



Regular Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2011

Matrix Hotel

10640 – 100 Ave.

Edmonton, AB

	Name	School	Position	Phone	E-mail
1	Randy Clarke	AB ED	Zone 5 Director	(780) 415-9312	randy.clarke@gov.ab.ca
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5	Steve Simmons	Aurora	Superintendent	(780) 454-1855	ssimmons@auroraschool.com
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7	John Brosseau	BSEC	Superintendent	(780) 466-5946	jbrosseau@telus.net
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15	Geordie MacPherson	CGS	Director	(403) 589-4175	gpmacpherson@gmail.com
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25	Hanna Sieben	New Hor	Board Chair	(780) 922-6457	hsieben@mcsnet.ca
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30	Lee Lucente	Suzuki	Superintendent	(780) 468-2598	lucentel@suzukischool.ca
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33	Garry Andrews	TAAPCS	Executive Director	(403) 328-7350	andrews.garry@gmail.com
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41	Marie Keenan	Westmount	Director	(403) 251-2954	mariekeenan@shaw.ca

1. CALL TO ORDER: Jay Pritchard called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Appreciation was expressed to Suzuki for the previous night's entertainment, to BSEC for the door prizes, and to FFCA for sponsoring the hospitality.

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

1.2 CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA – Add “Bylaws” under EAC Reports.

1.3 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

#11/05/06-01 M/C to adopt the minutes of the January 14, 2011 regular meeting as presented.
Heather Christison
Lee Lucente

1.4 ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL REPORT

#11/05/06-02 M/C to adopt the financial report as presented.
Joe Frank
Garry McKinnon

1.5 SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT: Principal Ian Gray showed an interesting 6 ½ minute video depicting Aurora Charter School and its philosophy of Traditional Education. Aurora's mission is “to provide an orderly and structured environment, with properly sequenced teacher-directed instruction and strong home-school partnerships, where average children can excel in an academically oriented program.”

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

2.1 ESL: Handout - Keith Jones distributed an excerpt from the huge ESL benchmarks document created in Sept. 2010 showing strategic decoding levels for Grades 1-3. Almadina will be presenting a session on ESL benchmarks at our October meeting.

2.2 ADMINISTRATORS' GROUP: Handout - “Integrating Critical Thinking and Direct Instruction” (article written by FFCA South Middle School principal John Picard). This appeared in the most recent CASS Connection. CSS Vice-Principal Shelley Robinson has also had an article in the same issue: “Finding the Experience in Learning: Creating Space for the Ebb and Flow of Student Engagement”. Charter school administrators are demonstrating outstanding leadership, including the planning for our TAAPCS conference scheduled for October 2011. It is suggested that the format for Administrators' meetings be standardized with certain agenda items at each meeting (i.e. professional development, association business, topics of interest.) The next

meeting is May 11 at the FFCA North Middle School; facilitator Garry Andrews will incorporate some PD time in relation to the Principal Practice Competencies document just released by AE.

2.3 CHARTER BOARD CHAIRS (CBC): The committee met on May 5 with 15 Superintendents and Directors present. The three main topics of discussion were 1. Superintendent evaluation processes, 2. Board evaluation and self-evaluation, and 3. Director professional development. A future topic of discussion will be the potential standardization of election dates among charter schools, such that timely professional development might be offered.

2.4 WORKFORCE PLANNING: Handout – “AE Workforce Planning External Advisory Committee Meeting – March 3, 2011”. Garry McKinnon distributed his report which outlines 13 action items, and credited Randy Clarke with outstanding leadership of this committee. The next meeting is on May 17; Garry will also be attending the Deputy Minister’s meeting (May 18 & 19) on behalf of TAAPCS and will report on both at our October meeting; topics at the latter will include *Action on Inclusion* and a dialogue on teaching practice (i.e. requirements for the next 10-15 years).

2.5 SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PREPARATION PERSPECTIVES: Committee member and Suzuki Vice-Principal Karen Spencer reported on this work which is taking place under the guidance of Bob Garneau, and benefits as well from the contributions of FFCA Northwest Elementary Principal Denise Budgen. The committee is trying to come up with as succinct a document as possible to address such issues as mentorship and coaching, flexibility, practicums, required programs (e.g. CASS), funding for initiatives, and research.

2.6 TQS UPDATE: Karen also reported on the work being done on the “Professional Practice Competencies for Teachers” document, a draft of which is now available. Among other things, these incorporate a focus on five professional competencies and indicators (instead of KSA’s), and the implementation of three levels of certification and an optional Master Teacher endorsement.

3. ALBERTA EDUCATION REPORTS

3.1 ACTION ON RESEARCH AND INNOVATION UPDATE: Marlene Lambe reported on the response to the survey which requested broad feedback on the Charter School Concept Paper released in 2009. Approximately 2700 on-line and hard-copy responses were received, as well as about 500 letters; 83% of the responses were from Calgary. As well, there were hundreds of written responses to individual survey questions. It is hoped that the report will be forthcoming within the month.

3.2 UPDATE ON EDUCATION ACT AND REGULATIONS: Randy Clarke distributed three handouts: Alberta’s Education Act: A 21st Century Transformation, an excerpt from the Act that deals with charter schools, and Frequently Asked Questions pertaining to charter schools. The Act has received first and second reading; it affirms government support for charter schools and can be found at <http://education.alberta.ca/departement/policy/education-act.aspx>.

