



**Aurora School Ltd.**  
**Annual General Meeting (AGM)**  
**November 15, 2007**  
**Ratified**

07-11-15-01 Meeting called to order at 7:29pm

07-11-15-02 Acceptance of Agenda.  
Motion to accept the November 15, 2007 AGM agenda made by: Shelley Britton  
Seconded by: Patricia Wong  
**Carried.**

07-11-15-03 Ratification of the November 2, 2006 AGM minutes.  
Motion to accept the 2006 AGM minutes as presented made by: Michelle Shaw  
Seconded by: Alison Beilman  
**Carried.**

07-11-15-04 Introductory Welcome and Chair Report.

The three main functions of the board are:

- Act as moral and legal trustees of Aurora School.
- Establish Policies.
- Delegate authority to the principal to govern day-to-day activities.

There are four board members and the chair, as well as two ex-officio members consisting of the principal and the superintendent.

The Board makes all decisions in the best interests of our students. The Board governs by policy and all policies are mission related. There are established boundaries of authority; and the Board has delegated authority to the principal (who is accountable to the board). The Board is the moral and legal trustees of Aurora School, guarding against undue risk. The Board continues to run the school in a fiscal and responsible manner, and are the final arbitrators in any appeal. They make sure the principal and superintendent are doing their job.

Accomplishments of the board

- Have a new school and playground
- Last year Aurora was looking at options that were not promising. In May of 2007, we negotiated a deal with Edmonton Public School Board (EPSB) to lease Sherbrooke School.
- To bring the existing facility to this extent from May to now, is nothing short of a miracle. Mrs. Debra King thanked Mr. Ron Hiebert and Mr. John Sproule for all their efforts in procuring this site. She also thanked Aman Construction for moving forward so quickly on the renovations.

- We have received \$1.77M in funding from Alberta Infrastructure for renovations; and have applied for \$1.5M in additional funding.
- We will be undertaking a major review of Articles of Association and Charter for Alberta Education. Aurora is required to do this to receive our next five year charter.
- Chairman King introduced the 2006-2007 board members: Elizabeth Emslie, Nazir Mulji, Don Wilson, Ron Hiebert, and Debra King. The board has great interaction with the Superintendent and Principal.
- This is Mrs. King's last year on the board. She urged members to be proud of Aurora, keep involved in the school, and help it to flourish.

07-11-15-05 Report from the Facility Committee.

- Mr. Ron Hiebert noted that this is his last year on the board, but would stay on the board until Aurora had a new facility.
- One year previous, Ron was still negotiating with the minister for a new facility.
- It took 30 meetings to get lease developed and the Engineering report was done in the spring.
- Aman Constructing has moved as fast as possible to get us in our new facility, with the least possible disruption to students.
- Mr. Hiebert thanked Mr. Steve Simmons for his hard work assisting with getting the facility; Mr. John Sproule, Facilities Committee, also worked endlessly towards a facility.
- Next big goal for Aurora will be to buy this facility, over the next two years. The goal of Aurora is to own its own facility. To own this school means we will never have to move. It is an excellent facilities and we will be able to have a high school.
- Once Shumka finds their own facility, we will be able to move forward with a high school, as we will have the space.
- Mr. Hiebert thanked Mrs. King for all her hours of work and contributions to the Board and to Aurora School, noted that without Mrs. King, Aurora School would not be the school it is today.
- Before Aurora School started, the predecessor was Cogito, an alternate program under EPSB. Parents who were not happy with the Cogito alternative program created Aurora School, and made it a parent-directed school.
- Mr. Hiebert noted the best way to ensure your children's educational future is to be involved in your school - Aurora School. If this program is to continue, parents must be involved. We need committed parents.

07-11-15-06 Board of Director Elections.

07-11-15-06(A) Acclaimed Board Members for 2007-2008: Nayyer Rizvi, Elizabeth Emslie, and Marianne Grohn.

07-11-15-06(B) Acclaimed Board Chairman for 2007-2008: Don Wilson

07-11-15-07 Financial Report: Year –End 2006-2007.

07-11-15-07(A) The audited financial statements for 2006-2007, prepared by Kingston Ross Paszak, were presented to the membership. Aurora School is a non-profit organization, public school operating as a school since 1996. Statements are prepared according to the

generally accepted practices of Chartered Accountants. Nazir Mulji reviewed the financial statements with the membership.

Motion to accept the 2006 Audited Financial Statements as presented, made by:  
Shelley Britton

Seconded by: Michelle Shaw

**Carried.**

07-11-15-07(B) Motion to retain Kingston Ross Pasnak LLP as our school auditors for 2007-2008 made by: Allison Beilman

Seconded by: Marianne Grohn

**Carried.**

07-11-15-08 School Council Annual Report.

