

# **Aurora Academic Charter School Council Meeting**

February 3, 2015

**In Attendance:** I. Gray, J. Rockwood, N. Gidda, A. Powell, E. De Gooyer, C. Bartel Nickel, S. Rana; A. Huhn; Paula Mayo; A. Hoffman; M. Pon

**Regrets:** S. Weiwel; D. Shannon

**Parents in Attendance:** Senait Salih

**Board Member in Attendance:** D. Bischoff; S. Mukhi

**1.0 Call to Order** - 6:00 pm by M. Pon

**2.0 Addition/Changes:** Move 11.6 to top of agenda

**11.6 Board Report:** Dr. D. Bischoff reported to council on the Annual Education Results Report (AERR) and the Aurora Academic Charter School Evaluation Report. Dr. Bischoff reported that both reports are on the school website. Dr. Bischoff reported that on page 5 of the AERR, the reasons for the increase is due to the optional classes that are now available. Dr. Bischoff reported that all other scores are very high, Aurora Academic Charter School is in the top 2-3% of the province.

Dr. Bischoff reported that Page 20 of AERR is a break down of the PAT scores. Dr. Bischoff noted that there is a slight decline but the school is still 10 – 15% above the average provincial marks.

Dr. Bischoff reported that charter schools can apply for a 15 year charter, which Aurora Academic Charter School will do. Dr. Bischoff reported that in the Charter School Evaluation Report, there were twenty-nine recommendations and six required changes (see attached sheet). These six required changes are either currently being worked on or will be worked on this year. The six required changes are

1. Ministerial Order on Student Learning – It describes the competencies expected for Alberta Students as Engaged thinkers and Ethical citizens with an Entrepreneurial spirit.
2. Teaching Quality Standard – Administration team with teachers should develop a school wide model, used to help teachers consistently understand the requirements of the Teaching Quality Standard.
3. Focus on the use of research by teachers and administrators to inform innovative practice and achieve enhanced outcomes.
4. The Board must take significant and timely action, through policy and increased stakeholder dialogue, to clarify the various roles of the board, superintendent and school based administrators.
5. Many students, parents and teachers at Aurora aspire to increased opportunity for “voice” in decision making.

6. To ensure more effective communication between school staff, administration and parents, the superintendent and school leadership team members must take steps to establish a more cohesive, team-centred relationship.

Dr. Bischoff requested that if any of the council members had any ideas, especially in regards to #5 above, to let him know.

Discussion took place regarding these topics.

Dr. Bischoff reported they will be doing a survey for parents/stakeholders. Dr. Bischoff provided the questions and asked for input.

S. Salih questioned the number of PD days Aurora has currently, as it seems to be significantly more than past years. It was reported that it is only one fewer teaching day. E. De Gooyer reported that teachers really appreciate the extra time they are given.

S. Mukhi reported that next year will be Aurora's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Dr. Mukhi would like to strike a committee that includes staff, students, administration, Board and Council members to plan for next years celebration.

S. Mukhi reported that one of the methods the school is using to assist in better communication is with twitter accounts for both principals.

### **3.0 Approval of Minutes from December 2, 2014**

Motion: A. Hoffman moves to accept minutes as presented.

Seconded: S. Rana

Carried: All in Favour

### **4.0 Elementary Principal Report:**

I. Gray reported on the following items:

- Interested in parent feedback regarding the year book. I. Gray is questioning whether the Elementary School would go to something more basic. I. Gray will put something out to the parents seeking their input.
- March 10<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Kindergarten Open House and asked for a parent representative. M. Pon agreed to attend on behalf of School Council. Discussion took place as to whether it was really an open house or a meet and greet, decided it was more of a meet and greet.
- Volunteers needed for Wed. February 25<sup>th</sup> Winter Carnival for ½ day in the morning. If interested to see Mrs. Craig.
- Alberta Education School Survey will be sent out to parents. If School Council members have any comments to send them to Ian. Survey will be sent via Survey Monkey.

