



Aurora School Ltd.
Board of Directors – Public Board Meeting
May 19, 2015

RATIFIED

15-05-19-01 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, Francine Gregory, Holly Maccagno, Susan Mallory, Shamir Mukhi, Qumber Rizvi

Absent: Marla Leganchuk, Steven Penney

Guests: Carol Bartel Nickel, Bill Crockett, Ian Gray, Lorrie Makepeace, Janet Rockwood, Rick Woodward

Guest Presenter: Dave van Tamelen, Europe Trip Student Representatives (Rojine McVea, Rohan Walia, Megan Ong and Qayyum Devji)

15-05-19-02 Agenda

Motion to accept the May 19, 2015 agenda as presented, made by: Rehana Devji
Seconded, **Carried**.

15-05-19-03 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept the April 20, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes as amended, made by: Qumber Rizvi
Seconded, **Carried**.

15-05-19-04 Policy Manual Reorganization (Dave van Tamelen)

Omnibus Package

The first of three packages of policies were presented to the Board for review and approval. It was noted that the vast majority of this package is from our original policy manual, re-organized and re-formatted. The goal of reorganization of Aurora policies is to satisfy required change #10 of our Charter School Evaluation. In order to make this process more manageable the old policy manual will be divided into three batches for review.

The Board reviewed the policy package with a view to identifying policies requiring individual reconsideration and placement in a policy committee *Slow-Track*. It was noted that first reading of the omnibus package 1 will put this batch on the table for consideration and can be fine-tuned for second and third reading. The timeframe is to have this process completed in November, prior to the AGM. This review process will use a two level system: a *Fast-Track* for policies not requiring further consideration and a *Slow-Track* for policies identified for further review.

The following policies were removed from the omnibus (*Fast-Track*) package 1 and placed in the *Slow-Track* for further review: BP10000 – Hot Lunch program, BP2090.2 – Committee Guidelines, BP3150 – School Fees, and BP2030 – Communication Plan.

Policy batch omnibus 2 (to be presented in June) will focus on Business Management (old Policy Manual - Sections D, E, and H) with omnibus batch 3 to be presented in September 2015. It was noted that the new policies reference our mandate. Our mandate refers to the “Aurora Charter, Vision, Mission, Goals and Philosophy and Values.”



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15-05-19-05 Guest Reports

a) Reports from Administration

ELEMENTARY CAMPUS

Ian Gray, Elementary Principal presented the Report from Administration to the Board for information and discussion on the following items:

- School Programming 2015-2016. An open meeting was held April 30, 2015 with regard to options and core subjects and was really positive. Recommendation is to keep French but implement it in the classroom as an enhancement.
- Staffing
- Communication.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS

Janet Rockwood, Middle School Principal presented the Report from Administration to the Board for information and discussion on the following items:

- Europe Trip Presentation. Student representatives from the Europe Trip presented highlights and thoughts on the recent school trip to Europe which was a great success.
- Program Recommendation. An open meeting was held April 30, 2015 with regard to options and core subjects was really positive. Recommendation is that French become options for Grades 6 – 9 and remain mandatory for grade 5 for the 2015-16 school year.
- Parent Survey
- Safety
- Homework
- Teacher Growth, Supervision and Evaluation
- Staffing
- Professional Development
- Technology
- School Events
- Sports League. Cricket cancelled due to overlapping sports/games with other sports students participated in. The sports league has had a great first year with excellent results and experiences.

The Board asked how participating Aurora students did at the Canada-Wide science fair, however results were not available at this time. The Board would like these students to provide a brief account of their experience at the next Board meeting.



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NEW BUSINESS

15-05-19-06 Secretary Treasurers Report

a) Financial Statements

The Secretary Treasurer presented the March 2015 financial statements for review and discussion.

15-05-19-07 Superintendent Report

a) NDP Election Platform on Public Education.