School Council members from 2006-2007 were Keith Ruelling, Allison Beilman, Marianne Grohn and Leona Sellyeh. The work and efforts of these parents had a direct affect on our students. School Council supported events and made purchases for the school, i.e. new school sign, grad 2006 gifts, spring spell-a-thon (\$2K), Entertainment Books (\$4k), and investigate playground options for Aurora School. Steve thanked all parents who helped out with School Council. School Council was also involved with the Parent Survey and obtained parent opinions for presentation to Alberta Education. Mr. Steve Simmons encouraged parent involvement. It was noted that the By-Law change last year for School Council member eligibility went from one to two members for a one year term. Mr. Ken Ball is this year's teacher representative, Mrs. Joblinski is the secretary for School Council and Mr. Steve Simmons will sit on School Council.

07-11-15-08(A) ESC Position

Kenny Coutain – acclaimed

07-11-15-08(B) Division One

Allison Beilman – acclaimed

Allison Beilman nominated Michelle Shaw for Division One. She accepts.

07-11-15-08(C) Division Two

Allison Beilman nominated Deanna Vandenberg for School Council – Division Two. Mrs. Vandenberg accepted.

07-11-15-08(D) Division Three

Shelley Britton – acclaimed

07-11-15-09 Question Period

**Question:** Fence – Is there going to be a fence around the playground and what supervision will there be?

**Answer:** Playground is on city property and we would have to enter negotiations with city and community league. We do not have supervision before and after school. We rely on parents to bring their children to school.

**Question:** What if it is 30°C below.

**Answer:** Same as at old school, kids will be able to sit in the hallway before classes when they arrive at school.

**Question:** What is the time line for high school?

**Answer:** We have no time line. We have researched high school, which has very specific needs.

**Question:** What about the portables; Can they be used as labs?

**Answer:** Portables – We are look at different options for portables. Aurora does not want to compromise K-9 program by rushing high school.

**Question:** Cost is 6.2M for renovations - noted that we are using \$3.2M of reserve for school. What about this money?

**Answer:** We are spending half of our reserve on renovations. Alberta Education will be providing some funding as well. By committing our money now, we will not have to do more renovations / repairs at a later date and will save money by doing it now. Mechanicals which were our biggest risk, have been done and will reduce operating costs.

**Question:** What about buying piece of property.

**Answer:** Edmonton Public School Board (EPSB) would be quite happy to sell facility to us. Alberta Education wanted us to be in the school for one year before they would discuss any negotiations with us. In the lease, we have negotiated that any renovations costs we incurred, would be deducted from the cost of the facility purchase price. We hope to start negotiations next spring. Purchasing is a complicated procedure and Aurora would need to set up a trust. Hope to purchase building for \$1M which would leave us in a very good position.

**Question:** Does Alberta Infrastructure have to approve the sale.

**Answer:** Alberta Infra is happy for us to purchase the building.

**Question:** Any hidden legislation?

**Answer:** The trust which would be set up would solve this.

**Question:** How much would it cost to set up high school?

**Answer:** We would need to re-research these costs as there have been many changes to the high school made since our first research.

**Question:** How much more are we going to need to buy the school?

**Answer:** Do not know – estimate \$1M.

**Question:** Regarding Carnival text books. When are you going to replace these?

**Answer:** Please call Steve Simmons.

**Question:** When will year books come?

**Answer:** 7 – 10 days

**Question:** Concern about safety of children re placement of washrooms.

**Answer:** Aurora tries to keep the doors locked at all times. Once the main office is finished that will be the only way in. You will need to sign in and name tags to move around the school. With construction workers needing access to school, it is hard to lock up everything. Please see Steve if you have specific concerns.

**Question:** Happy that my kids are at Aurora School but travel time is long. Want more bus stops on the route. Have concerns about winter and their safety.

**Answer:** We have spoken before about bussing. It is very difficult to change routes in the middle of the year. If there is an actual safety concern, please see Mr. Simmons.

Don Wilson, Board of Directors.

I will have some big shoes to fill, Mr. Hiebert and Mrs. King's shoes especially. He challenges members here to get involved. He started out in School Council. We need to get parents involved in this school. He believes that Aurora gives students the best possible education. There is a big change moving to high school and the board will be pursuing high school. If you have any questions, please see me or any other board member.

Playground.

Mr. Steve Simmons is attending the Sherbrooke Community League Executive. They are happy to work with us, especially with regard to a playground and to have an Aurora School member sit on their executive.

Special Presentation.

Mr. Steve Simmons thanked Mr. Hiebert and Mrs. King on behalf of himself, staff, and the superintendent, Mr. Ross Johnston. They have given hours and hours of time, and contributions to Aurora. Mrs. King always put what was best for the students first. Mr. Hiebert, without his help in facilities, we would not have a facility. Mr. Simmons has learned a lot from both Mr. Hiebert and Mrs. King. Roses and a card were presented to both Mrs. King and Mr. Hiebert.

07-11-07-11 Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by: Chris Mitchell

Meeting adjourned at: 8:41pm