

## **Aurora Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – Sept 19, 2016**

### **1. Meeting called to order:** 6:40pm

Attendees: Dale Bischoff, Susan Mallory, Holly Macagno, Marla Leganchuk, Rebecca Harrison, Steven Penney, Shamir Mukhi and Qumber Rizvi.

Absent:

Motion to approve the September 19 agenda as amended, made by: Marla Leganchuk

Seconded: Rebecca Harrison

Carried.

Motion to approve June 20, 2016 board meeting as amended, made by: Rebecca Harrison,

Seconded: Marla Leganchuk

Carried

Motion to approve the July 20, 2016 board meeting as presented, made by: Marla Leganchuk,

Seconded: Rebecca Harrison

Carried.

### **2. Guest Reports**

**Elementary Principal Report:** Jacquie Harman presented the elementary principal report to the Board for information. Highlights include:

1. Staffing
2. Construction
3. Bells. Will continue to monitor eating time for students to make sure there is adequate time. Changed playground schedule to 15 minutes everyday
4. Professional development Program
5. Enrollment: 368 (full enrolment)
6. Major events
7. Clubs
8. Working hard on team building.

**Middle School Principal Report:** Janet Rockwood report highlights included discussions on the following topics:

1. Goals
  - a. PowerSchool
  - b. Collaboration/curriculum alignment, assessment alignment
  - c. Safe and Caring
  - d. Technology Integration
  - e. Academic focus
2. Staffing
3. Administrative Duties
4. Construction
5. Goal Setting

6. Technology
7. School year events
8. Student Well-being
9. Teacher Growth, Supervision and Evaluation
10. Program
11. Professional Development
12. Student Teachers
13. The principal requested Board support of a Europe trip (grade 7 – 9) in spring 2018 through EF Tours. EF now offers cancellation insurance should the trip be cancelled by the administration. The board asked the principal to also consider another less expensive student excursion for students unable to afford the Europe trip. The Board indicated that they supported student travel in principle but does not want teachers and students miss instructional days on the school calendar. Therefore the trip dates should not be finalized until after the school calendar for the 2017-2018 calendar is set. It was also asked that Monique Wilson mentor other teachers to work and learn with her.
14. Fire Drills. Have not been practiced as the new Fire Panel training sessions have not yet been held.
15. Enrollment: 348 (full)

**Director of Technology** – Ian Gray informed the Board that today (Sept 19) was the first day of student classes were working in the learning commons.

1. Highlight of technology installed in the summer included:
  - a) Brand new wiring for school, i.e. wifi, phones.
  - b) Security cameras are fully functional and in HD.
  - c) Library – moving to the cloud
2. Other issues that Ian Gray is working on include:
  - d) Need to assess sonic wall (which filters internet and protects students from inappropriate material.).
  - e) Need to speed the band width up.
  - f) Developing a ticket system for IT person. This will prioritize things needing fixing, etc.
  - g) Inventory of technology done.
  - h) Furniture for learning commons. Soft furniture should arrive soon.
  - i) Learning commons staff: need to hire an additional educational support person.
  - j) The learning commons hours are being worked out. Ideally open 8:15 – 3:45 pm. Goal is to have access to the learning commons all day and every day.

Shamir thanked everyone for all their hard work over the past five years to make the Learning Commons a reality.

### **3. Central Office Reports**

**Secretary Treasurer Report:** Holly Macagnno reported that she is working one the following issues:

- a) Working with new cleaning contractor on our expectations.
- b) Preparing for the upcoming annual audit. Marla, Qumber and Holly are the Audit committee, but the committee is open to other interested board members.
- c) Work will start soon on transportation contracts.

## Superintendents Report:

1. Dale Bischoff provided a **construction update**.
  - a) Our transformer needs upgrading. EPCOR is replacing the old generator at a cost expected to exceed \$200,000. We are currently running a generator for power in the new wing and this is costly.
  - b) Incorrect lockers were installed and we are trying to find out who is legally responsible for the replacement costs estimated at \$50,000 - \$60,000.
  - c) Due to changes in the proposed parking lot we have missed the 2016 summer construction season. The parking project will be completed in 2017.
  - d) Progress on renovating the elementary gyms is slow and expected to cost more than originally anticipated. Heating system and air exchange are not efficient and will be costly to change out. Getting the elementary gym renovated is a priority.
  - e) The elevator project is moving slowly and will be reported on next month.
2. **Learning Commons** official opening can now proceed as Minister Sarah Hoffman has agreed to visit Aurora on October 14.

