



**The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools  
October 28, 2017  
Chateau Nova Yellowhead  
Edmonton, AB**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES:** Garret Doll (AE); Glenn McClure (ALCA), Dale Bischoff, Paul Wozny, Paola Mayo, Arlene Huhn (Aurora); Dale Erickson, Paul Knapp, Cole Jordan (Calgary Arts Academy); Dianne McBeth, Geordie MacPherson, Natalya Nicholson, Gary Care, Christine Jackson, Margo Purcell (Calgary Girls' School); Teresa DiNinno, Janine Bide (CAPE); Susan Chomistek, Denise Kitagawa, Ron Koper (Connect); Kurtis Leinweber, Andrew Chu, Wayne Weinheimer, Meredith Poole (FFCA); Ed Wittchen (MECCS); Dan Coles, Don Falk, (New Horizons); Lynne Paradis, Boris Vidal, Jason Gariepy, Jen Garrison, Rene deMeulles, Treena Gish, Frank Doruiter, Heather Christison (Suzuki); Kath Rhyason (TAAPCS); John Picard, Nancy Westad, Steve Mumert, Cindy Mumert (Valhalla); John Liu, Tun Myo (Westmount)

**1. DIRECTORS' MEETING – CALL TO ORDER 8:35 a.m.**

1. Public Charter School Status Updates: Aurora is actively campaigning for permission to expand its program to include high school. New Horizons has had some preliminary discussions in this regard as well. Suzuki has had a somewhat tepid response from their MLA to their inquiries about adding middle school grades. Calgary Arts has been given the go-ahead to expand to Grade 10 next year.

a. Expiry of Charter Schools Regulation – Given the August 31, 2018 expiry of the Charter Schools Regulation, superintendents will formulate a list of suggested changes; the Deputy Minister will be asked for guidance on how best to proceed at a pre-Christmas meeting.

b. School Act Revisions - Will hopefully be considered in the upcoming sitting of the legislature (beginning Oct. 30).

c. Status of Valhalla Renewal – Documentation is close to completion for their 5-year renewal submission due Dec. 1; things are looking positive.

d. Asks for Minister of Education – Note that politicians will be entering “campaign mode”.

2. Directors' Committee - Boris and Paul presented a draft of this committee description, the purpose of which seemed to be a source of confusion. Whereas the original intent was to legitimize/formalize the Directors' Meeting as part of the General Meeting agendas, it was interpreted as the means to create a separate Directors' group that would come together regularly to discuss common issues related to governance and government relations, board development, etc. This was the direction that seemed to be supported by the majority of Directors. The revised draft will go to the EAC meeting in January for further clarification/refinement.

3. Charter Schools 101 Video – Ron Koper distributed an outline of the script and presented an example of the intended style. Scott Rankin is continuing to assist even though he has moved to B.C. The project is on track and on budget.

4. Next Meeting – Please forward suggestions for agenda items to Boris and/or Paul.

**ADJOURNMENT** – 9:25 a.m.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - CALL TO ORDER** 9:43 a.m.

1. Introductions – President McBeth greeted the special guests present, including Garret Doll from Alberta Education and several newcomers from our member schools. Comments were offered regarding the Minister’s positive message to charter schools at the preceding day’s conference (“unqualified support”).

2. Consideration of Agenda

**#17/28/10-01**

*Tun Myo*

*Andrew Chu*

M/C to add item 2.9 Financial Report to the agenda.  
meeting as presented.

**#17/28/10-02**

*Boris Vidal*

*Geordie MacPherson*

M/C to adopt the agenda as amended.

3. Approval of Minutes

**#17/28/10-03**

*Paul Knapp*

*Paola Mayo*

M/C to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2017 minutes  
as amended.

4. School Spotlight/Research Report – Teresa DiNinno provided an introduction to CAPE School, which offers personalized programming and an integrated approach to a very diverse student body. She then presented an overview of the research being done by Principal Jeney Gordon on Effective Mentorship Strategies. This research project used anecdotal data to measure which of 4 mentorship strategies was most effective in impacting teacher efficacy in providing integrated learning experiences. After three years of implementation, surveys were conducted to get numerical data. The result of the study showed that counselling strategies were most effective in increasing teacher efficacy.

