BOARD COMMITTEE

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

Date: May 21, 2026
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: AACS Online

Attending:
Kerry-Ann Sitcheron (Board Chair)
Adedayo Ojeleye (Vice Char)
Constance Amenaghawon
Ajoke Omage
Zahida Hirani-Saran
Todd Walsh no cotw
Yatunde Adesina
Ian Gray
Khryssa Genery
(Recording Secretary)

Guests:
None

Items

1. **Land Acknowledgement (Kerry-Ann Sitcheron, Board Chair)**
   The Board Chair Kerry-Ann Sitcheron 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 7:02 PM, and was held at the AACS virtually for the public via Google Meets.

   a. **Approval of the May 21, 2026 Meeting of the Board of Directors Agenda**
      i. **Motion:** To approve the May 21, 2026 Board of Directors Agenda as presented.
      ii. **Moved by**: Kerry-Ann Sitcheron
      iii. **Seconded by:** Adedayo Ojeleye
      iv. **Vote Decision:** Unanimous, motion carried.

   b. **Approval of the Meeting of the Board of Directors Minutes(Motion**
      i. **Approval of the Minutes of April 23, 2026(Motion)**
         Motion: To approve the April 23, 2026 Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors as presented.
         Moved by: Kerry-Ann Sitcheron
         Seconded: Adedayo Ojeleye
         Required Changes: Correction- Call to order was Adedayo Ojeleye
         Correction - Revenue and funding spelling mistake (governments pay)
         Correction - IMO- Not IMRO
         Vote Decision: The motion passed with the caveat of the corrections.

3. **Director of Finance Update (Constance Amenaghawon, Finance Chair)**
   Constance Amenaghawon presented the April Financial Report at 7:06 PM. The report provides a comprehensive overview of the Division's financial standing as of April 30, 2026.

   a. **April Financials**
      i. **Revenues**
         The Board reviewed year-to-date revenues totaling approximately $12.6 million against a budget of approximately $19.1 million. Major revenue sources included Alberta Education grants, transportation and school fees, fundraising, rental income, and investment income.
         1. **Discussions:**
            a. Additional salary settlement grant funding expected later in the fiscal year.
            b. Increased investment income resulting from higher-than-forecast interest rates.
            c. Continued fundraising and donation support from community partners and families.
            d. Ongoing facility rental revenue from the Secondary and Primary campuses.

      ii. **Expenses by program**
         The Board reviewed expenses by program area, including Instruction, Plant Operations and Maintenance, Transportation, Board and System Administration, and External Services.
         1. **Transportation**
            Administration confirmed that transportation fees for families would not increase for the 2026–2027 school year. However, due to increasing student ridership demands, the Division plans to increase the fleet to a total of 33 buses for the upcoming school year.

Board members discussed whether final transportation registration numbers had been confirmed and reviewed the financial impact of maintaining current transportation fee rates while expanding services. Budget assumptions presented within the draft budget reflected the continuation of 33 bus units

iii. **Expenses by object**
The Board reviewed expenditures by object category, including certificated salaries and benefits, non-certificated salaries and benefits, services and supplies, amortization, and financial charges.

iv. **Non-Certificated Salaries and Benefits**
Lengthy discussion occurred regarding system administration staffing costs and operational capacity needs. Administration presented estimated costs related to additional system administration staffing and operational supports, estimated at approximately $50,000–$60,000 annually.

Board members discussed whether these additions should be incorporated into the 2026–2027 budget immediately or deferred to a future fiscal year. Following discussion, the Board agreed to increase the non-certificated salary allocation by an additional $100,000 within the draft budget.

Further discussion occurred regarding non-certificated employee benefits and whether benefit costs were included within the proposed salary increase allocation. The Board clarified that benefits would be budgeted separately from salaries.

