

**Aurora School Ltd.
Special Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2019**

Policy Committee Chair: Marcy Dormer
Recording Secretary: Susan Mallory

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 4:03 pm.

Attendees: Peter Dang, Marcy Dormer, Ian Gray, Jacquie Harman, Mary Healy, Susan Mallory, Paul Wozny

Absent: Dale Bischoff

Guest: Dave Van Tamelen

2. AGENDA

The June 5, 2019 agenda was adopted as presented.

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES

n/a

4. FOUNDATIONAL POLICY REVIEW

(Mission, Vision, Philosophy/Purpose)

Dr. Dave Van Tamelen reviewed the findings of the Aurora Parent and Staff Policy Survey along with the Policy Review Final Report. There were two phases to this review: Parent & Teacher interviews, and an online survey to both staff and parents. The survey questions were based on information gathered from the interview phase. Survey response was very successful with 233 responses received (parents 84%, staff 16%), and the pattern of support were similar between parents and staff. The three board Policies under review are: BP1000 – Vision Statement, BP1010 – Mission Statement, and BP1020 – Philosophy and Purpose.

Dave Van Tamelen presented the following for consideration:

1. The term “traditional approach” could be qualified to focus on teaching methods.
2. The term “innovative” could be replaced with a reference about pedagogy that is informed by research.
3. The reference to “average children” could be restated to be more inclusive or could be removed.
4. Reference to “an academically oriented program” could be given greater recognition.
5. The purpose statement “Prepared to enter the global economy” might be set aside until a high school program is operational.
6. Several other purpose statements could be revised for clarity without substantially changing the concepts.
7. While there were only a few references to “student centred” in this review, the term received considerable emphasis in the Alberta Education Review Team Report completed in March 2019, so it might also be included in this discussion.
8. Also, a review of the balance between purposeful repetition and redundancy in the terminology of the three policies might be helpful – some streamlining may improve their clarity.

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Dr. Van Tamelen was thanked for all his hard work and insight on the policy review survey.

5. Next Steps and Timelines

- I. Begin review of policies (BP1000, 1010, 1020) in June 2019 through streamlining of document on Policy team drive.
- II. Present draft policies to the Board for first reading in September 2019
- III. Address any changes/concerns arising from the September Board meeting
- IV. Present draft policies to the Board for second reading in October 2019
- V. Share draft policies with staff (PD Day) and School Council for input and comments
- VI. Present draft policies to the membership at the November Annual General Meeting for review and consultation.
- VII. Present final draft of policies BP1000, BP1010, BP1020 at the December 2019 Board meeting for third and final reading

The new School Act could impact our review outcomes.

The Committee discussed potential difficulties in getting together again before September to continue work on updating the governance policies, noting special meetings may be needed. No date was determined for the next meeting.

6. NEXT POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

June 12, 2019 (4:00 to 5:00pm)

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting ended at 5:20pm.