

## Aurora Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Monday, Sep 18, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

### 1. **Land Acknowledgement** (Zahida Hirani-Saran, Board Chair) 7:00 PM

We acknowledge that Aurora Academic Charter School and our community work, live, and play on the traditional territories of the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Métis, Dene, Nakota Sioux, and Inuit whose footsteps continue to mark these lands in the future. We continually express our gratitude and respect for the land as we honor Treaty 6, its role in education, and the ancestral Knowledge Keepers and Elders who are still with us. Aurora Academic Charter School believes that truth must be acknowledged to move forward in reconciliation. We take this time to reflect on our roles and commit to building and strengthening our valued friendships and partnerships with Indigenous peoples in our teaching and learning. We celebrate the rich diversity of the Indigenous as it connects with the diversity of Aurora Academic Charter School's culture, values, and desire to live in peace and prosperity together on this land we all call home.

### 2. **Call to Order** (Zahida Hirani-Saran, Board Chair) 7:05 PM

#### a. Approval of the September 18, 2023, *Meeting of the Board of Directors* Agenda (Motion)

Motion to approve the September 18, 2023, *Meeting of the Board of Directors* Agenda.

Made by: Constance Amenaghawon

Seconded by: Keira Hanrahan

In Favour: Unanimous

#### b. Approval of the June 19, 2023, *Meeting of the Board of Directors* Minutes (Motion)

Motion to Approval of the June 19, 2023, *Meeting of the Board of Directors* Minutes.

Made by: Fauziat Raji

Seconded by: Keira Hanrahan

In Favour: Unanimous

### 3. **Director of Finance Update** (Constance Amenaghawon, Finance Chair) 7:25 PM

#### a. June-August Financials

Alberta Education revenue \$912,413.

613K decrease in 2022-23 due to overestimate enrollment fees.

In June, the Charlton Family donated \$2,000.

Central admin staff need to use the outcome-based salary. Hire new support if needed in order to avoid working overtime. Superintendent plans to have vacation this year instead of paying out.

Yearbook sales is 2X the revenue this year. Power school submission the fees make it easier.

Discussion between board members:

We need more discussion about the parent payout. It looks like we are encouraging students not taking school bus.

Some parents cannot afford busing for \$735 each kid.

Get more clarity with the transportation funding manual. Put this in the agenda of the next meeting.

b. Finance & Audit Committee

Minimum 5 individuals, shall include 2 members who are not directors. The Committee shall meet 4 times a year, and may call as required.

c. External Audit

Audit starts to come in the first week of October. The target is having a draft at the end of the September. Final will be in November.

4. **Superintendent Report** (Ian Gray) 8:00 PM

a. Transportation

We currently have 17 buses and will add 2 more by the next few weeks. It took 2 extra weeks to settle down this year. 68% of students are on buses this year. The challenge is to get bus drivers. The school is looking into programs that can digitize bus routines.

i. Transportation Committee

Some suggested to make a formal committee, board members will sit on it. Ian needs to inform the board when the assisting needed.

2 weeks is reasonable if parents request changes.

Some suggested that before making decision, make sure we have information from all aspects.

Some suggested that the board should not interact with the committee.

Budget more buses, 24-25 buses. Plan the bus routes early ahead not leaving it until the end of summer.

b. Research

Dr. Walson and Ian will still work on Journal of Education Research. Ian found a good online repository of their work.

c. Northern Alberta Charter Leadership Network

Mother earth Charter School is struggling this year, down to 16 students, may shut down.

d. Dual Credit Grant

We received \$50,000 grant this year for NAIT Elite Duo credits program. They will have a meeting to finalize it.

e. Facilities

i. Project Management for Secondary School

Received \$50,000, need \$20,000 more for Capital planning.

ii. Park West Facility

Looking for opportunities to rent it out, but it will be a challenge.

f. School Fees

Discussion around if we should post the option fees along with the school fees initially or the school will eat the cost. What will it look like if the school will cover all/part of the fees? Also, suggestion that we set a cap for the school fees.

g. Locally Developed Courses (Motion)

Courses start in Feb, 2024. Add 2 more for the dual credits program.

Motion to approve acquiring locally developed courses for the 2023/24 school year.

Made by: Fauziat Raji

Seconded by: Keira Hanrahan

In Favour: Unanimous

Motion to approve acquiring locally developed courses for the 2024/25 school year.

