



**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**January 14, 2011**  
**Capri Hotel & Conference Centre**  
**3310 – 50 Ave.**  
**Red Deer, AB**

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29	Melanie Guglielmin	Westmount	Vice-Chair		

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Jay Pritchard called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**1.1 CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA** – No changes.

**1.2 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**#11/01/14-01** M/C to adopt the minutes of the Oct. 22, 2010 regular meeting as presented.  
*Megan O’Hara*  
*Bill McGregor*

**1.3 ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL REPORT**

**#11/01/14-02** M/C to adopt the financial report as presented.  
*Bill McGregor*  
*Joe Frank*

**1.4 INTRODUCTIONS:** Attendees introduced themselves with their position and organizational affiliation.

**1.5 SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT:** The spotlight was on Suzuki Charter School – its roots in the work of Dr. Sinichi Suzuki (who believed that if children can learn a complex language at a young age, then they can also develop musical skills and appreciation if they are exposed to music making and music listening at a young age), the way the Suzuki program runs at this charter school, and their new facilities that make it much easier to deliver their program to students.

**2. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**2.1 ESL:** See report distributed by Keith Jones: Report to Charter Schools on the Work of English as a Second Language (K-12) Advisory Committee. The next meeting will be by video-conference in February.

**2.2 ADMINISTRATORS’ GROUP:** The last meeting was held on Nov. 3 at Almadina Language Charter School with 16 people representing 9 charter schools. After a tour of the school, the main topic of discussion was Conference 2011 and its central theme, Innovation. At the next meeting (Feb. 2 at Suzuki), attendees will be discussing the mandate of the Administrators’ Group, professional development, and TAAPCS business.

**2.3 CHARTER BOARD CHAIRS (CBC):** The committee met on Jan. 13 with most charters represented. The three main topics of discussion were 1. response to the AE Transformation Guide for Charter Schools, 2. FFCA’s meeting with the Minister earlier in the week (productive meeting at which the concept of choice as a key element of charter schools was emphasized), and 3. terms of reference for the CBC committee, including director education and government relations. (The next GR workshop will be held at the Capri Hotel on Jan. 15.)

**2.4 WORKFORCE PLANNING** (see full report from Garry McKinnon on last October’s meeting appended to these minutes.) The meeting originally scheduled for Jan. 14 has been postponed, however Randy Clarke will attend the February EAC meeting to discuss Workforce Planning.

**2.5 DEPUTY MINISTER’S MEETING, Oct. 28 & 29, 2010:** (see full report from Garry McKinnon appended to these minutes.) This was one of two such meetings per year held by the Deputy Minister and involving ASBA, CASS, ATA, and college and university Deans. The next meeting will be held in May, 2011.

**2.6 SCHOOL LEADERSHIP FRAMEWORK (SLF):** FFCA Northwest Elementary Campus principal Denise Budgen reported on her participation via telephone conference in the November meeting of the SLF committee. Frank discussions of the School Leaders Competences document, one of two currently being drafted in consultation with the committee, led to a commitment from the Professional Standards Branch to more clearly connect the most recent iteration with the last version the committee worked on, and then to meet again to finalize the documents. In addition, the formation of 3 sub-committees was proposed to further develop various aspects of the framework. Denise asked for volunteers for two of them: School Leader Preparation and School Leader Induction. Karen Spencer from Suzuki School volunteered to serve on the first of these.

A small research project has been undertaken by government to gather e-data on school leadership in Alberta, and a committee was struck to inform that process as well. The SLF Committee meets again on Jan. 18. The work of the sub-committees is expected to be completed by May 15 of this year, and September 2012 is proposed as the goal for full implementation.

### **3. ALBERTA EDUCATION REPORTS**

**3.1 INSPIRING ACTION UPDATE:** AE is moving toward implementation of their new vision, including future curricula, learning and teaching resources, inclusive education, legislative framework and regulations, FNMI education, mandate for early learning, governance, funding, accountability, workforce planning, relationships with other ministries, and what kind of research should be done. The new accountability model will be “less paternalistic, more of an assurance model”. David said that this is the time for creativity and innovation, and that “leadership at all levels” will be required to manage the transformation.

**3.2 UPDATE ON EDUCATION ACT AND REGULATIONS:** The intent is still to table the new *School Act* in the spring of 2011; it will be more enabling, and provide for increased flexibility.

