

BOARD COMMITTEE
Board of Directors
Annual General Meeting
SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

Date: November, 26, 2025
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: AACS Online

Attending: Zahida Hirani-Saran(Board
Chair)
Fauziat Raji
Constance Amenaghawon
Ajoke Oimage
Adadayo Ojeleye
Jennifer Singh
Kerry-Ann Sitcheron
Ian Gray
(Superintendent)
Khyssa Genery
(Recording Secretary)

Items

1. Land Acknowledgement

Board Chair Zahida Hirani-Saran opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with the formal Land Acknowledgement, honoring the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Métis, Dene, Nakota Sioux, and Inuit peoples of Treaty 6 territory. She recognized their enduring presence and stewardship of the land and reaffirmed Aurora Academic Charter School's commitment to reconciliation and meaningful partnerships with Indigenous communities.

2. Call to order, acceptance of the Agenda (Zahida Hirani-Saran, Board Chair)
The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Motion: To approve the Agenda for the AGM of November 26, 2025.
Moved by: Kerry-Ann Sitcheron
Seconded by: Ajoke Oimage
Motion Decision: The Board voted unanimously, the motion carried.

Motion: To ratify the Minutes of the AGM of November 23, 2024.
Moved by: Fauziat Raji
Seconded by: Jennifer Singh
Motion Decision: The Board voted unanimously, the motion carried.

3. Welcome – Annual Report from the Chair of the Aurora Board of Directors (Zahida Hirani-Saran)

a. Board Updates

Chair Zahida Hirani-Saran presented an expanded summary of the 2024–2025 school year, drawing from the AGM slide presentation to highlight major achievements, operational growth, and ongoing challenges.

Milestones

The Chair celebrated several division-wide accomplishments that defined the year. Aurora officially opened its Skyrattler Campus, expanding capacity for Grades 5–7 and alleviating pressure at Sherbrooke. The community also celebrated Aurora's 30th Anniversary, a milestone reflecting the enduring commitment of families, educators, and founders to academic excellence. The school recorded a historic waitlist of over 8,254 students, indicating strong demand for structured, high-quality instruction. These milestones reflect not only growth but a reaffirmation of trust from families across Edmonton.

Mental Health & Wellness Enhancements

The Chair reported significant progress in mental health and wellness supports, supported by a Mental Health & Wellness grant of over \$646,000. Aurora expanded its model to offer both online and in-person services for Grades 6–12. A key addition was Registered Psychologist Arren Brock, whose presence in the school allows for increased access to individual counselling, needs assessments, and staff consultation. These efforts represent Aurora's commitment to holistic student wellbeing and align directly with community feedback and shifting educational needs.

Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement remained a cornerstone of governance this year, with the Board implementing structured communication pathways across all campuses. Engagement efforts included Quarterly Stakeholder Updates, multiple Town Halls (notably on transportation and school growth), classroom visits, committee consultations, and enhanced transparency through policy updates. The Board held 14 regular Board Meetings, 10 Policy Committee meetings, 4 Finance Committee meetings, and participated in TAAPCS initiatives. The Chair emphasized that voices from families directly shaped improvements in mental health supports, operational planning, and future facility strategy.

Transportation Pressures & Growth

Transportation emerged as a significant area of concern, especially in light of rapid enrollment growth. The Chair noted that ridership demands have increased substantially, resulting in pressure on existing routes and scheduling. Transportation constraints are directly tied to the division's 75-minute maximum ride time policy, which affects feasibility of expanding routes to high-growth areas such as Beaumont. The Board's Transportation Committee has been working closely with administration to review ridership patterns, parent feedback, and cost implications, and stakeholders will continue to be included in future decision-making.

The Chair concluded her report by expressing heartfelt gratitude to staff, families, and community partners, and extended a special recognition to Fauziat Raji for her dedicated service as she steps down from the Board. She also shared that this would be her final year as Chair and expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve the Aurora community.

Parent Questions to the Chair

Parents asked several questions relating to program supports and operational concerns. In response to inquiries about mental health supports, the Chair explained that Aurora provides access to individual counselling, teacher-guided developmental supports, and external community referrals. Parents also raised questions about how growth and expansion would affect school culture; the Chair affirmed that culture, academics, and growth remain central strategic pillars, upheld through governance, instructional alignment, and stakeholder involvement.

4. Message from the Superintendent

Superintendent Ian Gray presented an overview of the educational and capital environment in Alberta, noting that Aurora operates within unique constraints as charter schools cannot own land. He explained that new charter approvals, increased competition for leased spaces, and provincial funding pressures create structural limitations. The Superintendent warned that Aurora will be at full capacity at all three campuses by 2026, with no surplus classrooms or land holdings for expansion. He expressed appreciation to Dr. Paul Wozny for his support in planning transitions and engaging parents. Superintendent Gray emphasized the need for continued parent support as Aurora navigates these system-wide challenges while maintaining high academic and cultural standards.

