

News You Can Use from the TAAPCS Executive Director October 2024

I have been asked to restart my monthly notes to TAAPCS members and am pleased to do so. I know how crazy September has been for all of you and congratulate you on getting over 8200 students into TAAPCS member classrooms!

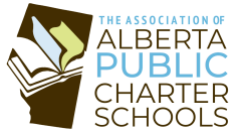
We have 4 new Charter Schools that opened their doors in September. Many of us have had interactions with Fusion and Gwynne Valley but we also have WISE Charter School and Footprints for Learning Charter School who have switched from Independent to Charter status and bring a new perspective for future Public Charters to consider. We welcome all of you and look forward to continuing to connect and grow together.

The big news for September is of course the incredible announcement made by Premier Smith on September 17th in her province-wide address. I know each of you and TAAPCS have been working on capital funding for years and this is a big leap forward. There are of course some details to work out and it doesn't solve all our problems, but it is a major and welcome initiative that will start in 2025.

As a next step we have asked the Minister to join us for a Zoom conference with charter school parents and officials soon. His office is working on a time for this, but we felt it would be a great way to better engage our parents as advocates for Public Charter Schools. The process will ask each school to take the lead on inviting their parents. As many of you know, Chairs have been meeting monthly and communications are a major focus of their discussions and strategies going forward.

Our AGM and first Board meeting under the new 2024 Bylaws is coming together nicely. The AGM will be held at 11:00 a.m. at the Calgary Charter Hub Building at 3636 Research Road N.W. in Calgary. Official notice will come shortly but we have arranged a small block of hotel rooms close by at ALOFT in Motel Village. We will have an informal dinner the evening of November 1st preceded by school tours of Calgary Charter Schools. On the 2nd, Chairs, Superintendents & Secretary-Treasurers will meet at the Hub at 9:00 a.m., a Hub Tour will be from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

I am attaching our 2024 Bylaws to this email for your information. As many of you know we changed our process for electing the Executive and the new Executive will be elected at our first Board meeting right after the AGM. If you are interested in running for any position, please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.



As many of you know I serve as the TAAPCS representative to the Calgary Charter Hub Society. This position was created at the request of the government when the society was created. It gives me a bit of an insight to share. The Hub now has 3 schools operating within its walls: STEM IA High School starts their second year while the Almadina and Fusion schools start their first year. Renovations continue although at a slower pace than we would like. Floors 4 & 5 are not tendered yet as government is debating whether they want to have Infrastructure manage that portion. Infrastructure is managing the building of the gym next door and plans are to open for September 2026. While this is a year later than we wanted it is making good progress and staying on time. Always happy to take any questions.

I want to conclude on a note about a former TAAPCS member, Mother Earth's Children's Charter School who closed their doors this summer. Ed Wittchen had served as their Superintendent since they began in the '90s as one of Alberta's first Charters. Ed pointed out to me that they had filled a need in the community that is now being filled by others in the area. While it is sad to see them close their doors it is a credit to their hard work that there are other options for their students. Thanks to Ed, Paul, Anita, Dale, Cindy and the many others involved in making them a success.

Chat soon,

-Kelley Charlebois-
Executive Director, TAAPCS
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