

News You Can Use from the TAAPCS Executive Director - October 2025

I want to wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with family!

As usual I start my notes with important upcoming meetings:

1 November is the date for the TAAPCS AGM which is being hosted by Thrive in Edmonton. Start time will be 1 pm. Please note the SST team will pre-meet at 11:30 a.m. and chairs will meet at Noon. A light lunch will be served.

Immediately following the AGM (2:00 p.m.) the Board of TAAPCS will meet to hold elections for 3 positions as per the Bylaws. All three current members have offered to serve another term.

4 November is the next TAAPCS Executive Meeting

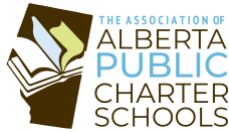
14 November is the next Chairs Meeting

23 October 2026 TAAPCS Teachers' Conference

I'd like to begin by celebrating that TAAPCS now has 20 member schools! Officially there are 27 Charters in Alberta. Congratulations to our new members and everyone for getting ready for September.

The greatest item right now is the obvious impact of the ATA strike on students but also the sub-issue of the attack on Independent Schools and the possibility of that ire being turned on Public Charter Schools. I have drafted a few key messages that I attach this month for your consideration should media connect with you. With Dee-Ann's agreement I am going on to CBC Edmonton Tuesday (Oct. 14) afternoon at about 4:05 p.m. to try and clarify a few points AND am available to help you if you have local media you want to talk with. Generally, I do not recommend wading into this publicly.

There were several meetings with government since my last report. There was the technically flawed meeting on SCAP on July 24th which many of you could not log onto and the suggestion that the government was well on their way to hitting the 12,500 seats for Charter schools promised by Premier Smith. TAAPCS put a great deal of effort getting a second meeting on August 8th and with Tyler Shandro's great presentation we ensured government understands our displeasure with the miscounting and program pace. On July 29th I joined Tyler and Minister of Municipal Affairs, Dan Williams for a fruitful lunch discussion on public reserve lands. He promised to act and is clearly an ally and supporter of charter schools. Thank you, Tyler!



On September 5th Joanne Higgins and I met with the CASS Board in Edmonton. They had excellent questions about working more and better together and through our presentation we assured them of our commitment. I know Joanne is focusing on this with her superintendent colleagues. These folks are another key ally focused on working with us rather than playing politics.

That same day Joanne and I met with Cassie Boschmann who is the Director of Research and Policy. Through a good conversation it became evident their lists were out of date, and I've provided new information. You should be receiving more reach out from ARN and other areas of research. Joanne & I will continue to pursue more and better opportunities to partner with GoA on research.

On September 18th I was able to join Dee-Ann, Adam and Terry at an Alberta Enterprise Group luncheon hosting GoA deputy ministers and to have Carla Johnson the ADM of Curriculum and Career Education join us. Dee-Ann and I also attended the Aurora Board meeting that night and answered some tough but valuable questions!

On October 7th Dee-Ann and I met with Lora Pillipow and Micha Ben-Zvi for our regular meetings. We made clear our expectations that Charter Schools receive comparable adjustments to any settlements. They were clear that anything "offered" to teachers to date has been part of the negotiations and is no longer on the table. We discussed our frustration with communications around SCAP and asked for routine meetings. They did share there are four new submissions and three revised submissions being looked at. We suggested transparency of which and where they are is vital. We also discussed Superintendents salaries (which we had just received a letter from the Minister on) and classroom complexity.

I want to note John Picard's retirement as Superintendent of Alberta Classical and wish him all the very best. John was my predecessor in this role and has always been available with great advice. Thank you, John! Colleen congratulations on your new role and look forward to working with you.

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

See you at the AGM and chat soon,

-Kelley Charlebois-
Executive Director, TAAPCS
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