

Aurora Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, Oct 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 October 18, 2023, *Meeting of the Board of Directors Agenda* (Motion)

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

Made by: Constance Amenaghawon

Seconded by: Fauziat Raji

In Favour: Unanimous

b. Approval of the September 18, 2023, Meeting of the Board of Directors Minutes (Motion)

Motion to Approval of the September 18, 2023, Meeting of the Board of Directors Minutes, with the update of BP 7070 (Inclusion): Motion to accept the revised policy.

Made by: Fauziat Raji

Seconded by: Keira Hanrahan

In Favour: Unanimous

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

a. September Financials

Received \$320K construction project fund & \$19K lease fund for the Secondary School. Revenue from other Alberta School authorities will catch up in October by WFF grant

reorganization. Investment income made a conservative budget at a lower average interest rate.

Additional operation expense due to the new Secondary School. Higher amortization due to the capitalized assets for the Secondary School.

b. External Audit

Ongoing external auditing. Auditors reach out to whoever they want to speak with. Board members have been reached out.

Board has to accept the audited financials before the November AGM.

4. **Superintendent Report** (Ian Gray) 8:15 PM

a. Mental Health & Wellness Grant

Aurora School got funded over \$500k by Alberta Education till December 2024. The project includes after school counselling services provided by Aaron for students and families. In Sep profession development session, we introduced online resources for enhancing social emotional learning and mental health support to all teachers. Additionally, there is an upcoming monthly session for parents and community members. The session will address the children's well-being and the contest of mental health.

The uptake on the services of the program is good overall. The participation rate is quite high.

b. The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools (TAAPCS) Conference 2023

The conference is on Friday Oct 20, 2023.  
17 teachers from Aurora Charter School will attend.

c. Alberta Research Network Symposium

Dr. Wozny will be presenting at conference on Nov 23, 2023.

d. Northern Alberta Charter School Leadership Network

There will be 4 sessions this year. First session will be on Nov 16, 2023 at Suzuki Charter School. 21 people are interested in attending. The main focus of these events includes

reviewing Alberta leadership quality standard, discussing what the education leader is, discussing the role of senior administration, and some other specific topics.

e. Assessment, Evaluation, & Reporting Initiative

Kelly and Ian were working closely together to help and design the implementation of Assessment, Evaluation, & Reporting Initiative. Since there were already a lot changes this year, the school will regroup the project and come back at it in a few months.

f. Administration Retreat

First time retreatment at Aurora Charter School. The superintendent, principals and vice principals will get together to work on coherence between 2 schools. Trying to bring the 2 schools together, having the common voice and common vision. Making sure that both schools have the common practices and share the common culture.

g. Transportation Committee

A call has been issued for individuals to join the Transportation Committee. The Committee's primary objective is to enhance students busing services and provide support to transportation staff.

h. Locally Developed Courses

Approval for dual credits courses of winter semester has to be submitted to Alberta Education by Nov. 1, 2023.

Motion to request acquiring the following locally developed courses to be offered beginning in the 2023-2024 school year:

Made by: Keira Hanrahan  
Seconded by: Constance Amenaghawon  
In Favour: Unanimous

i. Aurora Academic Charter Secondary School (AACSS)  
Phase 2 Engagement Plan

The School has contracted services with ACI Architecture and Arrow Engineering to

The school has contracted services with HCN Architects and HCN Engineering to perform a building condition assessment and a project management scope of leasehold improvements. The schedule designated 2 or 3 days for engagement with the community. The draft plan will be drawn out and submitted to the board to view. It is hoped to be at the end of November. Conceptual planning and designs will begin, along with the drafted visibility report. It hoping to be finished by the end of January 2024.

j. AACS 5-Year Strategic Plan

- i. Presentation by Dr. Paul Wozny, Research & Grants Manager, and Ian Gray, Superintendent

Motion to allocate \$10,000 for retaining external facilitation counselling services in support of the Strategic Plan engagement.

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

k. Staff Recognition

- i. Luncheon

In January 2024.

- ii. Thank you cards/gifts

Something to give to the staff for the recognition before the break.  
Need to decide when and what to do.

5. **Policy Committee** (Keira Hanrahan, Policy Committee Chair) 9:15 PM

- a. 5450 BP: Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) - 3rd Repeal

It's decided to remove 5450 BP: Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) and it's final.

Motion to repeal 5450 BP: Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection)

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

- b. 7070 BP: Inclusion

- i. 7070 BP: Inclusion (Revision) - 2nd 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 is 2nd reading 7070 BP: Inclusion (Revision).

Made by: Keira Hanrahan

Seconded by: Fauziat Raji

In Favour: 4

Against: 1

c. 7071 BP: Human Sexuality - 3rd Repeal

It is already part of the school curriculum.

Motion to repeal 7071 BP: Human Sexuality – 3<sup>rd</sup> and final.

Made by: Keira Hanrahan

Seconded by: Constance Amenaghawon

In Favour: Unanimous

d. 7230 BP: Controversial Issues and Materials - 3rd Repeal

It is covered under the Education Act.

Motion to repeal 7230 BP: Controversial Issues and Materials – 3<sup>rd</sup> and final.

Made by: Keira Hanrahan

Seconded by: Ajoke Oimage

In Favour: Unanimous

e. 9000 BP: Student Transportation – 2nd Reading

Adding the 75 minutes clarity.

Motion to revise the 75 minutes 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: Constance Amenaghawon

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

Constance and Fauziat will attend the conference in Calgary. Fauziat will represent Aurora School.

7. **Board of Directors** (Zahida Hirani-Saran, Board Chair)

a. Articles of Association Proposed Amendments

AGM is on Nov 24, 2023. Keira will represent and communicate to membership about 2 changes. First is the honorarium to future members. Second is the term of serve.

Motion to approve the amendments to the Articles of Association regarding honoraria and term length.

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

b. Charter Document Proposed Amendments (Ian will follow)

Slightly changes to the student enrollment agreement 2023. Our current facilities can accommodate 1400 students. The other change was current rate configuration: K-11 with grade 12 commencing in 2024. As there are no substantive changes to the charter,  
a  
motion is unnecessary.

8. **Adjournment** (projected) 10:15 PM

Motion to Adjourn.  
Made by: Ajoke Oimage

