

## Aurora Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Monday, Nov 20, 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 November 20, 2023, *Meeting of the Board of Directors* Agenda (Motion)

Motion to approve the November 20, 2023, *Meeting of the Board of Directors* Agenda.

Made by: Keira Hanrahan

Seconded by: Fauziat Raji

In Favour: Unanimous

#### b. Approval of the October 18, 2023, *Meeting of the Board of Directors* Minutes (Motion)

The board approves the minutes, with addition of the locally course lists added under item 4h.

Motion to Approval of the October 18, 2023, *Meeting of the Board of Directors* Minutes.

Made by: Ajoke Oimage

Seconded by: Fauziat Raji

In Favour: Unanimous

### 1. **Director of Finance Update** (Constance Amenaghawon, Finance Chair) 7:15 PM

#### a. Report from Kingston Ross Pasnak LLP (Motion)

There are two corrections need to be made.

Motion to accept the audited financials for the period ending Aug 31, 2023, with the view to update the changes to Schedule 1 and Schedule 5.

Made by: Constance Amenaghawon

Seconded by: Ajoke Oimage

In Favour: Unanimous

b. October Financials

Alberta infrastructure received \$320k construction project fund and \$19k lease fund for Secondary School. Investment income made a conservative budget at a lower average interest rate. Top Marks donated \$6400. Ian will look at the policy to ensure we can take gifts.

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

c. External Audit

The Board would like have more time to view the audited financials before the AGM. The Board already have a motion to retain the auditors for the next year. It's been built in the agenda.

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

a. School Year Update

Secondary School Facility:

- We have collaborated with ACI Architecture to develop a schedule for our secondary school facility.
- A meeting with Capital Planning is scheduled for Tuesday, November 21, 2023.
- Unfortunately, we are experiencing issues with boiler floods that require immediate attention. We are actively addressing this concern and will keep you informed of the progress.

Professional Development:

- Our focus on Professional Development includes sessions on Social-Emotional Learning and School Culture.

#### School Culture:

- There is positive collaboration between primary and secondary schools, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose.

#### Partnerships:

- Significant developments in partnerships include secondary school students actively contributing to primary events.
- Collaboration with PYPE police to enhance partnerships with multicultural youth.
- A successful November presentation on cyberbullying and careers in forensics.
- Exploration of a joint research project with EPS about student perceptions of police, involving an anonymous survey.
- Securing a \$50,000 grant from NAIT Dual Credit to offer courses in Human Anatomy and Medical Terminology, creating a unique Pre-Med pathway.
- Plans for additional pathways in IT and business for the 2024-2025 academic year.

In addition to the above, here are some noteworthy highlights:

#### Parent Outreach:

- Successful events included the Honor Roll Assembly and a family supper with a guest speaker on study and organizational skills.
  
- Ongoing planning for the Casino in spring and the Science Fair scheduled for Feb 15.

#### Academic Enrichment:

- Strong performance in standardized testing, particularly in Grade 9 PATS.
- Notable achievements in outside awards and participation in international science events.
- Commencement of career counselling sessions and individual meetings to review credits and university entrance requirements.

#### Indigenous Knowledge:

- Monthly bulletin boards focusing on Indigenous themes.
- Upcoming Elder presentation about Residential Schools for grades 10 & 11 on November 20.

#### Fun Events:

- Active participation in athletics, clubs, and fun activities, promoting a positive and inclusive school environment.
- Successful initiatives during Anti-Bullying Week, including a bake sale and engaging activities organized by the Student Council.
- Planning of various field trips, including visits to Servus and Telus.

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

The conference is on Friday Oct 20, 2023.

- 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. Secondary School Leasehold Improvements - Phase 1

Still in progress.

There are some projects needed to move forward under the budget. (Water fountains, etc.)

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

ACI meetings tomorrow.

- g. Administration Retreat

All day on Saturday Nov 18, 2023. Mostly about school culture and student learning supports.

- h. Transportation Committee

The school will have a meeting next month.

- i. Annual Education Results Report (Motion)

Two major documents submit to Alberta Education, due by Nov 30, 2023.

Motion to accept the reported Annual Education Results Report.

Made by: Fauziat Raji

Seconded by: Constance Amenaghawon

In Favour: Unanimous

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

7070 BP: Inclusion

7070 BP: Inclusion (Revision) - 3rd Reading

Motion to approve 7070 BP: Inclusion (Revision) - 3rd Reading

Made by: Keira Hanrahan

Seconded by: Fauziat Raji

In Favour: 4

Against: 1

9000 BP: Student Transportation - 3rd Reading

Adding the 75 minutes clarity. Revise the 75 minutes riding time includes the time that the students spend on the bus whether or not the bus is moving.

Motion to approve 9000 BP: Student Transportation - 3rd Reading

Made by: Keira Hanrahan

Seconded by: Fauziat Raji

In Favour: Unanimous

4. The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools Priority Committee (Fauziat Razi, Committee Chair) 10:00 PM

a. TAAPCS Annual General Meeting

On Oct 21, 2023.

Change of Fee Structure:

1-299: 1 vote  
300-999: 2 votes  
1000+: 3 votes

The Board will have a discussion next board meeting about the fees and what Aurora is going to do with the association.

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

a. Annual General Meeting

It's on Thursday Nov 17, 2023.

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

Motion to Adjourn.

Made by: Fauziat Raji