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***Elections: First call for Nominations***

Chair of the Board of Governors – Ron Koper (nominated by Dave Robinson)

Geordie MacPherson (nominated by Andrew Chu)

Volunteers for Officer Positions – President(s) – Joe Frank & Susan Chomistek

Vice-President – Ed Wittchen

Secretary -

Treasurer – Myra Penberthy

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**2. REPORTS**

2.1 Charter Board Directors’ Report

**#17/28/10-04**

*Paola Mayo*

*Andrew Chu*

M/C to create an *ad hoc* committee of Directors to create Directors’  
Committee Terms of Reference for presentation at the Spring General Meeting  
in May 2018.

**#17/28/10-05**

*Paola Mayo*

*Andrew Chu*

M/C that the *ad hoc* Directors’ committee collect input and prepare a summary  
of ideas on proposed changes to the Charter Schools Regulation, to be  
presented to the January 12, 2018 EAC meeting.

2.2 Officers' Report – President Dianne McBeth thanked her fellow officers and our Executive Director for their support in all the work that was accomplished over the past year, including a major revision of the TAAPCS bylaws. Dianne elaborated on the theme of our annual report, “Change in Action”, by highlighting progress in the areas of the three strategic goals identified the previous year: Strengthening Governance (bylaws, policy handbook, membership fees, the Executive Director role, professional learning), Improving Communication (communications consultant & committee, organizational chart, external awards, biennial conference, advocacy), and Defining the Research Expectations and Opportunities (innovation and choice, funding, Alberta Research Network).

2.3 EAC Report – There were 3 official meetings over the past year, as well as constant email and telephone communication. Co-Vice-President Lynne Paradis commented that the past year's EAC was a collegial and responsive group that came up with creative ways to address issues and solid recommendations for the Board of Directors.

2.4 Correspondence – One item: Letter of Intent for work with Lucid Light Studios (video production).

2.5 School Leadership Learning Initiative – Grant funding was discontinued and grants had to be paid back; there are no immediate plans for more sessions.

2.6 *Ad hoc* Communications Committee Report – See Directors' Meeting, Item 3. Ron Koper reported that his committee is still seeking quotes from parents to include in the video. Since we are using our own art work and music, no special licensing will be required. There will be two versions – one with sound and one with written text, and there will be links to Facebook, You Tube, Instagram, etc. The video will be finished and ready for release by the end of November. Ron credited the valuable input of former Westmount director Scott Rankin, who is still helping with the project even though he has moved to B.C.

2.7 TAAPCS Conference Report – On behalf of his Board, administration and staff, Dale Bischoff expressed his thanks for the support shown for the conference, and was pleased to report that there were approximately 400 attendees taking advantage of 40 PD opportunities. Dale was in turn thanked for the great work done by Aurora Academic Charter School in facilitating the event. The address by Minister Eggen was recorded.

2.8 Alberta Education Field Services – Garret Doll relayed messages regarding 1. his thanks for the successful conference and for the opportunity for the Minister to connect with charter schools, 2. the commitment of the Deputy Minister to meet with charter school representatives on a regular basis, 3. the proposed revisions to the School Act, including age of access, education service agreements (First Nations, transportation), etc. which should all come up for discussion in the legislature, along with the Professional Practice Standards and the Inclusive Education Framework (sitting begins Oct. 30), 4. new tools for FNMI perspectives, 5. recent OECD Report (if you have not received it, please let Garret know), 6. clarification of rules around GSA's and 7. changes to the School Act related to Bill 202 (Non-consensual Distribution of Intimate Images without Consent); Garret will send a summary.

2.9 Financial Report

**#17/28/10-06**

Dan Coles

Paul Knapp

M/C to accept the 2016/17 TAAPCS Financial Report as presented.

