

## **News You Can Use from the TAAPCS Executive Director March 2025**

February for me focused on routine TAAPCS and Calgary Charter Hub Society business. All of which is proceeding and on schedule.

Routine until Budget 2025 anyway.

I want to start by acknowledging the province has several competing interests to deal with not just education. However, after the major Education Infrastructure announcement by the Premier on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the budget as it impacts Public Charter Schools seems to be a bit of a retreat.

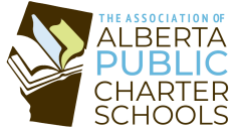
Firstly, the School Accelerator Program which was supposed to get projects that were “ready” underway faster appears to have only had 3 Charter projects approved. I am writing with no knowledge of which of our schools have benefitted but find it hard to believe that 19 of the Charter schools were not “ready” with projects in time.

We seem to have gone from a 3-year period of investment to a 7-year period since the original capital announcement. This will make it easier for government to tell us they are “back-end loading” the capital as they cannot afford it right now. We all know our challenge is we have the students and need the space as the fastest growing choice in public education in Alberta. We also know that this government is an ally, and the other folks are on the record as being opposed to funding us. Clearly while working with this government, we also must redouble our efforts to show the NDP we are part of the solution for quality education in Alberta.

On the surface the changes to create the Two-Year Average Adjusted Enrolment Method are reasonable BUT in depth they continue to create major headaches for many our members with strong growth happening.

I am also concerned about the trend to combine Charters with Collegiates for reporting and granting. Obviously where a Charter is a collegiate, there is no concern but the co-joining of Charter schools with all Collegiates needs to be opposed as it will dilute the dollars.

Clearly this is not an exhaustive list, but I think it is vital we see this as both a threat and an opportunity.



I want to share that President Dee-Ann Evans has decided to add a discussion to the March 8<sup>th</sup> Board Agenda. I hope your delegates will come ready for a fulsome discussion on the next steps we want to take as an organization. I meet with James Johnson of the Minister's office on March 10<sup>th</sup> and believe I should present him a letter from TAAPCS outlining our concerns and asking for action.

On other items, due to other commitments Wendy Juergens is unable to serve as the Treasurer for the remainder of this year. Sadiq Valliani has kindly offered to step back in!

I want to share that I continue to have meetings and discussions with potential new Charter schools with about 6 looking to open in September 2025. As I have mentioned before TAAPCS does not receive this information from the government, so I depend on your schools or the potential Charter to reach out. Please share with me where you feel appropriate.

Just by way of a reminder of several upcoming activities, the TAAPCS Executive meets Tuesday morning March 4<sup>th</sup>. We have our second TAAPCS Board meeting in Edmonton on the afternoon of March 8<sup>th</sup> which is followed by a TAAPCS Special General Meeting at 3 p.m. with a proposed amendment to our Bylaws for consideration. TAAPCS Chairs next monthly meeting is March 14<sup>th</sup>.

As always please reach out if there are any issues, I can help you with!

Chat soon,

-Kelley Charlebois-  
Executive Director, TAAPCS  
(403) 615-6090