



BOARD COMMITTEE

Date: January 20, 2025
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: AACPS Primary and Online
Attending Zahida Hirani-Saran (Char)
 Fauziat Raji (Vice Chair)
 Ajoke Omage
 Kerry-Ann Sitcheron
 Ian Gray
 Adedayo Ojeleye (Online)
 Jennifer Singh (Online)
 Khryssa Genery
 (Recording Secretary)

Guests: **None**

Absent: Constance Amenaghawon

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 honour 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 peoples 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.

**Amiskwacîwâskahikan
Treaty 6**

Items

- 1. Land Acknowledgement (Zahida Hirani-Saran, Board Chair)**
The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 and read the land acknowledgement.
- 2. Call to Order (Zahida Hirani-Saran, Board Chair)**
 - a. Approval of the Agenda for the January 20, 2025 Meeting of the Board of Directors**

The motion to accept the January 20, 2025 meeting of the Board of Directors Agenda as presented was moved by Adedayo Ojeleye and seconded by Fauziat Raji. The Board Chair released to the floor a request for review of the document for corrections or additional items to be added to the agenda. There were no changes required to the document. The Board vote passed unanimously to the January 20, 2025 Meeting of the Board of Directors Agenda.

Vote Decision: Board passed the vote unanimously.

- b. Approval of the December 16, 2025 Meeting of the Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Jennifer Singh motioned to accept the Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting to December 16, 2024 as presented. The motion was seconded by Adedayo Ojeleye. The Board Chair called to the members to review the Meeting Minutes for changes, one change was required regarding a correction on the Finance Chair is Constance Amenaghawon and not Kerry-Ann Sitcheron. The change was made and the board voted 5 in favor and 1 abstaining. The Meeting Minutes passed.

Vote Decision: The board passed the vote 5 in favor and 1 abstaining.

- ### 3. Director of Finance Update (Constance Amenaghawon, Finance Chair)

The financial results were presented by the Superintendent Ian Gray as Constance Amenaghawon was unable to attend the meeting.

- a. **December Financials**
- i. **Revenue**

A summary of the financial report was presented, including a discussion on the rent subsidy for the Skyrattler and Alberta Avenue locations. The school received generous donations amounting to \$1,000 from Hillary Chan and \$10,000 from Peaks Innovation. Fundraising efforts from Aurora Fundraising resulted in \$12,000 raised through a primary school family engagement special event (Dance). Questions were raised regarding the rental facilities, specifically why the utilization rate is only 50%. It was noted that the Chinese school will make the next rental deposit in February.

- ## ii. Expenses

An additional bus was introduced in December. Clarification was requested regarding the timeline of this addition.

- ### iii. Expenses by Object

Further details were requested regarding the recent hire and whether it was solely funded through board resources.

7:00PM

7:08PM

Confirmation was sought regarding the rent subsidy and whether it pertains exclusively to Skyrattler. It was confirmed that the subsidy covers Parkwest. Additional expenses were noted for classroom setup due to increased enrollment. Specifics were requested regarding the grades affected and the reasons behind the increase. It was clarified that two additional classes were introduced for Grade 1, and one each for Grades 4, 8, 10, and 12. The associated setup costs occurred at the beginning of the school year, primarily covering classroom furniture, technology equipment, student Chromebooks, and teacher resources. The current budget percentage is temporarily higher at the start of the school year, with wording adjustments made in the notes for better clarity.

b. School Fees

The 2025-2026 Aurora Academic Charter School School Fees for grades kindergarten to grade 12 were presented to the board for review.

Motion: To accept the 2025-2026 Aurora Academic Charter School School Fees

Motioned: Fauziat Raji made a motion to accept the fees as presented

Seconded: Ajoke Oimage

Vote Decision: The board passed the vote unanimously.

