



Aurora School Ltd.
Board of Directors – Public Organizational Board Meeting
December 14, 2015

DRAFTED & UN-RATIFIED

15-12-14-01 Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Dr. Shamir Mukhi, Board Chair

Present: Dale Bischoff, Rehana Devji, Rebecca Harrison, Marla Leganchuk, Susan Mallory, Shamir Mukhi, Steven Penney, Qumber Rizvi

Absent: Holly Maccagno

15-12-14-02 Agenda

Motion to accept the December 14, 2015 agenda as presented, made by: Steven Penney
Seconded, **Carried.**

A request was made to purchase a gavel for use at Board meetings.

15-12-14-03 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept the November 16, 2015 Board Meeting minutes as presented, made by:
Steven Penney
Seconded, **Carried.**

15-12-14-04 Organizational Issues

a) Role of the Board

The Board Chair welcomed new member Rebecca Harrison to the Board and introductions were made by members of the Board. The foundational policies were reviewed by the Board Chair as a refresher.

b) Appointment of Committee Chairs

- Board Chair: Shamir Mukhi
- Communications Committee (20th Anniversary + Teacher Board Liaison): Rehana Devji
- Transportation Committee: Rebecca Harrison
- Policy Committee: Steven Penney
- Growth Committee: Shamir Mukhi, Vice Chair – Rehana Devji
- Director of Finance: Marla Leganchuk, Audit Committee member: Qumber Rizvi
- Nominating Committee: Steven Penney, Co-Chair – Rehana Devji

Motion to appoint the above Board members to their respective positions, made by: Marla Leganchuk
Seconded, **Carried.**



Aurora School Ltd.
Board of Directors – Public Organizational Board Meeting
December 14, 2015

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15-12-14-05 Board Vision Process

a) Charter Renewal Application

The Superintendent reviewed the 15 year Charter Renewal application process with the Board. Document examines how Aurora meets Alberta Education performance criteria, the school responses to the Alberta Education school evaluation, reviews stakeholder engagement (i.e. School Council, parent and teachers). Feedback from Alberta Education regarding our Charter Renewal application should be received by early February.

One observation of the of the application is that is while we are in the top 5% of provincial schools on academic measures, we are trending down in our PAT 6 and elementary CTBS scores. It was noted that the Board would follow up on this downward trend. The Chair will meet with school-based administration this week to discuss Board concerns regarding declining academic measures and how this can be addressed, as well as develop an action plan. The Board Chair will report back about an action plan after the meeting has taken place.

<i>ACTION ITEM (15-12-14-05a)</i>	
<i>Board chair to report back to the Board after meeting with school-based administration to discuss declining trend in Aurora PAT 6 and elementary CTBS scores.</i>	<i>Shamir Mukhi, Board Chair</i>

Concerns were also expressed about the need to increase effort to improve parent satisfaction.

b) Charter Agreement

The Superintendent reviewed the Charter Agreement with the Board, noting it is much the same document as the November 2008 Charter Agreement, with some minor changes reflecting style and that the document has been submitted to Alberta Education. Any stakeholder recommendation for substantive changes would require vetted by school based administration, teachers, School Council and requires approval by both the Aurora membership and Alberta Education. It was noted by the Superintendent that a discussion of the document is needed specifically about references to “traditional” practices as we are shifting towards being a larger academic school.

Some items requiring change and to be addressed with all our stakeholders are:

- Highly disciplined – need to revisit this language.
- Teacher centered (p. 6) – need to revisit this language as it is contrary to Ministerial order
- Special Education (p. 8) – Charter Schools have been exempt under School Act. The new Education Act requires that all charter schools must provide inclusion. Aurora will need to have discussion with our stakeholders on what it means. This will also have ramifications on our screening and assessment process.



Aurora School Ltd.
Board of Directors – Public Organizational Board Meeting
December 14, 2015

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c) Board PD / Retreat

The Superintendent indicated that the Board would benefit from spending a full day reflecting on planning goals, a review of their long term “vision”, including mission, vision, and school values. February 2 was agreed for the retreat. The Superintendent asked all Board members to forward short and long term planning items for the retreat day agenda.

<i>ACTION ITEM (15-12-14-05c)</i>	
<i>Superintendent to build an agenda from email items for the Board retreat.</i>	<i>Dale Bischoff, Superintendent</i>

15-12-14-06 Housekeeping Issues

a) Staffing

Linda Williams has taken a medical leave. Interviews to replace her are scheduled for Friday, December 18, 2015. The Superintendent invited Board members to attend the interviews on Friday from 1:00 – 3:30pm. The Board would like to send a card and flowers to Linda Williams.

<i>ACTION ITEM (15-12-14-06a)</i>	
<i>Send flowers and a card to Linda Williams from the Board</i>	<i>Susan Mallory, Board Secretary</i>

The Superintendent received resignations from Bill Crockett and Jane Bebensee and their resignations have been accepted effective the end of January, 2016.

b) School Travel

In light of recent world events, concerns were expressed over the travel safety of student on field trips, i.e. Panterra, Europe, etc. The Superintendent supports student travel but at the same time Aurora recommends that the Secretary Treasurer ensures that our insurance coverage is air-tight and legal disclaimers have been made.

With respect to the 2017 Panterra trip in Mexico – the Board requested follow up on cancellation ability by Panterra, noting that the school should insist on mandatory travel insurance and include cost right into travel costs in the event of a last minute cancellation.

The Board would like the Superintendent to follow up with Peter Dang and Amanda Joblinski on what insurance Panterra carries.

The Superintendent recommended that the Board consider purchasing additional travel insurance and obtain legal advice about possible trip cancellation.



Aurora School Ltd.
Board of Directors – Public Organizational Board Meeting
December 14, 2015

DRAFTED & UN-RATIFIED

ACTION ITEM (15-12-14-06b)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow up with Panterra Trip organizers on Panterra insurance in place.	Dale Bischoff, Superintendent
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obtain legal advice regarding trip cancellation options	Dale Bischoff, Superintendent

c) Parent Complaint

Motion to go in-camera made by: Steven Penney
Seconded, Carried.

Motion to go out-of-camera made by: Steven Penney
Seconded, Carried.

d) Construction Update

Construction progress has been delayed at the back due to structural problem and asbestos on the north wall. Work will continue over Christmas holidays.

Work on the new grade 3 classroom and elementary general office has experienced delays but is expected to be ready for move in over the Christmas break. The main office will be cleared of furniture over the holiday break in order for new flooring to be installed to replace the carpeting damaged by flooding.

More than \$21,000 has been allocated for regular maintenance such as smart board installations, new coat racks, flooring in school office, safety glass in gym balcony, gym clock, stair riser replacement etc. These maintenance tasks will be completed by Staden Construction over the Christmas break.

e) Collective Bargaining Agreement

The collective bargaining agreement will be signed on December 18 at 11:00am. The Superintendent advised the Board that the Secretary Treasurer should also sign this agreement.

15-12-14-07 Next Board Meeting

February 1..... Board Meeting (6:00pm)

February 2..... Board Retreat (9:00am at the Nova Hotel)



Aurora School Ltd.
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15-12-14-08 Upcoming Board Meetings

March 7 Board Meeting
April 18..... Board Meeting
May 16 Board Meeting
June 20 Board Meeting
September 19..... Board Meeting
October 17 Board Meeting
November 21 Board Meeting
November 24 AGM* (7pm)

**Tentative: will be confirmed once Parent Teacher Interviews dates are set*

15-12-14-09 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the December 14, 2015 Board Meeting at 8:02pm made by: [Rebecca Harrison](#)

Submitted by: _____
Susan Mallory, Recording Secretary