

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – MARCH 6, 2017

RATIFIED

The March 6, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting was called to order at 6:04pm.

Board Chair: Shamir Mukhi
Recording Secretary: Susan Mallory

Attendees: Dale Bischoff, Rehana Devji, Rebecca Harrison, Arlene Huhn, Holly Maccagno, Susan Mallory, Paola Mayo, Shamir Mukhi, Steven Penney

Guest: Peter Dang, Ian Gray, Jacquie Harman, Marla Leganchuk, Janet Rockwood, Lisa Weidel

1. Call to Order

a. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to accept the March 6, 2017 Board Meeting Agenda as amended, made by:
Rebecca Harrison
Seconded by: Rehana Devji **Carried.**

Additions to the March 6, 2017 Board Meeting Agenda: 3(c) Bill One; 3(d) Letter from Alberta Education

b. Approval of Board Minutes

Motion to accept the January 30, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes as amended, made by: Paola Mayo
Seconded by: Rehana Devji **Carried.**

2. Guest Reports

a. Elementary Principal's Report

Jacquie Harman, Elementary Principal presented the Elementary Principal's Report to the Board for information and discussion. Topics included:

- ◆ Leave of Absence (Maternity Leave Interviews)
- ◆ Construction
 - Naming completion for gyms completed. (Bear's Den & Cub's Corner)
- ◆ Lunch – Final Decision
 - Move to one supervisor per two classes in the higher grades with lunch adjusted back to 20 minutes for eating time.
- ◆ Professional Development Program
- ◆ AERR Surveys
- ◆ Major Events
- ◆ Clubs
- ◆ Kindergarten Registration

b. Middle School Principal's Report

Janet Rockwood, Middle School Principal presented the Middle School Principal's Report to the Board for information and discussion. Topics included:

- ◆ PowerSchool
- ◆ Staffing
- ◆ Options
- ◆ Professional Development
- ◆ TAAPCS Fall Conference
- ◆ School Events

- Science Fair was very successful again this year. Space was tight this year and administration will be looking for solutions such as using another gym. They are also considering holding Science Fair over three days next year.
- ◆ Athletics/Sports League
- ◆ Running Room Games

c. Technology Report

Ian Gray, Director of Technology presented the Technology Report to the Board for information and discussion. Topics included:

- ◆ Learning Commons
- ◆ Teacher Efficacy
- ◆ Technology Budget
- ◆ Digital Citizenship

The Technology Committee is looking at implementing one to one devices. Chrome books are the best choice and least expensive option. A subcommittee has been struck to develop a Technology Week in March 2018. Shamir Mukhi indicated he will join the committee (schedule permitting).

3. Secretary Treasurers Report

Holly Maccagno, presented the Secretary Treasurer’s Report for information and discussion.

1. Financial Update

The January financials were presented for information and discussion. She presented the report from the Alberta government *Six Years of Performance* for information. It is a comparison report of school jurisdictions and confirmed Aurora School is performing very well.

2. Wait List Software

Marla Leganchuk presented the new online wait list program “Family Zone” for information and discussion. Aurora needs to consider how the Kindergarten enrollment pattern can be changed, i.e. lottery, etc. The Board thanked her for a job well done.

4. Superintendent’s Report

a. Phase Two Modernization

- ◆ Parking Lot Proposal (Randy Darr)

Randy Darr on behalf of Aurora School, held a public meeting at the Sherbrooke Community League regarding the proposed parking lot on March 6. 22 people were in attendance and overall, the community were quite receptive. Their main concern was the usage of the parking lot after hours. Concerns were also expressed over high traffic (cars and buses) during peak times. One person expressed concern over the loss of green space. He reviewed City parking bylaws required to be met by Aurora School. Comments from the meeting will be sent directly to Randy Dar and another meeting will be scheduled soon.
- ◆ Architect/Engineering Preparations

The Board instructed the Superintendent to meet with Burgess Bredo and if that meeting is not successful, to seek legal counsel.
- ◆ Letter to Minster of Education

To-date the Minister has not responded to any of our letters. Aurora needs to take a stronger position to the Minister, as Aurora requires permission for Lawton School. The Superintendent reiterated the need to utilize our wait list families by having them write letters of concern to the Minister. Obtaining permission to increase the enrollment cap is of primary concern. Aurora’s enrollment cap is 700 and next year’s enrolment will be 800. A meeting with the Minister is urgently needed. The Board agreed letters were a good strategy.