A proposal was brought forward to increase the non-certificated benefits allocation by an additional $20,000. Board members were in favour of the adjustment.

v. **Discussions**

1. **Amortization Clarification**
The Board requested clarification regarding amortization expenses and projected decreases in future years. Administration explained that certain capital assets are approaching the end of their amortization periods, resulting in reduced amortization expenses over time as asset values depreciate. Additional clarification was provided regarding higher-than-anticipated amortization related to Skyrattler leasehold improvements.

b. **AACS Budget**
The Finance Chair conducted a detailed review of the Aurora Academic Charter School 2026–2027 draft budget, including projected revenues, expenditures, transportation costs, staffing allocations, and operational assumptions.

The Board reviewed the projected operating deficit and discussed assumptions related to:
i. Students Enrolment Growth
ii. Transportation services expansion
iii. Lease support funding
iv. IMR and CMR funding considerations
v. Ongoing collective agreement uncertainties

c. **Motion**: To approve the 2026-2027 Budget as presented, with the addition of:
i. $100,000 to Non-Certificated Salaries and Wages
ii. $20,000 to Non-Certified Benefits
d. **Moved by:** Constance Amenaghawon
e. **Second:** Adedayo Ojeleye
f. **Vote outcome:** 6 in favor 1 abstaining. Motion passed

4. **Superintendents Report**
Ian Gray presented the Superintendent's Report at 7:38 PM, highlighting academic achievement, student engagement, community events, operational updates, and early assurance data findings across all Aurora campuses.

a. **Student activities and achievements**
The Superintendent shared several upcoming year-end celebrations and awards ceremonies occurring across all campuses. The Board reviewed the extensive student activities and achievements highlighted throughout the report, including academic awards, arts programming, leadership initiatives, athletics, scholarship recognition, and provincial and national student accomplishments.

Special recognition was given to Alberta Avenue students and staff for their outstanding achievements in academics, athletics, leadership, scholarship attainment, and arts programming.

The Board also acknowledged the success of the Aurora Arts Symposium and expressed appreciation to the teachers, staff, volunteers, and students who contributed to the event's success. The Board Chair provided positive feedback regarding the symposium and its role in celebrating student creativity and community engagement. The Superintendent noted that the Aurora Arts Symposium was sold out, with approximately 120 tickets purchased and participation from students, families, community sponsors, performers, and student artists.

b. **Parent community and stakeholder engagement**
The Superintendent reported continued strong parent and stakeholder engagement across all campuses. Family Movie Night at Sherbrooke was identified as a particularly successful event, with approximately 300 attendees participating across two movie showings.

The Board discussed the continued importance of maintaining strong family engagement opportunities and community-centred events as the Authority continues to grow across three campuses.

c. **Alberta Ave**
The Superintendent reported that 100% of Alberta Avenue Grade 12 students were accepted into post-secondary programming for the second consecutive year. The Board recognized this as a significant accomplishment demonstrating the strength of Aurora's secondary academic programming and student supports.

Discussion also included continued growth in dual credit opportunities, post-secondary pathway planning, and academic advising supports for secondary students.

d. **Early Assurance Data and Student Achievement**
The Superintendent informed the Board that Alberta Education Field Services had confirmed receipt of all required documentation and submissions from the previous reporting year.

The Board reviewed preliminary Alberta Education assurance and student achievement data, including Access to Services, Quality of Education, parent engagement measures, and school achievement indicators. Initial results demonstrated strong and consistent performance across campuses, including strong parent engagement and positive educational quality indicators.

The Superintendent also highlighted that newly received APORI and assurance-related results were exceptionally strong and reflected positively on the Authority's continued growth and system coherence.

Discussion occurred regarding the discrepancy between school-awarded marks and Diploma Examination results identified within some high school subject areas. The Board expressed concern regarding this discrepancy and requested additional analysis and insight into potential contributing factors.

