



**Aurora School Ltd.
Board of Directors – Public Board Meeting
March 23, 2015**

RATIFIED

- 15-03-23-01 Call to Order and Roll Call**
Meeting called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Dr. Shamir Mukhi, Board Chair
Present: Dale Bischoff, Rehana Devji, Francine Gregory, Marla Leganchuk, Holly Maccagno, Shamir Mukhi, Steven Penney, Qumber Rizvi, Brenda Van Ommen
Guests: Carol Bartel Nickel, Ian Gray, Lorrie Makepeace, Mario Pineda, Janet Rockwood
- 15-03-23-02 Agenda**
Motion to accept the March 23, 2015 agenda as amended, made by: Steven Penney
Seconded, Carried.
- 15-03-23-03 Board Meeting Minutes**
Motion to accept the February 17, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes as presented, made by: Qumber Rizvi
Seconded, Carried.
- 15-03-23-04 Action Items Arising from February 17, 2015 Minutes:**
- a) **Item (15-02-17-04b)**
Board Chair (S. Muhki) attended the March 10, 2015 Kindergarten Information Meeting.
 - b) **Item (15-02-17-04b)**
Middle School Principal (Janet Rockwood) reported that Student Council plans to purchase a water fountain for the Middle School as their legacy project in the fall.
 - c) **Item (15-02-17-04)**
Elementary School Principal (Ian Gray) followed up on non-school fundraiser circulated to a Grade 3 class, making clear the process for fundraising.
 - d) **Item (15-02-17-04b)**
Elementary Principal (Ian Gray) and Middle School Principal (Janet Rockwood) completed tabulation of survey results and will report in their Reports from Administration.
 - e) **Item (15-02-17-04c)**
Superintendent (Dale Bischoff) indicated that Ministerial Order 2.1.5 is included in the Teacher Professional Growth, Supervision and Evaluation Handbook to be presented later in the evening's agenda.
- 15-03-23-05 Guest Reports**
- a) **Reports from Administration**
- ELEMENTARY CAMPUS**
Ian Gray, Elementary Principal presented the administration report to the Board for information and discussion on the following items:
- Kindergarten Information Evening
 - TAAPCS Conference 2015
- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <i>ACTION ITEM (15-03-23-05a)</i> | |
| <i>Board Members wishing to attend should confirm their interest.</i> | <i>Dale Bischoff, Superintendent</i> |
- Teacher Professional Development
 - Student Learning Assessment Pilot
 - Inclusive Education



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- Elementary Course Offerings
- Communication
- Homework Survey Results

It was noted that the survey is helpful. Homework is a vital part of Aurora's system. It was suggested that a later survey would give data depth.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS

Janet Rockwood, Middle School Principal presented the administration report to the Board for information and discussion on the following items:

- Homework Survey Results
It was noted that the results have the same theme as the Elementary survey results and there are insights to act on.
- Staffing – Mrs. R. Gieni has been hired to fill Mr. K. Ball's absence.
- Confirmation of Registration
- Options
- Professional Development
- School Events
- Teacher Professional Growth, Supervision and Evaluation Handbook
Overview of draft policy presented. It is scheduled to be implemented in the fall. Discussion regarding feedback from staff and Board decisions resulted in the suggestion that meeting minutes of the Board and Committees should be emailed to staff members. It was noted that staff would appreciate opportunity for feedback before decisions are made. Agendas and meetings dates provided in advance as well as input given from staff to committee chairs will help to make more suitable agendas. It is the Board's desire to build the bridge to reach a common goal of working together to make a difference in students' lives and to make the school a better place for everyone.

<i>ACTION ITEM (15-02-17-05a)</i>	
<i>Email Board and Committee Minutes, Agendas and Meeting dates to all staff.</i>	<i>Dale Bischoff, Superintendent</i>

Carol Bartel Nickel, Middle School Vice-Principal reported on the Middle School Sports League.

- Basketball, Cricket, Badminton, Running Room Games
The Board thanked all teachers involved for their work with the sports program.

b) Hour of Code

Mario Pineda gave an overview of the Hour of Code activity that was held for students on February 10, 11, and 17, 2015.

NEW BUSINESS

15-03-23-06 Secretary Treasurers Report

a) Financial Statements

Holly Maccagno presented the January 2015 financial statements for review and discussion.



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b) Transportation Program.