4. Superintendent's Report Presented by Ian Gray(Superintendent)

7:24PM

a. Media and Public Relations

i. Website

The Superintendent expressed the possibility of rewriting the Aurora Academic Charter School Website. Exploring updates to the Aurora Charter Schools website with a primary focus on enhancing the experience for parents. In addition to improving the website, we are considering utilizing social media platforms to strengthen our connection with parents, providing them with timely updates, important announcements, and opportunities for engagement.

ii. Marketing

The Board discussed ongoing marketing efforts, which include digital and street billboards, with a focus on Skyrattler, as well as advertisements in newspapers, on buses, and park benches. The possibility of leveraging social media was also considered, given its relevance in today's digital landscape. It was noted that the school's social media presence has not been updated since 2022, raising the question of whether staff within the organization could take on its management. While social media targets a different audience—primarily students—it could be an effective tool to generate interest and attract them to Aurora Charter Schools.

iii. PowerSchool Cybersecurity Event

A recent cybersecurity breach involving PowerSchool was discussed, with assurance that the breach did not impact Aurora Charter Schools. The Superintendent took proactive measures by consulting with the IT department to confirm that all previously implemented security measures remain effective and intact to protect against potential cyber threats.

b. Research and Grants

i. Research and Grant Report

Aurora Charter Schools will host the Flourishing Forever Mental Health and Wellness Pilot Project Seminar on January 16, 2025, at 7:00 PM. The event will feature registered psychologist Aaron Block and co-host Dr. Paul Wozny, focusing on effective communication to promote relationship building.

ii. Research Partnership Program Application

The Alberta Education Request for Research Partnerships (RPP) 2025 grant application has been submitted in collaboration with Dr. Dennis Sumara and Dr. Sharon Friesen from the University of Calgary's Werklund School of Education. The application, submitted on January 9, 2025, aims to secure up to \$80,000 in funding to support a 33-month research project on enhancing student resilience, agency, and adaptability. The grant recipients will be announced by the end of March 2025.

c. Leading Learning

i. Principals Report

The January 2025 report highlighted key updates and achievements across the school. The Christmas family dance was a great success, with new guidelines implemented after a fog machine triggered smoke detectors. New furnace installations in elementary classrooms are nearly complete, and Kindergarten Information Night was successfully held on January 14. The junior basketball teams have begun their season, with the girls' team winning gold and the boys placing fourth. An awards ceremony is set for February 7, where the first Aurora Ambassador Award will be presented. Literacy and numeracy assessments for K-3 students have started, and the school is now a registered writing center for diploma exams. Responding to feedback, new fine arts programs such as music, drama, and film studies have been introduced, making them

popular additions. Grade 12 students are volunteering as teaching assistants, gaining leadership credits and valuable experience. Parent Information Nights have seen increased interest, and a cybersafety seminar is planned for February 7. The school also celebrated a student success story, with tailored support leading to a post-secondary acceptance.

ii. SLS Report

The SLS January report outlined efforts to ensure student safety through the implementation of individualized safety plans for at-risk students. These plans are designed to provide appropriate support and interventions to protect student well-being. The SLS team is actively working to maintain a safe school environment by collaborating with staff, parents, and external support services. Regular follow-ups and risk assessments are conducted to ensure the effectiveness of these safety measures.

d. School Operations

i. School Calendar 2025-2026 (Motion)

A review of the 2025-2026 school calendar options was conducted, with discussions focusing on the differences between the two proposed options. Option 1 includes a three-week winter break and a designated T.A.R.D. professional development day, while Option 2 offers a 2.5-week winter break with T.A.R.D. designated as a board holiday. Discussions centered on the impact of the winter break duration on childcare needs and the importance of T.A.R.D. depending on engagement in related events. Additionally, there was a review of high absence dates to assess if adjustments to the calendar could better accommodate attendance patterns. Concerns were raised regarding the challenges faced by parents of young children during a three-week winter break, particularly in terms of arranging childcare. Comparisons were made between Aurora's calendar and the public school schedule, addressing the reasoning behind starting school earlier in August and balancing the longer winter break with a two-week spring break.

Motion: School Calendar 2025-2026

Fauziat moved to accept the proposed school calendar Option 2 as presented, with Kerry-Ann seconding the motion.

Vote Outcome:

The vote resulted in a tie, with three members in favor and three opposed. As a result, the motion was defeated.