3.3 LEASING FRAMEWORK: Avi Habinski was present to speak to the elements of the new framework (replacement of lease funding with IMR funding) and the challenges associated with its implementation over the next five years (school ownership issues, inherent leasing disincentives). Charter schools are encouraged to continue to incorporate their facility requirements into their Capital Plans.

3.4 BUDGET: Richard Arnold spoke about the recent budget announcement which began in November 2010 with targets issued by the Treasury Board. The total operating support for Alberta Education is up by \$258 million (to \$6.4 billion), which includes the 4.54% salary increase required by the current ATA agreement, as well as the elimination or reduction of several other grants (e.g. enhanced ESL, enrolment growth and decline, small class size initiative, AISI, relative cost of purchasing, stabilization.)

3.5 ACTION ON INCLUSION: Handout: “Approach to implementation of an inclusive education system in Alberta”. Anne Davidson talked about the vision and interconnectedness of the five key areas of *Action on Inclusion*, as well as the work of three committees (one external provincial advisory, plus two internal implementation) that are leading the initiative. Much work is still to be done in facilitating collaboration and building capacity. An Inclusive Education Planning Tool has recently been developed that will be piloted in 3 K-9 schools per jurisdiction. More information on *Action on Inclusion* can be found at: <http://www.education.alberta.ca/departement/ipr/inclusion.aspx>

3.6 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE COMPETENCIES FOR SCHOOL LEADERS: Bob Garneau reported that this work, which began in response to one of the ACOL recommendations from 2003 and has involved representation from all over Alberta since 2006, extends the seven competencies identified in the Principal Quality Practice Guideline to all school leaders. The draft framework identifies five elements: competencies, leader preparation, induction, professional development, and stakeholder roles and responsibilities (including post-secondary). TAAPCS is represented on this committee by Karen Spencer (Suzuki) and Denise Budgen (FFCA).

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**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:
“ACTION RESEARCH”**

Dr. Jim Parsons and Dr. Kelly Harding, U. of A.

Drs. Parsons and Harding spoke about the concept of Action Research in relation to the following questions: What are we seeing? What does it mean? What do we do? Action research always involves “praxis” (informed, rational and intentional practices) and “integrates the development of practice with the construction of research knowledge in a cyclical process.” The presentation can be viewed at <https://prezi.com/secure/a67b3ae41b97c3e71ae9f55d07756dff31caea54/>.

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4. NEWS FROM THE DEPUTY - THE PLACE OF CHARTER SCHOOLS IN THE TRANSFORMATION OF EDUCATION: Deputy Minister Keray Henke spoke of the Transformation of Education initiative as stemming from the realization that our current successful education practices may not be sufficient to serve us well into the future: what are the critical skill sets that will be required (innovation? creativity?) and how do we model these in our pedagogy? How does this connect to research, and how does this research inform our practice? What are the opportunities and obligations of charter schools in relation to this? Charter schools may provide an opportunity to do applied research on a whole school basis, without being subject to the policy and regulation parameters of a large school board.

5. EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1 CHARTER SCHOOL PRE-CONFERENCE AND CONFERENCE (Garry Andrews):

The pre-conference will run on Thursday Oct. 20 and is limited to 50 attendees. Roger Garriock from Destination Imagination will lead the pre-conference as well as provide the keynote address on Thursday evening. The Friday format has been changed to two ½ day sessions to be held in charter school campuses, for which a shuttle service may be required. A call for presenters has gone out; the sessions will be determined based on interest expressed. (The regular TAAPCS meeting and a short Superintendents' meeting will take place on Oct. 19, with the banquet preceding that on Oct. 18.)

5.2 RISK MANAGEMENT: Garry was contacted by the Alberta School Boards' Insurance Exchange (ASBIE) regarding setting up a risk management program, and Garry has contacted the Lloyd Sadd Agency about it. This will be a topic at the next Calgary Network Meeting (Secretary Treasurers) and will also come to the EAC for discussion.

5.3 DIRECTOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Garry will be sending out a survey in the near future to determine interest.

5.4 MINISTER'S DIALOGUE ON CHARTER SCHOOLS: This will take place June 2 in Edmonton; representatives will be chosen from the list of volunteers. The meeting is intended to: clarify the role and purpose of charter schools, define the ways in which charter schools differ from other school systems in the province, and determine how charter schools can use research-informed practice to improve student learning.

5.5 BYLAWS: Handout. The bylaws have been approved and filed by Corporate Registry; attendees were provided with a copy.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 UPCOMING MEETING DATES

October 18/19, 2011, Regular TAAPCS Banquet and Meeting, Coast Plaza Hotel, Calgary
October 20/21, 2011, Charter School Conference, Coast Plaza Hotel, Calgary

6.2 PROPOSED DATES OF 2012 MEETINGS

Jan. 19/20; May 3/4; Oct. 18/19

6.3 VOLUNTEERS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Oct. 18/19 2011: Entertainment – CGS; Door prizes – CSS; Hospitality – Almadina;
School Spotlight – Almadina
Jan. 19/20 2012: Entertainment – CAA; Door prizes – New Horizons; Hospitality – Suzuki;
School Spotlight – CAA
May 3/4, 2012: Entertainment – New Horizons; Door prizes – CGS; Hospitality – Aurora;
School Spotlight - BSCE

6.4 VOLUNTEERS FOR NEWSLETTERS

Fall 2011 – CAPE, Almadina, CAA
Spring 2012 – New Horizons, Suzuki, Aurora

ADJOURNMENT: 2:05 p.m.