

January Regular Meeting Board Highlights

Board Chair, Natalya Nicholson gave an oral report and commented on items in the Board's correspondence file. She reported on the completion of the Status of Women Grant application which is a CGS partnership with the New Comers' Centre. The goal if successful in the application, is to provide a series of leadership seminars and mentorship opportunities for alumni of both organizations.

Board Vice Chair, Margo Purcell reported on the recent meeting of the Policy and Governance Committee and also summarized the planning meeting for the upcoming parents' *Speak Out* event which is tentatively planned for mid-March. More details will follow as the plans unfold.

Superintendent, Dianne McBeth provided a written report which was attached to the posted agenda package.

The First Quarter Financial Report, previously previewed by the Audit and Finance Committee, was presented by Stanley Wong, Committee Chair. The quarterly results are as expected - "on budgeted with targets" with a small surplus being generated from the Board and Systems budget. However, the overall end position is projected to show a deficit as a result of Board motions to support capital projects focused on health, safety and security. To date, the Board has approved the installation of a new telephone/intercom system in the schools and is in the process of upgrading flooring. Consideration is also being given to improving the traffic flow and security of the school offices. A conceptual design is forthcoming and expected in February. More detailed information on the First Quarter Financial Report can be found in the posted agenda package.

The Annual Human Resource Services Monitoring Report was presented by the Superintendent who commented on the low churn rate of staff and high satisfaction indicators. Further, she noted the impact of the two cost drivers on the certificated staffing grid. The annual cost of the roll up is decreasing; however, the impact from year to year is cumulative. The grid roll up is approximately 1% of the staffing budget annually and is not supported by targeted funding. The impact is that other budget areas must absorb the additional costs.

Policy Review – the Board continues to review its *Governance Policy Handbook* in an annual cycle. This "best practice" builds shared understanding, provides opportunity to assess the effects, and ensures timely amendments in response to any contextual changes (e.g., Ministerial orders). The Board considered *Policy 4 Director Code of Conduct* and concluded that no changes were needed at this time. The Policy will remain in force.

The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools (TAAPCS) annually holds a General Meeting in January (21-22) in Red Deer. This year member Charter Boards received notice of a Special Resolution to consider rescinding and replacing the Association's Bylaws. A new organizational chart will be presented to clarify the Bylaw changes. Directors Geordie MacPherson and Wayne Marshall will be in attendance to represent the CGS Board. Guest B. Kallal will be in attendance to assist the Association in developing shared understanding and achieving consensus on the Bylaws proposed.

The Board reviewed *in camera* advice from legal counsel T. Haykowski (MacLennan Ross) re: Board responsibility for risk management.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, February 8, 6:00 pm Lakeview Campus