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**Elections: *Second call for Nominations***

Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors – Ron Koper (nominated by Denise Kitagawa)  
Geordie MacPherson (nominated by Paola Mayo)  
Officer Positions, Secretary – Don Falk (nominated by Dan Coles)

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**3. BUSINESS ARISING**

3.1 Approval of Committees/Policies

3.1.1 Policies – Elections, Membership Fees, Policy Development & Review, TAAPCS Budget Development, Waiver of Membership Fees.

These policies were approved in principle at the Spring General Meeting and feedback requested. Minor edits were incorporated and they were then presented to the EAC.

**#17/28/10-07** M/C to accept the Elections, Membership Fees, Policy Development & Review, TAAPCS Budget Development, and Waiver of Membership Fees policies as presented.  
Paul Knapp  
Ron Koper

(Minor edits may be forwarded to the Executive Director prior to incorporation into the Policy Handbook.)

3.1.2 Committees – Awards & Recognition, Communications, Conference, EAC, Board Professional Learning, Policy Advisory, Research Support & Promotion, School Leadership Learning. These committee descriptions were approved in principle at the Spring General Meeting and feedback requested. Minor edits were incorporated and they were then presented to the EAC.

**#17/28/10-08** M/C to accept the Awards & Recognition, Communications, Conference, EAC, Board Professional Learning, Policy Advisory, Research Support & Promotion, School Leadership Learning committee descriptions as presented.  
Paul Knapp  
Ron Koper

(Minor edits may be forwarded to the Executive Director prior to incorporation into the Policy Handbook.)

3.2 Membership Fees Proposals – Budget principles underlying the proposal: equitable, affordable, reasonable, and sufficient to allow the association to continue. For consideration is a base fee of \$1500.00 for each school with an additional levy of \$5.00/FTE student calculated on the FTE students from the previous year. Waivers applications will still be accepted, but approved schools are expected to contribute a “good faith” amount in lieu (unspecified). With 21 days advance notice, a Special Meeting of Governors will be held by conference call on Dec. 7, at which time any proposed amendments will be considered. The continued existence of TAAPCS was deemed to be not only valuable, but essential.

3.3 Halvar Jonson Award – The responsibility for this award will be assumed by the Awards & Recognition Committee, with the final decisions being made by the Board of Governors. Ed Wittchen offered the name of a potential candidate; this will be forwarded to the committee.

**4. NEW BUSINESS (& discussion)**

4.1 Strategic Planning – A follow-up strategic planning session will be held at the Spring General Meeting; this may result in re-affirmation of the previous directions, but may elicit some different ideas as well.

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**Elections: Third call for Nominations** – No further nominations/volunteers.

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4.2 A secret ballot election was held resulting in Ron Koper being elected to the position of Chair, and Geordie MacPherson assuming the position of Vice-Chair.

4.3 Speech from Elected Chair – Ron Koper thanked the delegates and added that it is an honour to be able to serve the association in this position.

4.4 EAC Officers: Co-Presidents – Joe Frank & Susan Chomistek; Vice-President – Ed Wittchen; Secretary – Don Falk; Treasurer – Myra Penberthy.

**#17/28/10-09** M/C to accept the results of the elections as presented.  
Boris Vidal  
Denise Kitagawa

**5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – Calgary Girls' School: Dianne was very grateful for the assistance of our Crisis Intervention Response Team when their music/choral teacher suddenly passed away; the support for staff was timely and selfless, being on Thanksgiving Monday, and very much appreciated. Denise Kitagawa expressed appreciation to the previous officers who were not returning. Andrew Chu congratulated Westmount Charter School on being the top public high school in Calgary in the recent Fraser Reports. In turn, FFCA was congratulated on holding the number 2 spot in that category.

**6. ADJOURNMENT** – 1:07 p.m.

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***Notice of Important Dates***

- TAAPCS EAC Meetings: Jan. 12, 2018; Apr. 13, 2018; June 15, 2018
  - TAAPCS Spring Meeting: May 4/5, 2018
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