## **5.0 Middle School Principal Report:**

J. Rockwood reported on the following items:

- Teacher, Linda Williams is back and that Duncan Charleton is a new teacher in the Middle School
- Lock Down drill happened in January
- Twitter account for J. Rockwood
- Events that have happened or will be happening soon in the Middle school include Grade Six overnight field trip to Telus World of Science; Wrestling tournament; 1 hour of code; Science Fair is coming up on February 6 and 7.
- Professional Development is going to look at assessments
- Lunches for children who forget their lunch were all made, thanks to School Council for sponsoring these.
- Report Cards went well with the new system
- J. O'Connor going on maternity leave at end of December, E. De Gooyer will replace J. O'Connor on School Council

**6.0 Treasurer's Report** – D. Shannon was absent sent regrets, no report.

**7.0 Fundraising Report** – Discussion took place regarding the Spell-a-thon. The funds are broken down where half of the money per grade goes to the classroom teacher and the other half goes to School Council. It was decided that it is a good fundraiser and easy to administer. J. Rockwood will send the pledge form.

**Motion:** A. Hoffman moves that we proceed with the Spell-a-thon fundraiser.

**Second:** P. Mayo

**Carried:** All in Favour

## **8.0 Request for Funds from School Council:**

8.1 S. Rana presented the form that she developed that we could use for the remainder of this year and in the following years. S. Rana reported the form has a ranking guide on the back of the sheet which will assist School Council in deciding how much funding we will provide. Agreed that we would provide it to teachers two times per year, beginning of year and mid way through the year, with the understanding that we would take requests as needed.

8.2 Request for funding for the Winter Carnival on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Requested amount is \$1200 and it is for the Elementary School, however, the sleigh rides will be for both schools.

**Motion:** A. Hoffman moves that we provide \$1200 for the Winter Carnival

**Second:** M. Pon

**Carried:** All in Favour

## **9.0 Beautification Report:**

9.1 M. Pon reported that she would like the School Council to consider some other beautification projects. M. Pon reported that she was thinking the office wall could use have something done, we could replace the old logo's (wooden sign

outside of the school, painting or doing something in the library and even a mural on the outside walls of the school.

Discussion took place regarding above points.

I. Gray reported that due to construction the Elementary School Entrance will be moved to where the Shumka entrance currently is. A. Huhn reported she had talked with Dr. Bischoff about the idea of a flower garden and he had suggested we not do anything in front of the school as the construction will be taken over a lot of the whole school. As well, a new sign is in the plans for the renovations. Everyone agreed that all of the ideas were good and we will consider them in the next year after the construction is completed.

**10.0 Communications Report:**

- 10.1 School Council Emails – Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.2 Newsletter – I. Gray reported that they are no longer going to do a set monthly newsletter. It will be an ongoing update. I. Gray reported that if School Council has anything they want to communicate it can be sent at anytime.

**11.0 Board Reports:**

- 11.1 Technology Committee Report – Committee meeting coming up soon. S. Rana will try to attend as our representative.
- 11.2 Communication Committee – Committee meeting coming up soon. A. Huhn is will attend as our representative.
- 11.3 Transportation Committee – Committee meeting coming up soon. M. Pon will attend as our representative.
- 11.4 Policy Committee – Committee meeting coming up soon. A. Hoffman will try to attend as our representative.
- 11.5 Growth Committee – Committee meeting coming up soon. S. Wiewel will attend as our representative.

**12.0 New Business:**

- 12.1 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of School – discussed above under 11.6
- 12.2 Chair of next few meetings - March meeting will be chaired by Doris; April by Stephen; May by Alicia.

**13.0** Announcements - Nothing to report at this time

**14.0** Topics Tabled for next Meeting

**15.0** Next Meeting – March 3, 2015 6pm

**16.0** Adjournment – A. Hoffman moves to adjourn meeting at 7:30pm