Parent questions

Parents asked several questions following the Superintendent's presentation. One parent asked whether supports currently available for Grades 4–6 would also extend to Grade 7; the Superintendent confirmed that mental health, learning supports, and academic supports are available across all grades. Another parent inquired about the introduction of IB or Advanced Placement programming. The Superintendent explained that such programs require a critical mass of student enrollment and staffing stability, and while these options remain future considerations, current efforts are focused on sustainable growth. Parents also asked about perceived declines in the primary school ranking. The Superintendent clarified that AERR results demonstrate strong outcomes and that the division will review any discrepancies in external ranking systems such as the Fraser Institute and address them appropriately.

a. Charter Document

Policy Chair Kerry-Ann Sitcheron proposed the charter changes. The Superintendent presented the proposed amendments to the Charter document. Amendments, highlighted in orange within the Charter, were mandated by the Ministry of Education to align the document with Aurora's K-12 configuration, updated goals, and revised measurable outcomes. The Superintendent also explained the shift from a first-come, first-served enrollment model to a lottery-based system, wherein each year a student remaining on the waitlist earns an additional ballot, creating a more equitable and compliant system. Following the presentation, parents asked questions regarding anticipated impacts on enrollment, academic programming, and student services.

Vote Outcome: The Charter amendments were subsequently voted on via Google Forms. The vote was approved 97.4% in favor. The Aurora Academic Charter School Charter Document Amendments passed.

5. Director of Finance

a. Audited Financials 2024-2025

Finance Chair Constance Amenaghawon presented the 2024–2025 Audited Financial Statements and provided a detailed review of the division's financial health. She noted strong overall financial stability, with \$4,525,648 in cash and cash equivalents and \$16,586,744 in total revenues. Government of Alberta funding totaled \$15,200,898, as shown in the audited statements. The Finance Chair reviewed expenditures, deferred contributions, tangible capital assets, and the division's accumulated surplus. She clarified that schools may, under certain circumstances, operate with a planned deficit depending on funding conditions. Parents asked about the total provincial and federal grants received and the differences between restricted and unrestricted funds; the Finance Chair confirmed that both categories exist and are managed according to provincial regulations.

Parent Questions

Parents raised questions regarding the total amount of grant revenue and whether the division is permitted to budget or operate in a deficit. The Finance Chair confirmed that Aurora received \$15,200,898 in government grants for the fiscal year and that deficits may be permitted under approved budget frameworks. Additional questions addressed the distinction between restricted and unrestricted funds, and the Finance Chair explained that restricted funds must be used for designated purposes outlined by the province, while unrestricted funds provide flexibility for operational needs.

Vote Outcome: The membership voted via Google forms. The vote carried 97% in favor.

6. Elections

Each candidate was allotted two minutes to introduce themselves, share their background, and speak to their interest in serving on the Board of Directors. Candidates included Jennifer Singh, Kerry-Ann Sitcheron, Adedayo Ojeleye, Yetunde Adesina, Charanjit Ahluwalia, Preet Kathpal, and Todd Walsh. Candidate statements emphasized commitment to academic excellence, strong governance, equitable representation, and community engagement. A voting break took place from 8:21 PM to 8:28 PM to allow families to submit their ballots.

a. Candidates

- i. Jennifer Singh
- ii. Kerry-Ann Sitcheron
- iii. Adedayo Ojeleye
- iv. Yetunde Adesina
- v. Charanjit Ahluwalia
- vi. Preet Kathpal
- vii. Todd Walsh

Recess for Election Vote

The Board Chair called a recess at 8:21 PM to facilitate the election vote. The meeting reconvened at 8:31 PM.

7. Farewell to Outgoing Directors done in the (welcome address)

a. Fauziat Raji

The Board recognized Fauziat Raji for her dedicated service and leadership. The Chair expressed deep appreciation for her empathy, commitment, and student-first approach.

8. Thank You's

The Chair extended sincere thanks to all staff, administrators, and community members for their continued support and contributions to Aurora's mission, emphasizing the collective effort required to sustain excellence across all campuses.

9. Question from the Floor

Parents were invited to ask further questions. Administration and the Board provided clarifications on programming, transportation, facility planning, and future initiatives.

10. Election Results

Voting closed at 8:28 PM, and results were announced at 8:31 PM. The following individuals were elected to the Board of Directors: Todd Walsh, Yetunde Adesina, Kerry-Ann Sitcheron, Adedayo Ojeleye.

11. Congratulations to:

- a. Todd Walsh
- b. Yetunde Adesina
- c. Kerry- Ann Sitcheron
- d. Adedayo Ojeleye

12. Adjournment

The Annual General Meeting of the Aurora Academic Charter School Board of Directors was adjourned at 8:33 PM. Chair Zahida Hirani-Saran reminded continuing Board members that a closed-door meeting would immediately follow the AGM to discuss and appoint Board positions for the 2025–2026 term. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Constance Amenaghawon.