The Board has agreed to conduct the vote online, in accordance with the Articles of Association, due to the split vote, to ensure that all Board members have the opportunity to participate in the vote on the calendar.

ii. Transportation

1. Student Bussing

The student bussing system is now back on budget following significant adjustments due to families relocating and the addition of new buses. Efforts have been made to optimize transit routes, resulting in reduced travel times and a more cohesive and efficient transportation system. Looking ahead, challenges are anticipated with the Skyrattler expansion, which may require additional buses to accommodate increased demand. The Board expressed sincere gratitude to Lisa for her hard work, dedication, and unwavering focus on ensuring the transportation needs of all students and families are met effectively.

iii. Facilities

1. Capital Plan Proposal

A detailed explanation of the capital plan proposal was presented, outlining the specific items requested for funding. The proposal was developed through a collaborative effort with each school to address renovation needs and improvements, including the addition of a fourth location to accommodate the growing student population. The proposal focuses on addressing critical facility modernizations, enhancing student well-being, and improving accessibility across Aurora Academic Charter Schools.

Motion: Capital Plan Proposal Approval

Ajoke moved to accept the Aurora Academic Charter School capital plan proposal as presented, with Fauziat seconding the motion.

Vote Outcome:

The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Sherbrook Campus

Details were discussed in the Principals Report.

3. Alberta Avenue Campus

Details were discussed in the Principals Report.

4. Skyrattler Campus

a. Human Resources

Principal applications closed this morning and interviews are to start in the next few weeks.

iv. Enrollment

A review of the current enrollment numbers and the history to show the growth over the past few years.

Break 10 Min

8:27PM

5. Policy Committee (Kerry-Ann Sitcheron Policy Committee Chair)

The Policy Committee report and readings were presented by the Policy Committee Chair Kerry-Ann Sitcheron.

a. 2075 BP: Organizational Assessment(2nd reading and 3rd reading)

The second reading of BP 2075 was reviewed by the policy chair, with no questions raised. The policy was further discussed during the third reading, where clarifications were provided regarding the "TBD" sections, explaining that they are placeholders in this newly developed policy.

Motion and Vote second reading:

Kerry-Ann motioned for the second reading, seconded by Adedayo. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Motion and Vote third reading:

Kerry-Ann motioned for the third reading, seconded by Ajoke. The vote was unanimous to accept the policy.

b. 2062 BP: Administrative Staffing (2nd Reading)

The policy was reviewed in its second reading, with an overview provided to clarify that the Skyrattler staffing allocation had been increased from 1.0 to 1.5 FTE. Additional context was given on the formula used to determine staffing levels based on student numbers. Amendments to the policy included the removal of the treasurer designation and adjustments to the FTE decision-making process, shifting responsibility from central office to a shared responsibility between the Board and Superintendent. Further clarifications were made by changing the term "Superintendent" to "Superintendent or designate" to provide greater flexibility.

Motion and Vote:

Kerry-Ann motioned for the second reading, seconded by Ajoke. The vote was unanimous in favor of the policy.

c. 5052 BP: Employee Benefits - Non Teaching Staff (2nd Reading)

A brief description of the policy was presented, emphasizing its value to non-teaching staff. No questions or concerns were raised during the discussion.

Motion and Vote:

Kerry-Ann motioned for the second reading, seconded by Ajoke. The vote was unanimous in favor.

d. 6055 BP: Study Period

The policy discussion focused on defining the study period, ensuring that it does not interfere with teachers' instructional time and does not require direct teacher supervision. Various options for study period locations, such as the gym or with a tutor, were discussed. It was emphasized that the policy aims to support students in completing their education rather than serving as a childcare solution. The primary point of contention was the duration of the study period.

Motion and Vote:

Kerry-Ann motioned for the third and final reading, seconded by Ajoke. The vote concluded with five in favor and one abstention.

e. 6180 BP: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

This policy is tabled until further relevant government legislation is presented.

6. Board of Directors

9:19 PM

a. The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools(TAAPCS)

The Board discussed updates regarding TAAPCS activities. It was noted that the TAAPCS conference originally scheduled for October 24 has been postponed until next year. Further details and a revised schedule will be provided once confirmed.

7. Next Meeting

The next scheduled Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on February 20, 2025 at Aurora Academic Charter School Secondary (Alberta Avenue).

8. Adjournment

9:23PM

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23PM by Fauziat Raji.

