

Tuesday, May 23, 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 May 23, 2023 *Meeting of the Board of Directors Agenda* (Motion)
Motion to approve the May 23, 2023 *Meeting of the Board of Directors Agenda*
Made by: Keira Hanrahan
Seconded by: Fauziat Raji
In Favour: Unanimous

Tirtha Upadhyay and Sudeep Manandhar sent their regrets that they were unable to attend the meeting.

- b. Approval of the May 7, 2023 *Meeting of the Board of Directors Minutes* (Motion)
Motion to approve the May 7, 2023 *Meeting of the Board of Directors Minutes*
Made by: Ajoke Oimage
Seconded by: Constance Amenaghawon
In Favour: Unanimous

1. **Superintendent Report** (Ian Gray) 7:08 PM

- a. Education Plan (Motion)

There was discussion about the CAT4 and CAT5 and whether or not the details of it had to be shared with Alberta Education.

Motion to approve the Education plan
Made by: Fauziat Raji
Seconded by: Constance Amenaghawon
In Favour: Unanimous

b. Capital Plan (Motion)

There was a question about how the \$7.6 million dollars of modernizing the St. Patrick facility was arrived at.

There was a discussion about improvements at the Sherbrooke facility and how the audit done in 2022 could be applied.

There was discussion about whether Infrastructure, Maintenance, and Renewal could be applied to the costs found in the Capital Plan.

Motion to approve the Capital Plan
Made by: Constance Amenaghawon
Seconded by: Keira Hanrahan
In Favour: Unanimous

c. High School

There was a question about the specific events at Spirit Week. Mr. Gray suggested that he would share details at a later date.

There was discussion about motions passed at a previous meeting about the changes to demarcation of schools. It was indicated that things went well.

d. Research & Innovation

Discussion around the commencement of consent forms for parents regarding the mental health pilot research. There are no FOIP concerns for research conducted within the school.

There was a question about funds provided by Alberta Education, approximately \$75,000, for research. No funds have been provided as of yet.

e. Student Learning Supports

Mental health programs, after school programs, leadership base programs

There was a question about the number of students attending the after school learning program at the high school.

There was an explanation as to why the BASE program was selected over the Open Parachute program to support students, staff, and community with health and well-being.

f. Assessment, Evaluation, & Reporting

2. **Policy Committee** (Keira Hanrahan) 7:30 PM

- 2041 BP: Conflict of Interest - Second Reading

There was discussion about the rationale about the length of the cooling off period. It was decided to add the term “cooling-off period” to the definitions.

Motion to approve BP: Conflict of Interest Second Reading.

Made by: Keira Hanrahan

Seconded by: Fauziat Raji

In Favour: Unanimous

- 2062 BP: Selection of Aurora School-Based Administrative Staffing - First Reading

The Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer had been added to the policy. Central Office composition decision-making will be a shared role between the Superintendent and the Board. Discussion about the superintendent have more weight in hiring principals and assistant principals. Discussion about removing assistant principals from the policy. Communication about how FTE for administration was discussed, particularly when there are fewer than 250 students in a school.

Motion to accept BP 2062: Selection of Aurora School-Based Administrative Staffing with the amended changes as discussed - First Reading

Made by: Keira Hanrahan

Seconded by: Fauziat Raji

In Favour: Unanimous

- 4000 BP: Annual Budget - First Repeal

This policy was intended for repeal in 2022 when the new suite of financial policies was introduced.

Motion to accept BP: Annual Budget

Made by: Keira Hanrahan

Seconded by: Fauziat Raji

In Favour: Unanimous

- 5400 BP: Employee Personnel Records - First Repeal

The related Administrative Regularion will be moved under the FOIP policy.

Motion to repeal 5400 BP: Employee Personnel Records

Made by: Keira Hanrahan

Seconded by: Constance Amenaghawom

In Favour: Unanimous

- 5450 BP: Public Interest Disclosure - Whistleblower Protection - First Reading

There was discussion as to whether this policy is required by legislation.

Motion to approve BP: Public Interest Disclosure - Whistleblower Protection

Made by: Keira Hanrahan

Seconded by: Constance Amenaghawon

In Favour: Unanimous

- 6000 BP: Admittance - Second Repeal

The section on granted leaves of absence has been moved to 6170 BP: Extended Absences.

Motion to approve BP: Admittance

Made by: Keira Hanrahan

Seconded by: Constance Amenaghawon

In Favour: Unanimous

- 6170 BP: Extended Absences - Third Reading

Discussion as to whether or not to keep the “discretion of the Board” in this policy. Questions about how waitlist fits into this policy. Questions about whether this policy should be more operational.

Motion to approve BP: Extended Absences

Tabled for next *Meeting of the Board of Directors*.

- 7050 BP: Learning Commons - First Repeal

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

Motion to approve BP: Learning Commons

Made by: Keira Hanrahan

Seconded by: Fauziat Raji

In Favour: Unanimous

- 7060 BP: Religion - First Repeal

As charter schools are barred from instruction in religion through legislation, it was shared that this policy is unnecessary.

Motion to approve BP: Religion

Made by: Keira Hanrahan

Seconded by: Constance Amenaghawon

In Favour: Unanimous

3. **Parent Engagement on Facility** (Zahida Hirani-Saran) 8:00 PM

Zahida Hirani-Saran, Board Chair, addressed the parents in attendance regarding the new facility, recently acquired from Alberta Infrastructure.

Shyenhana Gaffar, Abigael Chekol, Dil Shrestha, Narinder Hothi and Ashwin Chandra shared their concerns about the new facility acquisition. Arlene Huhn spoke in support of the new facility.

4. **Finance Committee** (Constance Amenaghawon) 8:45 PM

a. Budget 2023-2024 (Motion)

The budget is significantly higher than last year (approximately \$2 million) due to the increase in the number of classes.

Possible revenue for the new facility was not included in the budget.

It was discussed that the school is renting out the gymnasium and rooms again following COVID-19.

Discussion around busing costs and the cost for lunch busing for kindergarten as well as the length of term with our busing contract.

Clarification around the fees for PowerSchool and merchant fees were provided.

Focus point on school fee increase and the impact on families.

Proposed new base fees: K: \$100.00

G1-7: \$150.00

G8-11: \$200.00

Transportation fee: Kindergarten \$875, G1-11 \$750

Secretary-Treasurer to confirm if board director budget was increased to 14K as discussed in last budget review.

Motion to approve the budget to reflect the Board Administration line item to be increased to \$14,000 with a decrease in fee revenue of \$24,000.

Made by: Constance Amenaghawon

Seconded by: Keira Hanrahan

In Favour: Unanimous

5. **Teacher Bargaining** (Motion) 10:15 PM

Teachers are to receive an increase in salary as well as not having Long-Term Disability paid for by the employer.

There were small changes to Family Leave.

Motion to accept the new agreement between Aurora Academic Charter School and the Alberta Teachers' Association.

Made by: Keira Hanrahan

Seconded by: Fauziat Raji

In Favour: Unanimous

6. **Adjournment** (projected) 10:25 PM