Board members discussed whether language comprehension and interpretation of diploma examination questions may contribute to the gap for some students and expressed interest in reviewing strategies to further bridge this discrepancy. Administration advised that further review and analysis of assessment alignment and instructional practices would continue as part of ongoing Assurance Framework planning.

e. **Education Plan**
The Superintendent presented the Aurora Academic Charter School Education Plan 2026–2029 to the Board for approval. The Education Plan outlines the Authority's strategic priorities of Culture, Academics, and Growth and aligns with Alberta Education's Assurance Framework and Aurora's charter goals of enhanced language arts and enhanced mathematics programming.
f. **Motion:** To approve the Aurora Academic Charter School Education Plan for 2026-2029 as presented
g. **Moved:** Zahida Hirani- Saran
h. **Seconded:** Adedayo Ojeleye
i. **Vote decision:** The board voted unanimously in favor. Motion carried.

Break
The Board recessed at 08:03 PM and reconvened at 08:15 PM.

j. **Locally Developed Courses**
The Superintendent presented the proposed Locally Developed Courses (LDCs) for the 2026–2027 school year at AACS Alberta Avenue. The proposed courses support expanded secondary programming opportunities, including advanced placement-style programming, leadership development, fine arts, psychology, economics, speech and debate, scientific research, and advanced calculus offerings.
   i. **Courses presented included:**
      1. Literature and Composition 25 and 35
      2. Calculus Advanced 35

3. Psychology Advanced 35
4. Macroeconomics Advanced 35
5. Microeconomics Advanced 35
6. Scientific Research 35
7. Speech and DDebate 15, 25, 35
8. Improvisational Theatre 15
9. Guitar 15

ii. **Motion** That the Board of Directors of Aurora Academic Charter School approves the delivery of the locally developed courses listed for the 2026–2027 school year at AACS Alberta Avenue and authorizes Administration to submit the required approval documentation through the new LearnAlberta system and complete any required follow-up with Alberta Education.
iii. **Moved:** Constance Amenaghawon
iv. **Seconded:** Zahida Hirani-Saran
v. **Vote:** The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

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

The Policy Committee Report commenced at 8:22PM. The report was presented by Chair Ajoke Omage, who provided an overview of several policies brought forward for Board review and approval at various reading stages.

a. 10010 BP: Aurora Academic Charter School Authority Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Policy - Section J

The Board reviewed draft Board Policy 10010 regarding the Authority's Privacy Management Program and compliance with the Access to Information Act (ATIA) and Protection of Privacy Act (POPA).

Discussion focused extensively on privacy breach notification requirements and the obligation to notify affected individuals when a privacy breach occurs. Board members requested that the policy more clearly and prominently outline the requirements for breach disclosure and notification obligations under POPA and the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC).

The Board discussed the importance of clearly identifying:

- the requirement to notify individuals whose personal information has been breached;
- notification obligations to the OIPC;
- procedures for breach reporting and disclosure; and
- clearer public-facing language regarding breach response expectations.

Reference was made to the policy section directing the Privacy and Access Officer to respond to privacy breaches and notify affected individuals where there exists a real risk of significant harm.

Board members requested that these requirements be made more visible within the policy under a clearly identified heading related to breach notification and disclosure requirements.

i. **Motion:** To approve Board Policy 10010 BP: Aurora Academic Charter School Authority Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Policy – Section J, with the requested revisions and clarifications regarding breach notification requirements.
ii. **Moved:** Ajoke Omage
iii. **Seconded by:** Zahida Hirani-Saran
iv. **Vote outcome:** Unanimous, with the caveat that the requested changes be incorporated. Motion carried.

b. 1040 BP: Policy Making

Discussion included updates to references aligning the policy with the Access to Information Act (ATIA) and Protection of Privacy Act (POPA). The Board also discussed the policy review cycle and whether policies should continue to follow a standard five-year review schedule or move toward more frequent review intervals.

Board members noted that while some policies may require annual review due to legislative or operational requirements, maintaining the five-year review cycle as a standard practice remained appropriate, provided policies may still be reviewed earlier if necessary. Discussion referenced the proposed language allowing earlier review where required by legislation, operational need, or Board direction.

Further discussion occurred regarding:

- Section 7 concerning the Board's authority to suspend policy; and
- Section 10 regarding the Superintendent's authority to take immediate action in exigent

circumstances where no applicable policy direction exists.