- ◆ Letter to Edmonton Public School Board (EPSB)
EPSB have no issue with Aurora School.
- ◆ Phase Two Elementary Entrance
The gym and elevator must be completed prior to the start of Phase two. The Superintendent advised the deadline to apply for funding for Capital Planning is very close.

b. Proposed Aurora Calendar 2017-18

The proposed 2017-18 school calendar was presented for Board approval. School-based administration and the Superintendent have been working on this calendar for some time. Staff and teachers have also reviewed the calendar. The Superintendent would also have liked to introduce a 2018-19 school calendar but Edmonton Public have not published their 2018-2019 calendar. A concern was raised over the increase of Professional Development Days (PD) from last year's calendar. The PD days are not just professional development, they provide time for teacher collaboration and enhancement. A suggestion was made to have the calendar show the number of professional development and teacher collaboration days. The calendar will be updated to reflect this change.

Action Item: Update the school calendar to show number of PD days and number of teacher collaboration days.

**Motion to accept the 2017-18 Aurora Calendar as presented, made by: Paola Mayo
Seconded by: Arlene Huhn Carried.**

c. Bill One

All public, catholic and francophone schools were given a letter to parents for distribution, except for Charter and Private schools. Aurora should have received this letter as we are a public school. Concerns were raised that charter schools are being lumped into private schools. As we were not included in the letter Aurora will not have to change our fee structure, and if we eliminated school fees Aurora would not receive funding. Charter School are not included in Bill 1.

Rebecca Harrison has not seen this letter at her school. She will report to the Board when she sees the letter. It was suggested that perhaps Aurora should write letters through the Communications committee protesting this.

d. Letter from Alberta Education

Dale Bischoff shared a letter from Garrett Dahl, Alberta Education Charter School Liaison, complimenting Aurora School on a job well done.

5. Committee Reports

a. Transportation Committee (Rebecca Harrison)

Rebecca Harrison introduced the new Transportation Coordinator, Lisa Weidel. Rebecca reviewed the form for collecting \$50 bus deposit or license plate numbers if not using the bus service. Bus fees will not be raised for 2017-18. A letter has been send home to parents regarding GPS enrolment as there are 123 students not using GPS beacons. Lisa has been auditing routes with a review redesigning routes to scale ride time back to one hour. Parent complaints have dropped. The new form will help Lisa plan routes for next year. Lisa Weidel is doing a very good job.

b. Technology Committee (Paola Mayo)

Met on March 1, 2017. Working on preparing a budget for next year. The committee plan to present two budgets; one including total cost of chrome books and one splitting out the rollout of chrome books. The Board is in favour of this idea but the budgets will need be run by the Secretary Treasurer. Middle school teachers are in favour of chrome books for each student. Elementary would prefer a sharing system. Text

book licenses could be purchased to reduce costs, i.e. license for Math Texts are approximately \$160 each (class set = \$4500). The risks associated with students taking home or bring their own devices need to be considered and addressed in policy. Technology will not replace textbooks as a whole. It was asked what grade keyboarding skills are taught, as exams are now being taken on computer and 2018 diploma exams will only be taken online. The committee's next meeting is April 10 and the budget(s) will need to be reviewed prior to the next Board meeting. The Committee is working on plans for a Technology Week (March 19 – 23, 2018) and a sub-committee has been struck to plan the event. Shamir Mukhi said he will sit on the committee (schedule permitting) and present during the week. A budget will need to be set for the subcommittee taking into account activities to be held, honorariums (gift cards), costs incurred by students, advertising, etc. Arlene Huhn will look into gaming speakers and get back to Paola. The Board will email Paola with any speaker suggestions.

c. Policy Committee (Steven Penney)

The following policies were presented to the Board for approval:

- *BP 2040 – Code of Conduct for Members (first reading)*
Reviewed old policy and the draft proposal Parent Code of Conduct from the Teacher Board Liaison, and recommended bringing these two policies together. Details will be worked out at the school level in the Administrative Regulations. Need to make sure policy protects children from parents selling or politicking.

