Favour: 4

Absent: 3

a. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes of January 20th, 2022

Motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes from January 20th, 2022.

Made by: Zahida Hirani-Saran
Seconded by: Fauziat Raji
In Favour: 4
Absent: 3

- b. Actionable Items from previous meetings (review)

3. **Director of Finance Update** (Zahida Hirani-Saran, Finance Chair)

- i. Financial Report - Zahida presented on the January Financial Statements and went over the variance analysis.
- ii. Zahida advised we are looking to apply an amortization rate of 15-year charter with one 5-year charter renewal period. Therefore $15+5 = 20$ year amortization rate for 2021-22 school year.
- iii. Transportation Fees – Current analysis indicates transportation fees will remain consistent
- iv. Reserve Funds – Ian Gray presented on the Reserve funds and the items identified for the 2022-23 school year:
 - New Curriculum – texts, technology, and professional development
 - Cub corner gymnasium floor
 - HVAC work to address old construction and thermostat issues.
 - Convert old Elementary Administration offices into a classroom
 - Blinds and coverings
 - Safe space
 - Building Audit
 - BMS to tie in HVAC and heating systems.
- iv. School Fees – Aurora has not increased school fees in several years. Additional costs incurred due to technology deliverance. Advised a possible school fee increase for 2022-23 school year.
- v. Audit – Aurora will initiate a Request for Proposal (RFP) for our Audit work. Has been several years since our last RFP.
- vi. GIC – Zahida would like to have the GIC moved into a separate account to keep “investment” funds clearly separate while we wait for interest rates to improve. New motion to allocate funds will be considered for next board meeting.

4. **Superintendent Report (Ian Gray)**

- a. Stakeholder Communication Plan

- i. COVID-19 Staff Vaccination Regulation - March 1 most schools will be shifting to regular. 8050.2 will most likely rescinded.
- b. Operational Reserves Allocation – Covered in Finance
- c. Land Acknowledgement Creation – Create a meaningful way to acknowledge indigenous communities. Suggestions around hiring an indigenous organization to help with this.
- d. Leadership Program
- e. High School Strategic Planning
 - i. Introduction of Jacqueline Harman, Project Administrator
- f. Schools Designation – Aurora School Ltd. Aurora needs to consider changing one of the two school names with the Government. Recommendation that one is Elementary and one is Middle School.
- g. Summer School – Mr. Dang is proposing to start a Summer school to close learning gaps and support students. Advised fees will be charged and that students from other schools will be permitted to attend.

Tejinder Bansal joined the meeting at 8:02pm

- h. Elementary Entrance Grand Opening – Now that it looks like things will open up in March, the Board would like to start planning an official grand opening for the elementary front entrance.

5. **Board Committee Reports**

Policy Committee (Keira Hanrahan, Policy Committee Chair)

- i. 6036BP - Aurora School Uniform - 2nd reading (motion)

Motion to approve 6036BP - Aurora School Uniform for 2nd reading,
made by: Tejinder Bansal

Seconded by: Zahida Hirani-Saran

In Favour: 5

Absent: 2

- ii. 6130BP - Student Evaluation - 2nd reading (motion)

Motion to approve 6130BP - Student Evaluation for 2nd reading,
made by: Tejinder Bansal
Seconded by: Constance Amenaghawon
In Favour: 5
Absent: 2

iii. 5020BP - Orientation - 1st reading (motion)

Motion to approve 5020BP - Orientation for 1st reading,
made by: Constance Amenaghawon
Seconded by: Zahida Hirani-Saran
In Favour: 5
Absent: 2

iv. 2090BP - Board Committees - 1st reading to Repeal (motion)

Motion to approve 2090BP - Board Committees for 1st reading to Repeal,
made by: Fauziat Raji
Seconded by: Constance Amenaghawon
In Favour: 5
Absent: 2

v. 2100BP - Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy - 1st reading (motion)

Motion to approve 2100BP - Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy for
1st reading, made by: Tejinder Bansal
Seconded by: Fauziat Raji
In Favour: 5
Absent: 2

vi. 4020BP - Administration of School Funds - 1st, 2nd, 3rd reading to Repeal (motion)

Motion to approve 4020BP - Administration of School Funds for 1st reading to
Repeal, made by: Zahida Hirani-Saran
Seconded by: Constance Amenaghawon
In Favour: 5
Absent: 2

Motion to approve 4020BP - Administration of School Funds for 2nd reading to
Repeal, made by: Tejinder Bansal
Seconded by: Constance Amenaghawon
In Favour: 5
Absent: 2

Motion to approve 4020BP - Administration of School Funds for 3rd reading to Repeal, made by: Zahida Hirani-Saran
Seconded by: Fauziat Raji
In Favour: 5
Absent: 2

- vii. 4100BP - Charitable donations - Recommend for 1st reading (motion)

Motion to approve 4100BP - Charitable donations - Recommend for 1st reading, made by: Fauziat Raji
Seconded by: Tejinder Bansal
In Favour: 5
Absent: 2

6. **Board of Directors (Arlene Huhn, Board Chair)**

- a. Charter Document Updates – Parent asking if Charter document on website is what we are working on. Because the goal is that updates to the charter are live for stakeholders. Discussion around what the Charter document on the website is and what it means.
- b. Grand Opening – Arlene proposing to write letter to invite Minister to come to “cut the ribbon” of the Elementary Front Entrance. Constance and Fauziat to spearhead the committee for this event.

Motion to approve funds of up to \$25K for the Grand Opening of the Elementary Front Entrance Committee, made by: Tejinder Bansal
Seconded by: Fauziat Raji
In Favour: 5
Absent: 2

- c. The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools (TAAPCS) Update – Discussed communication with the executive director of TAAPCS and meetings with the Premier and Minister of Education regarding Student Learning Support funding.
- d. Meeting with the Minister for the 2022-23 budget scheduled for February 25th.

- e. TAAPCS now meet on the 3rd Thursday every month. Request for one board member to reach out to ensure Aurora Board members are included in information flow between Aurora and TAAPCS. Discussion around Brandon Plaizier taking over this role.
- f. Uniforms – discussion around the board motion regarding school uniforms and position due to the understanding that as of March 1, 2022 things are expected to go back to normal.

7. **Calendar Reminders**

- a. February 18th, 2022 - Professional Development Day
- b. February 21st, 2022 - Family Day
- c. February 23rd, 2022 - Pink Shirt Day for Anti-Bullying
- d. March 3rd - March 4th, 2022 - Greater Edmonton Teachers' Convention
- e. March 17th, 2022 - Board Meeting

8. **Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn made by Tejinder Bansal at 9:05pm

“We acknowledge that we are on traditional territories in Alberta of the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.”