Board members expressed concern regarding the scope and interpretation of these provisions and discussed the importance of clearly defining the limits of authority, the circumstances under which such actions may occur, and the requirement for subsequent Board review and confirmation.

The Board also discussed establishing a clearer policy review schedule identifying which policies are due for review each year to improve planning and workflow management.

i. **Motion:** To approve Board Policy 1040: Policy Making for its first reading.
ii. **Moved**: Ajoke Omage
iii. **Seconded by:** Zahida Hirani-Saran
iv. **Vote Outcome:** The Board voted unanimously in favor. The motion carried.

c. 2030 BP: Board Communication Protocols

The Board reviewed proposed revisions to Board Policy 2030 BP: Board Communication Protocols.

Discussion focused on amendments highlighted within the draft policy and the relationship between the Board Communication Protocols and the Board Code of Conduct. Board members discussed whether communication expectations and protocols may be more appropriately integrated into the Board Code of Conduct policy rather than existing as a standalone policy.

Additional discussion referenced the policy's communication expectations regarding Board representation, stakeholder engagement, confidentiality, and alignment with ATIA and POPA requirements.

A Board member suggested either:

- incorporating the communication-related sections directly into the Board Code of Conduct policy; or
- revising the policy structure and title to better align with governance expectations.

Following discussion, the motion was withdrawn for further review and consideration.

i. **Motion:** To approve Board Policy 2030: Board Communication Protocols for First Reading.
ii. **Moved:** Ajoke Omage
iii. **Seconded:** Constance Amenaghawon
iv. **Vote Outcome:** Motion withdrawn for further review and revision.

d. 3800 BP: Abuse

The Board reviewed proposed revisions to Board Policy 2030 BP: Board Communication Protocols.

Discussion focused on amendments highlighted within the draft policy and the relationship between the Board Communication Protocols and the Board Code of Conduct. Board members discussed whether communication expectations and protocols may be more appropriately integrated into the Board Code of Conduct policy rather than existing as a standalone policy.

Additional discussion referenced the policy's communication expectations regarding Board representation, stakeholder engagement, confidentiality, and alignment with ATIA and POPA requirements.

A Board member suggested either:

- incorporating the communication-related sections directly into the Board Code of Conduct policy; or
- revising the policy structure and title to better align with governance expectations.

Following discussion, the motion was withdrawn for further review and consideration.

i. **Motion**: Ajoke Omage
ii. **Seconded:** Zahida Hiarani-Saran
iii. **Vote Outcome:** The Board agreed to withdraw the motion pending further investigation, review, and policy refinement.

6. Board of Directors 9:01

a. APCS

Board Chair Kerry-Ann Sitcheron provided an update regarding developments related to Alberta public charter schools and the Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools.

The Board was informed that TAAPCS has officially transitioned to APCS. Updates were provided regarding new organizational branding, website communications, protocols, and supporting materials currently being developed and implemented for member schools and stakeholders.

The Board also discussed recent provincial legislative developments impacting charter schools, including:

- Bill 25, which is anticipated to allow for charter school permanency, eliminating the current requirement for charter renewal every five years. The Board noted that no specific criteria or implementation details have yet been released regarding the permanency process.
- Bill 28, which is anticipated to provide charter schools with access to reserve land opportunities.

Discussion also included upcoming CharterVerse conventions planned for northern and southern charter school communities.

b. 30th Anniversary

i. Staff Recognition

The Board discussed upcoming 30th Anniversary celebrations and staff recognition events scheduled for June 2026.

Administration confirmed that the Staff Recognition Event will be held on June 16, 2026 aboard the Edmonton Queen Riverboat. The Board acknowledged the importance of recognizing staff contributions, service, and dedication across the Authority.

7. Next Meeting

At 7:00 PM the Board Chair notified that the next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for June 18, 2026 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be hosted at the AACS Skyrattler Campus.

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Directors on May 21, 2026 was motioned by Zahida Hirani-Saran.

The meeting of the May 21, 2026 Board of Directors was adjourned at 9:08 PM.

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