**3.3 LEASING FRAMEWORK:** A report has been completed and forwarded to the Minister.

**3.4 BUDGET:** The budget will be tabled in early March.

**3.5 QUESTIONS/ANSWERS - where available:**

- i) What is the status of the Urban Transportation Report? *Still in very preliminary form. No more money for at least another year.* (With regard to transportation funding, Richard Arnold requested information on ride times and asked the schools to ensure that their transportation contracts are in place.)
- ii) What is the formula being used to determine budget increases?
- iii) Are we trying to do too much, too quickly?
- iv) There is a very short time frame for responding to the “Action on Research and Innovation Survey”. *This may be extended.*
- v) Is it possible that charter school enrollment caps may be removed? *Perhaps.*

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**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**  
**“SETTING THE DIRECTION: WRAPAROUND SERVICES”**  
Marilyn Steier, Education Manager, Action on Inclusion  
Mary Michailides, Education Manager, Cross Ministry Services Branch

Marilyn spoke about “Action on Inclusion”, which is part of the inclusive process of “Setting the Direction” (see handouts: “Setting the Direction Framework”; “Setting the Direction Framework: Government of Alberta Response”; “Action on Inclusion” meeting agenda; “Setting the Direction” Education Update memo from Deputy Minister Henke.) “Inclusion” is defined as “...the opportunity to be fully and meaningfully integrated into a typical learning environment”; it is a “...value-based approach to accepting responsibility for all students”, whereby “...all students will have equitable opportunity to be included in the typical learning environment or program of choice.”

Mary spoke of the principles (what we believe, what we value, and what we are committed to) underlying the “wraparound” approach to the provision of services: collaboration, shared leadership, team-based, school-community linked, persistent, family voice and choice, culturally responsive, natural supports, individualized, strength-based, data informed. (See handout: “Alberta’s Approach to Collaborative Practices....based on wraparound principles”; this is meant, with the accompanying video, to provide a starting point for conversations related to local collaborative practices.)

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**4. EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

**4.1 TRANSPORTATION:** A request has gone out to all charters for updated transportation information. This will be looked at in February at the next EAC meeting.

**4.2 TAAPCS BYLAWS:** The changes suggested by Corporate Registry have been incorporated.  
**#11/01/14-03** M/C to rescind and replace the bylaws as recommended, and resubmit  
*Constantine Pefanis* to Corporate Registry.  
*Ches Cowley*

**4.3 CHARTER SCHOOL CONFERENCE OCT. 20/21, 2011:** The theme of the conference will be “Innovation”. Location is the Coast Plaza Hotel in NE Calgary. The keynote speaker has been confirmed (Roger Garriock from Destination Imagination) and the possibility of pre-conference sessions for administrators is being investigated.

**4.4 NEWSLETTERS:** Westmount, Calgary Science School and Calgary Girls’ School have agreed to provide content for the June issue. Submissions should be no more than 1.5 pages, plus photos, and are due by May 15.

**4.5 CASS PRESENTATION:** As part of our initiative to enhance educational partnerships, Garry and Jay made a joint presentation to the November symposium; topics included our reaction to the Charter School Concept Paper, and how charter schools fit into the provincial scene. CASS has requested our input on how they might respond to the Transformation Guide for charter schools. Charter school superintendents will be invited to future meetings.

**4.6 DIRECTOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Thirteen directors attended the November 13 session held in Calgary on the topic of Change and Leadership. The next

Government Relations workshop will be led by Bill McGregor and will be held tomorrow, Jan. 15, here at the Capri Hotel. Garry Andrews is available to do workshops for individual charter schools and will be doing one at CAPE in April or May of this year.

**4.7 STRATEGIC PLAN:** Garry Andrews redistributed his draft of the Strategic Plan with discussion questions. He has asked Superintendents to take this document to their respective Boards for discussion and feedback. Garry will make himself available to video-conference or meet with individual Boards if requested.

**4.8 PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR TEACHERS:** The government is in the process of developing a policy regarding teacher PD in collaboration with ATA, CASS, etc.; there is an online questionnaire dealing with that and we are encouraged to respond.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

**5.1 CHARTER SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS:** Ed Wittchen has recently been in Dubai and spoke about possibilities for charter school staff to be placed in an international school there for a term of two years. Contact Ed if you are interested in exploring this opportunity.

**5.2 BREAKOUT SESSION ON INNOVATION:** Postponed to next meeting.

**5.3 TRANSFORMATION GUIDE FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS:** See handout - Garry Andrews has drafted a response to the "Action on Research and Innovation" survey, urging schools to use it as a guide to develop something similar of their own. Garry will revise the association response based on feedback received, and it will be sent to AE by the middle of next week.

### **5.4 FUTURE MEETING DATES:**

- **May 5/6, 2011** in Edmonton  
Entertainment – Suzuki; Hospitality - FFCA; Door Prizes – BSEC; School Spotlight – Aurora
- **October 19/20, 2011**, Coast Plaza Hotel, Calgary
- **October 21, 2011**, Charter School Conference, Coast Plaza Hotel, Calgary

**ADJOURNMENT:** 1:45 p.m.