Made by: Fauziat Raji

Seconded by: Constance Amenaghawon

In Favour: Unanimous

h. TAAPCS Conference 2023

Conference occurs every second year (2019, 2021, 2023). The school offers a bus and use PD money to cover the cost. School already budget it and no motion needed.

i. Strategic Planning (motion)

Prefer to have the plan before December 2023.

Motion to allocate the fund for strategic planning of 1400/day.

Board members prefer to have proposal at next meeting, and have 1-2 week to plan.

j. School Culture

This year has real success to bring parents to schools. Over all, very satisfy with school adman and staff to support the schools.

k. Board Provided Christmas Lunch for Staff

Last PD day of December at one school together.

5. **Policy Committee** (Keira Hanrahan, Policy Committee Chair) 9:00 PM

a. 2062 BP: Selection of Aurora School-Based Administrative Staffing - 3rd Reading

It's decided to remove vice principal hiring zone.

Motion to approve 2062 BP: Selection of Aurora School-Based Administrative Staffing.

Made by: Keira Hanrahan

Seconded by: Fauziat Raji

In Favour: Unanimous

b. 4000 BP: Annual Budget - 3rd Repeal

No longer needed as 4005 is the new one.

Motion to repeal 4000 BP: Annual Budget.

Made by: Keira Hanrahan

Seconded by: Ajoke Oimage

In Favour: Unanimous

c. 5400 BP: Personnel Records - 3rd Repeal

The related Administrative Regulation can be moved under the FOIP policy.

Already covered under FOIP.

Motion to repeal 5400 BP: Personnel Records.

Made by: Keira Hanrahan

Seconded by: Fauziat Raji

In Favour: Unanimous

d. 5450 BP: Public Interest Disclosure - Whistleblower Protection - 2<sup>nd</sup> Repeal

It is not legislatively necessary. Discussion as to whether we should keep it so that it shows organizational belief in it.

Motion to repeal 5450 BP: Public Interest Disclosure - Whistleblower Protection.

Made by: Keira Hanrahan

Seconded by: Constance Amenaghawon

In Favour: Unanimous

e. 7050 BP: Learning Commons - 3rd Repeal

It was discussed that we do not need a policy for specific rooms in the school.

Motion to repeal 7050 BP: Learning Commons.

Made by: Keira Hanrahan

Seconded by: Constance Amenaghawon

In Favour: Unanimous

f. 7060 BP: Religion – 3<sup>rd</sup> Repeal

Motion to repeal 7060 BP: Religion.

Made by: Keira Hanrahan  
Seconded by: Fauziat Raji  
In Favour: Unanimous

- g. 7071 BP: Human Sexuality – 2<sup>nd</sup> Repeal  
It is already part of the school curriculum.

Motion to repeal 7071 BP: Human Sexuality.

Made by: Keira Hanrahan  
Seconded by: Fauziat Raji  
In Favour: Unanimous

- h. 7230 BP: Controversial Issues and Materials – 2<sup>nd</sup> Repeal

It is covered under the education act.

Motion to repeal 7230 BP: Controversial Issues and Materials.

Made by: Keira Hanrahan  
Seconded by: Ajoke Oimage  
In Favour: Unanimous

- i. 7070 BP: Inclusion – Discussion  
i. 7070 BP: Inclusion (Revision) 1st reading

Some people may still need it and consider it is important. Another thought is that this policy helps the culture of the school and helps people to be kind to each other.

Motion to accept the revised 7070 BP: Inclusion – Discussion.

Made by: Keira Hanrahan  
Seconded by: Constance Amenaghawon  
In Favour: 4 Against: 1

- j. 9000 BP: Student Transportation - 1st Reading

Add the definition of 75 mins riding time.

Motion to revise the 75 mins riding time includes the time that the students spend on the bus whether or not the bus is moving.

Made by: Keira Hanrahan

Seconded by: Fauziat Raji  
In Favour: Unanimous

6. **The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools Priority Committee** (Fauziat Razi, Committee Chair) 10:00 PM
  - a. TAAPCS AGM October 21  
Fauziat and Constance will travel to Calgary.
7. **Board of Directors** (Zahida Hirani-Saran, Board Chair) 10:10 PM
  - a. AGM Logistics  
Will be virtually.
8. **Adjournment** (projected) 10:15 PM  
Motion to Adjourn.  
Made by: Fauziat Raji