The 2014-2015 cost analysis of transportation for the current year indicates that bus transportation is running a large deficit. This led to discussion regarding cost recovery for bus fees next year. The Transportation Committee will bring forward a fee proposal for the 2015-2016 school year soon.

<i>ACTION ITEM (15-03-23-06a)</i>	
<i>Transportation Committee charged with bringing forward a balanced budget.</i>	<i>Qumber Rizvi, Transportation Committee Chair</i>

15-03-23-07 Superintendent Report

a) Policy Reorganization Process Update

Policy reorganization will be done in two phases focusing on policy revision as well as accountability and Board roles. A Policy Committee meeting will be held in conjunction with the next Board meeting at which time Dave van Tamelen will be present. He will provide input on the vision, accountability, oversight and philosophy of the policy reorganization. Once the structure is in place, policy details will be revised and written by the Policy Committee. The Board is committed to \$12,000.00 for funding this project.

b) Construction Progress Update

Phase 1 – Alberta Infrastructure requires that our tenders be pre-qualified. This will slow down the tendering process.

Phase 2 – Dale Bischoff presented a plan to renovate the Shumka space. Dale is applying to Capital Planning for funding.

Phase 3 – The process of acquiring a surplus school that could be renovated into a High School facility was discussed.

<i>ACTION ITEM (15-03-23-07b)</i>	
<i>Write a letter of interest and intent to the Edmonton School Boards regarding the acquisition of a High School facility.</i>	<i>Dale Bischoff, Superintendent</i>

c) Survey Feedback

Staff and Parent survey results were shared. Recommendations will be brought forward at the next Board meeting. Highlights of the survey include:

- i) While homework is clearly valued by the school community, many parents believe that there is too much homework
- ii) While parents strongly favor the after school homework period, teachers do not support the study period
- iii) Parents and teachers support increased instructional hours in Physical education and increased opportunities for extracurricular athletics
- iv) A majority of parents support mandatory French
- v) Parents support an increase in junior high options
- vi) Parents would support the acquisition of GPS on school busses, and
- vii) Parents are prepared to pay increased bussing fees to recover costs.

15-03-23-08 Board Committee Reports

a) Policy Committee (Steven Penney)

Draft policies for Accountability and for Role of the Board of Directors were presented and discussed.

b) Technology Committee (Shamir Mukhi)

Further implementation of the Power School project will need to wait until Susan Mallory's return.



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- c) **Transportation Committee (Qumber Rizvi)**
The committee is looking into GPS aboard busses, a Windermere route and a possible increase to bus fees for next year.
- d) **Communication Committee (Rehana Devji)**
The committee met the previous week. Staff requested a more regular meeting schedule. Minutes need to be distributed on a timely basis.
- e) **Growth Committee (Francine Gregory)**
Questions arise about apparent lack of construction progress. The committee continues to focus on the progress made but delays have been frustrating. A Growth Committee meeting will be scheduled as soon as concrete news is available to report.

15-03-23-09 Board Chair Items

- a) **School Council**
School council has a standing item on each meeting agenda for the Board. A Board member is therefore required to be in attendance.

<i>ACTION ITEM (15-03-23-09a)</i>	
<i>Rehana Devji will confirm with Dale Bischoff her ability to attend the next scheduled School Council meeting.</i>	<i>Rehana Devji, Director</i>

- b) **Education Act In-Service**
Steven Penney will attend this meeting regarding implications of the Education Act for Charter Schools.

15-03-23-10 Upcoming Date Reminders

March 28 – April 12 Spring Break
 April 14 School Council Meeting
 April 16 Education Act In-Service
 April 20 Next Board Meeting
 May 1..... Teacher PD Day
 May 6-7..... TAAPCS meeting in Medicine Hat

15-03-23-11 Motion to go in camera made by: Steven Penney, seconded by Francine Gregory. Carried

Motion to come out of camera made by: Marla Leganchuk, seconded by Francine Gregory. Carried

Motion to deny request from Dr. Das for “leave of absence” for his children at Aurora made by: Steven Penney, seconded by Francine Gregory. Carried.

15-02-17-10 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the March 23, 2015 Board Meeting at 9:45 pm, made by: Qumber Rizvi, seconded by Rehana Devji. Carried.

Submitted by: 

 Brenda Van Ommen, Recording Secretary