

Aurora Board of Directors Meeting MINUTES

Monday, November 21, 2016

RATIFIED

Present: Shamir Mukhi, Steven Penney, Rehana Devji, Rebecca Harrison, Marla Leganchuk, Dale Bischoff, Holly Maccagno.

Absent: Qumber Rizvi

Special Guests: Barth Bradley, Jared Harmata

Observers: Jacquie Harman, Robert Kossick, Paola Mayo, Rick Woodward, Francine Gregory

1. Board Chair Shamir Mukhi called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.
 - a) Addition to agenda (Dale) under Calendar Reminders: Sarah Hoffman (MLA) coming to Aurora Friday, November 25th at 1 p.m. Board members invited to attend and meet her. **Moved** (Steven), seconded (Rebecca) to accept the amended agenda. **Carried.**
 - b) Board meeting minutes of October 17th reviewed. **Moved** (Rehana), seconded (Rebecca) that minutes be adopted as presented. **Carried.** Action items were reviewed – all have been completed.
2. **Guest Reports** (written versions only, not orally presented)
 - a) J Harman, Elementary School Principal - Report on Grade 2 Study period. Board members commented that it was a very well-thought-out and well-written report. Presented the rationale for setting up the Grade 2 Study Period with its focus on reading. The report addressed how the study period was functioning and accommodations presented to parents/students not having the same goals as the teachers.
 - b) Janet Rockwood, Middle School Principal – Report on PAT Results with individual teachers addressing results and plans for the future. **ACTION ITEM #1 – Board wants a Principal’s Report with analysis (Summary and Plan for Grades 6 and 9).**
 - c) Ian Gray, Technology Director – the next issue facing Aurora with respect to technology is bandwidth. **ACTION ITEM #2 – Board requests that the Technology Director, together with the Technology Committee, develop a Budget (addressing both short-term and long-term issues) at the January 2017 Board meeting.**
3. **Secretary Treasurer Report**
 - a) Annual Audit (presentation by auditors, Barth Bradley and Jared Harmata, Kingston Ross Pasnak) – auditors presented the Audit Findings and Draft Financial Statements

Moved (Marla), seconded (Rebecca) that \$819,928 be transferred from Aurora’s Operating Reserve to Unrestricted Surplus (representing Aurora’s portion of spending on the construction project). **Carried.**

Moved (Marla), seconded (Rehana) to accept the draft financials as presented. **Carried.**

- b) Fall Budget Update presented – this will be submitted to Alberta Education by November 30.
- c) New support staff hires – Transportation Coordinator interviews set for Monday, November 28th. There was discussion on how bussing will be revamped next year to avoid many of the problems that Aurora faced this fall. Pending an update on Susan’s return date, we may need to hire secretarial support.

4. Superintendent Report

- a) Architect search update – Randy Darr and Dale have interviewed several architects for Phase II (closes November 22nd). Shamir, Randy and Dale will evaluate candidates.
- b) Phase II modernization – Gym has been refurbished. The new architect will look at the new entrance, elevator, etc. – perhaps to start summer of 2017.
- c) AGM Preparations – Staff is helping out Thursday night, child care will be provided in the elementary wing. All parents have been informed that they will be able to register for proxy votes on Tuesday and Wednesday (November 22nd and 23rd) between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. We will try a new format permitting voters to question candidates at the AGM. A parent will be allowed to ask only one question. Dale to moderate what might be a difficult task.
- d) TAAPCS has awarded Aurora School the 2017 Teacher Conference. This will be in the fall, actual dates to be confirmed later.
- e) AERR – discussed PAT scores and presented some seemingly contradictory survey results/differing perceptions among parents/teachers.

5. Board Committee Reports

- a) Transportation (Rebecca) – Rebecca, Dale, Tejinder and Marla met Thursday, November 17th, regarding the Riverbend and Ellerslie routes (revamping the routes and adjusting pickup/drop-off times. In 2017, all the bus routes will be revamped using “hubs” on ETS bus routes. These roads are generally wider, safer and are ploughed of snow in the winter.
- b) Communication (Rehana) – no report
- c) Technology/Learning Commons (Qumber) – no report
- d) Finance (Marla) – no report
- e) Policy (Steven) – no report
- f) Growth (Shamir) – no report

6. Chair Items

- a) Let’s Grow Together Afternoon – team building exercise and Board sponsored luncheon will be held on PD Day (Dec.16). Board and Staff to get together over an extended lunch hour (11:30 am to 1 pm).

ACTION ITEM #3 – Holly to contact Melissa Penney re: sling bags (have almost enough to distribute to 2016-17 Kindergarten students).

Steven Penney thanked outgoing Board Directors (Marla Leganchuk and Qumber Rizvi) for their many hours of volunteer service and efforts on Board related work.

- b) AIR – A report by the Board Chair will be provided at the AGM and available on the Aurora website. Dave van Tamelen assisted with this report. The report discusses many facets such as the role of the Board, facility modernization, PAT results, continued growth, survey results, policy reorganization, and Aurora program enhancements (ex. PE/Athletics). As well, a Board goal is to provide a visioning exercise beginning in the New Year.

7. **Calendar reminders:**

- a) Next Board meeting – December 19th, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- b) AGM – Thursday, November 24th, 7:00 p.m.
- c) Director PD, December 1st, 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (Suzuki Charter School)
Moved by Rehana Devji, seconded Steven Penney to go “in camera”. **Carried.**
Moved by Rehana Devji, seconded by Steven Penney, to come out of camera, 9:48 pm.
Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:49 pm