BP2040 approved for first reading as presented, made by: Steven Penney
Seconded by: Paola Mayo Carried.

- *BP 6035 – Student Code of Conduct (second reading)*
Updated to meet Alberta Education requirements. Committee to check language on wait list and Student Handbook match.

BP6035 approved for second reading as presented, made by: Steven Penney
Seconded by: Paola Mayo Carried.

- *BP6050 – Field Trips (first reading)*
Policy addresses legal liability and volunteer drivers.

BP6050 approved for first reading as presented, made by: Steven Penney
Seconded by: Paola Mayo Carried.

- *BP6130 – Student Evaluation (third and final reading)*
Contains stylistic and grammatical changes.

BP 6130 approved for third and final reading as amended, made by: Steven Penney
Seconded by: Arlene Huhn Carried.

- *BP6150 – Improving Student Learning (third and final reading)*

BP 6150 approved for third and final reading as amended, made by: Steven Penney
Seconded by: Paola Mayo Carried.

- *BP7040 – Technology Policy (third and final reading)*

BP 7040 approved for third and final reading as amended made by: Steven Penney
Seconded by: Paola Mayo Carried.

- *BP8200 – Alcoholic Beverages (second reading)*

BP 8200 approved for second reading as presented made by: Steven Penney
Seconded by: Paola Mayo **Carried**

d. Communication Committee (Arlene Huhn)

Arlene met January 31, 2016 with the Teacher Board Liaison. There were two agenda items: (1) feedback on AERR and (2) Parent Code of Conduct. Teachers wanted the Board to know that the low rating was a result of a few incidents not the school overall. She has forwarded the draft to the Policy Committee. No future meeting has been set.

e. Strategic Planning (Shamir Mukhi)

It was a good meeting. Dave Van Tamelen presented a detailed plan and the dates have been selected for focus groups. Focus groups will consist of 10 – 12 people. An off-site location for one of the focus group is being considered. Next meeting is on March 15 and Steven Penney may need to fill in for Shamir Mukhi as Chair.

6. Chair Items

a. Proposed Letter to the Minister of Education

Proposed to write letter to the Minister regarding the enrollment cap, Phase 2 modernization, and support for Lawton School. The Superintendent shared a Journal article on the Catholic School Board denied renovating St. James into administrative offices. He was asked if Aurora should challenge the giving of St. James to a private school to the government, as a public school we should have had first priority over private schools. Dale Bischoff will write a letter to Edmonton Catholic School Board that Aurora School is interested in St. James.

ACTION ITEM: Superintendent to write a Letter to Edmonton Catholic School Board re St. James School

Motion to support authorizing a letter to the Minister, made by: Arlene Huhn

Seconded by: Paola Mayo **Carried.**

b. TAAPCS Meeting

Paola Mayo will be representing Aurora at the TAAPCS meeting.

c. BP2040 – Code of Conduct for Members

The Superintendent reviewed a Journal article with the Board on action taken by the Catholic School Board after public criticism from a board member. School boards speak as a corporate body. Ramifications of action taken by the Catholic School Board were discussed and how it might affect the Aurora Board School Board.

Aurora does not have a Policy on Code of Conduct for Board members. It was suggested add this to BP1060. BP1060 will be pulled and presented to the policy committee for review.

7. Calendar Reminders

- a. March 9, 2017 Suzuki Board Director PD (Arlene and Paola to attend)
- b. March 15 Strategic Planning Steering Meeting
- c. April 17 Next Board meeting (3:00 – 6:00pm)

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the March 6, 2017 Board meeting at 10:07pm, made by: Arlene Huhn