



April 13, 2017

April Regular Board Meeting Highlights

Chair Natalya Nicholson provided an oral report on a number of items impacting charter schools, including the status of Bill 1 and the School Nutrition program. Public charter schools are excluded from the funding of school supplies and nutrition programs. She also commented on a number of interesting news stories in the past few weeks. She reviewed the correspondence, noting that Minister Eggen clarified in correspondence that Bill 1 excludes public charter school families.

Vice Chair Margo Purcell facilitated a board discussion on the parent Speak Out event. Directors value the opportunity to engage with parents and indicated a desire to enlarge, enhance, and expand the opportunities for meaningful engagement on topics of interest to parents. A number of potential topics have been identified through survey information and Speak Outs to date.

- Margo reported on the Policy and Governance Committee meeting which reviewed policies 8 and 9. An amended policy 8 will be recommended by the Committee at the May meeting. Policy 9 (Board Representatives) requires further discussion.
- The Board's Nominating Sub-Committee includes Margo, Natalya and Brad Takenaka whose role is to facilitate the application, nomination and election of Directors for the Charter Board

TAAPCS representative, Director Geordie MacPherson, summarized the four options proposed for amending the fee structure. As a member of the Fees Committee of TAAPCS, Geordie will represent the Board's preferred option at the upcoming TAAPCS General Meeting where Budget and Fees will be decided.

- Natalya, Geordie, and Wayne Marshall will be attending the May General Meeting of TAAPCS hosted by Valhalla School. Directors are supporting the new direction of TAAPCS as it develops into a directors' organization representing the political and advocacy role of the governing Charter School Boards. Concern continues to grow about the future of charter schools and parental choice in education.

The **Superintendent's Report** was attached to the agenda package which is posted on the website. Dianne also invited Secretary-Treasurer Wendy Juergens to update the Board on the modular replacement project (approved to go to tender) and the busing contract. Wendy presented a change request for use of Casino Funds to support the School Council's outdoor classroom project.



Budget 2017-18 in DRAFT was presented by Wendy. The status quo budget will be based on enrolment of 588. The detailed budget based on the assumptions presented, the Board's guiding principles, and input from the Directors will be presented at the May meeting. Costs outpace the funding which has not increased in the past few years.

Employee Expense Reimbursement Rates were reviewed and then approved to remain at the current rates for 2017-18 as noted in Administrative Procedure 513. The amended AP notes that foreign travel as well as combined travel (personal travel extending business/PD travel) requires prior approval of the Superintendent. These changes are intended to ensure consideration of the most cost effective use of resources.

Board Election will occur at the May 31 General Meeting of the Calgary Girls' School Society called for the purpose of an election. Four Directors will complete their three-year terms this spring so that number of positions will be open on the Board. The Board encourages all interested parents and nonparents to apply as per the notice on the website. Applicants need to outline their skills/experience/education that will contribute to the Board's capacity. As well, each applicant is asked to include a statement regarding his/her interest in an all-girls, all-for-girls learning environment and support for the charter school movement. The nominating subcommittee will interview applicants and prepare a list of qualified nominees for the election. All parents/guardians of enrolled students are members of the Calgary Girls' School Society. Note that voting is limited to one vote/family representative.

Amended Fee Schedule shows a reduced amount for **Technology at Grade 6**. The initial plan to use an iPad until mid-Grade 6 and then also include a laptop was revised by the school. Students in grades 4-6 will use iPad; 7-9 will use laptop. The reduced fee from \$300 to \$150 for grade six reflects the addition of keyboards for use with iPad, contribution to the technology services, and instructional apps. The school will present a revised, long-range Technology Plan to reflect anticipated learning and instructional needs by December 2017. Parents, staff, and Directors will be invited to participate in developing and/or informing the plan. The intention is to review the teaching and learning purposes, costs, options, and desired responses to rapid changes in the world of technology. Sounds like a great Speak Out engagement topic!

Board Events and Representatives

The Board reviewed its busy spring schedule and also appointed Director Geordie MacPherson to address the Grade Nine graduating class and present the Alumni pins on behalf of the Board. Directors take turns fulfilling this honoured role at graduation.