

Board Meeting Highlights October 2016

Note: The agenda package is posted to the Calgary Girls' School website prior to the meeting and includes detailed information in the background for each item.

Reports

Board Chair Natalya Nicholson noted the successful Board development seminar series attended by Directors from at least six of the charter school boards. She also commented on CGS representation to TAAPCS's annual fall meeting and AGM in Calgary. She drew attention to the correspondence from Minister Eggen as well as the AB Education announcement of the planned feedback opportunities related to K-12 curriculum review.

Superintendent McBeth included her report in the agenda package but also commented on the International Day of the Girl October 11 and the positive news that lease funding for NGPCA was finally approved by AB Education.

Annual Monitoring Reports

The Board received several Monitoring Reports:

- Enrolment Monitoring notes the annual funded enrolment based on the September 30 student count. The report shows distribution by quadrant of the city, count by grade for both new and continuously enrolled students as well as historical comparisons. Because budget is based on enrolment, variances significantly impact the available resources.
- Risk Management Monitoring considers organizational risk in four key areas including hazard, financial, operational and strategic. Risk mitigation includes governance oversight as well as management procedures. Because public schools operate in a highly regulated environment, strategic risk is the most unpredictable area of risk mitigation. Changes in charter school legislation or competition from increased opportunities for all-girls schools or programs are examples of strategic risks that could impact the future of CGS.
- Technology Services (new) describes the Board's current investment in technology services. Alberta Education sets five key policy directions related to technology support: student-centered learning, research and innovation, professional learning, leadership capacity and system efficiency, and enhancement of professional practice. The investment in technology for the 2015-16 school year, not including staffing, was \$612/student. The baseline information will support year to year as well as external comparisons.

Policy Review

The Board regularly reviews its Governance Policy Handbook to build shared understanding and ensure compliance in decision-making. The Board considered Policy 2 *Role of the Charter Board* and determined that at a later date it would be worthwhile for the Governance and Policy

Committee to take a closer look at the policy, primarily to include succession planning as well as to streamline the key indicators of success as noted in the appendix.

Casino Funds

The Charter Board, which is also the CGS Society Board approved the School Council's request for the use of the remaining casino funds as well as the plans for the use of funds expected as a result of the upcoming 2016-17 casino. The Calgary Girls' School Society holds the casino license which is why the Board approves the use of funds. Appreciation was expressed regarding the efforts of Leslie Marshall, parent and Coordinator, for her detailed report and list of priority items as determined by School Council and staff.

Student One-to-One Technology Administrative Procedure (new)

A new Administrative Procedure 507 outlines the one-to-one technology provided to students at CGS and details the fees as well as opportunity for ownership. The AP defines the changes and processes going forward as CGS completes its transition from the lease program to Board ownership of the student and staff technology.

Financial Statements

Stanley Wong, Chair of the Board's Finance and Audit Committee reported on the meeting called for the purpose of reviewing the draft year-end (Fourth Quarter) financial statements 2014-15. The operating results align closely with Budget 2014-15; however, it was noted that the final statements will show a deficit of about \$225,000 due lower than presumed enrolment and Board-approved "extra-to-the-budget" expenses primarily related to investment in technology - new infrastructure, lease buy-outs for the classroom monitors, and teacher-use laptops. While AB Education does not permit Boards to submit a deficit budget, the accumulated operating surplus (AOS) was the source of the additional funds for these needed expenditures.

Student Achievement Results – Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT's)

The Superintendent reported on the results achieved in the June 2015 Provincial Achievement Tests.

- Grade 6 results in LA and SS continue to be "very high"/ whereas both SC and MA saw decline over the previous year – a provincial trend. Nevertheless, the results in both SC and MA are above provincial average. These were noted as "intermediate" achievement.
- Grade 9 results in LA, MA, Science and SS were "very high" although there was some decline in the standard of excellence in Science. All grade 9 results continue to be significantly above provincial average.

Note: *Highlights* is a summary of the meeting results and is intended as a communications tool. The approved Minutes for each Board Meeting is the official record.