Presented platform to the Board for information and discussion with respect with planning school budget for next year. It was noted that we may see restored funding but that it was also very possible that funding cuts would remain until a new fall budget.

b) Budget Discussion

The budget submission deadline has been moved to the end of June and the budget would be prepared to meet the funding cuts unless more funding became available. The Superintendent noted that the bus fee increase needed to be decided upon, as well as, whether the accumulated surplus should be used to fund any potential budget shortfall. It was pointed out that we need to know our construction costs before utilizing accumulated surplus funds.

c) Construction Progress Update

The project has gone to tender and we should hear back on construction costs shortly. Six companies have been pre-approved and the tender process deadline is May 26. If we get a favourable cost, we may need to call a special board meeting at the end of the month.

d) Letter from Shumka

A letter was presented to the Board for consideration from the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers requesting a one year extension of their lease. The Superintendent will communicate to Shumka indicating that we will be deferring our response to September 2015.

<i>ACTION ITEM (15-05-19-07d)</i>	
<i>Superintendent to prepare response to the Ukrainian Shumka Dances on behalf of the Board Chair.</i>	<i>Dale Bischoff, Superintendent</i>

15-05-19-08 Board Committee Reports

a) Policy Committee (Dale Bischoff for Steven Penney, Chair)

Draft policies (Policy Development, Board Roles, and Board Governance-Accountability) were presented to the Board for review and approval for second reading. The first of three omnibus packages was presented to the Board for review and approval for first reading.



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Motion to approve second reading of the draft policies Policy Development, Board Roles, and Board Governance – Accountability as amended, made by: Qumber Rizvi
Seconded, **Carried**.

Motion to approve first reading of the first omnibus package as amended, made by:
Rehana Devji
Seconded, **Carried**.

b) Transportation Committee (Qumber Rizvi)

Town Hall Meeting

GPS service, draft Windermere route and increase in yellow bus fees were presented and discussed at the Town Hall Meeting held May 4, 2015. GPS could cost approximately \$50/year per child. Without making any commitment, it was suggested perhaps running a GPS pilot on just one (or more) busses to see how it performs. It was also suggested there may be other less expensive options, such as using a tablet that could achieve our goals. GSP service was tabled to the next Board meeting on June 15.

Proposed Windermere Route

The Transportation Coordinator presented the draft Windermere route for consideration and approval. There are cost considerations as the new route will lose money in the first year until more students use the service in this neighborhood. The addition of a new bus will relieve the time/distance difficulties experienced on the Riverbend route.

Motion to approve the proposed draft Windermere Route for the 2015-2016 school year as presented, made by: Qumber Rizvi
Seconded, **Carried**.

c) Communication Committee (Rehana Devji)

Communication Committee met April 22, 2015. Topics discussed included budget, school program, lack of agenda items, and bridging the communication gap. The committee chair noted that meeting minutes need to be send out in a timelier manner and that these meetings are a venue to brainstorm new concepts and areas as well as air staff concerns.

A concern raised from gallery that there is a lack teacher attendance, due to scheduling. The Chair indicated that she will consider creating a master schedule of meeting dates for the year. She also noted that the committee rely on feedback from teachers for agenda items. School based administration also noted they had requested agenda items at their respective staff meetings prior to this past meeting.



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15-05-19-09 Other Items

School Council Meeting (Rehana Devji)

Rehana Devji attended the April 14, 2015 School Council meeting as the Board representative. It was a productive meeting noting a presentation to School Council was made by School Start which provide school supplies to schools. A concern was heard with respect to WiFi running through the school and whether this could be addressed in our new construction.

Grad Ceremony (Susan Mallory)

The grad organizers have asked if a Board member could speak to grads at their upcoming June 6, 2015 grad banquet. Rehana Devji will speak on behalf of the Board at Grad. Susan Mallory will email Peter Dang to let him know Rehana will be the Board speaker.

<i>ACTION ITEM (15-05-19-08)</i>	
<i>Board Secretary will email Peter Dang with the name of the board member speaking at Grad.</i>	<i>Susan Mallory, Board Secretary</i>

15-05-19-09 Upcoming Date Reminders

- May 29 Teacher PD Day
- May 29 Director Interviews, Superintendent Evaluation
- June 2 School Council
- June 6 Grade 9 Graduation Banquet
- June 15 (Mon) Next Board Meeting

15-03-20-11 Adjournment

[Motion to adjourn the May 19, 2015 Board Meeting at 9:55 pm, made by: Rehana Devji](#)

Submitted by: _____
Susan Mallory, Recording Secretary