Motion to formally open the Learning commons on October 14 (afternoon) made by: Rehana Devji  
Seconded Qumber Rizvi.  
Carried.

3. The Superintendent presented the draft **20 year anniversary video** to the Board.

### 4. **Lawton School Tour**

The Board visited Lawton Junior High School which will be closed in 2017. The Board discussed obtaining this surplus building to see if would suit our possible enrollment growth considerations. We would need to do a parent consultation to see if parents are interested in a high school and what the program would look like. The board needs to decide if we should pursue this school and if parents want to see continued growth and a possible Aurora High School.

There would be many hurdles in pursuing building but obtaining another school facility is the only way to address our gigantic enrollment wait list numbers. It is not just about getting a high school; there is a small window of opportunity to get a surplus school building like Lawton. Do we want to grow or are we satisfied with our current size and program?

Motion to direct the Superintendent to enter into consultation with Edmonton Public with respect to pursuing a facility for Aurora School, made by: Qumber Rizvi.  
Seconded by Marla Leganchuk.  
Carried.

## **Board Committee Reports**

**Communications Committee** – No report.

**Technology/Learning Commons Committee** – No report.

### **Transportation Committee**

- a) Due to long bus rides on a couple of routes, the transportation committee is field testing amalgamated bus stops. Some routes are taking 90 minutes and our target is 60-70 minute bus rides one way. To cut ride time we are targeting consolidated stops only on broader streets where ETS buses stop. These streets are safer because parking for parents is generally available and these streets are snow plowed in the winter. As a result of consolidating stops we received many emails and telephone calls from upset parents who prefer service closer to their homes. Some inappropriate emails from parents about the bus route changes will need careful responses. The Superintendent counselled patience with outspoken parents. The Chair will meet with the Transportation Chair to discuss her concerns.
  
- b) Due to some cases of student behavior, bus drivers were directed by Aurora to create a seating plan. School administration follows up on all reports of misbehavior if the bus driver reports incidents.

**Policy Committee:** No Report.

**Growth Committee:** Now that we have added additional instructional space with the new Middle School classrooms and learning commons, Aurora should be eligible for an increased 'enrollment cap' from our current cap of 700 students.

Motion to send letter from the Board Chair to the Minister requesting an increase in our enrollment cap to 900 students made by, Rehana Devji.

Seconded by Rebecca Harrison.

Carried.

### **Board Chair items:**

1. Let's grow together evening – team building  
The chair would like to hold a casual evening for staff and spouses on team building to create team building.  
Action item: Chair to talk to superintendent who will talk with principals.
  
2. Board Communication  
Minutes are posted to the website after they are ratified. Agenda could be added to website and posted prior to meetings. The school newsletters are posted to the website.
  
3. Aurora in Review (AIR). The Chair is planning his annual "year in review" report that will be presented at the AGM, i.e. role, governance, etc. Shamir will meet with consultant Dave van Tamelen who could assist with an independent parent consultation (online survey?) Parents could be asked about their expectations about enrollment growth at Aurora and whether the Board should pursue a possible Aurora high school program.

## Calendar Reminders

- a) TAAPCS meets in Calgary on Friday, October 7, for their annual AGM. Aurora needs to decide on who our one voting delegate is. Dale has filled this role when no board member can attend, but it should really be a Board Director. There are generally three provincial TAAPCS meetings held per year. One in Calgary (September), one in Red Deer (January) and this year one in Grande Prairie (May) though often the May meeting is in Edmonton.
  
- b) Next meeting: October 17 (6 – 9pm)

Motion to adjourn made at 9:30 pm by: Steven Penney.

Seconded by: Qumber Rizvi

Carried.