

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF IRECTORS
AGM MEETING
HELD AT THE Lakeview School
6304 LARKSPUR WAY S.W.
CALGARY, ALBERTA

WEDNESDAY November 25, 2015

Regrets: Nataile Kwadrans, Geordie
MacPherson
Heather Currie

Administration:

Guests:

Chair	Tamara McCarron
Director	Natalya Nicholson
Director	Miriam Berchuk
Director	Margo Purcell
Director	Stanley Wong
Director	Greg Tarr
Director	Marcus Paterson
Director	Caroline Claussen
Director	Wayne Marshall
Director	Shary Baig
Superintendent	Dianne McBeth
Secretary Treasurer	Wendy Juergens
Principal	Judi Hadden
Parents:	Lori Zak
	Nova MacIntosh
	Sabrina Wilde
	Laurie Miller
	Allison Mac Donald
	Wendy James-Smith

1. **Call to order:** Tamara called the meeting to order at 7.35 pm and explained the definition of Quorum (Article Four at 4.04 in the Bylaws): “A quorum for the transaction of any business at a Society meeting exists when there are at least nine (9) Members in attendance and the Charter Board Members are in the minority.” She noted that the number of Members met the definition but the ratio of parents to Board Members did not. To resolve this issue, the following Directors volunteered to leave the meeting: Miriam Berchuk, Caroline Claussen, Stanley Wong, Wayne Marshall and Marcus Paterson. This achieved Quorum so that the meeting could continue.
2. **Approval of the Agenda**
Motion: 2015-11-25-01: Motion to approve the agenda.
Moved: Margo **Carried**
3. **Approval of Minutes**
3.1. Approval of the Minutes of the November 26, 2014 Annual General Meeting
Motion: 2015-11-25-02: Motion to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2014 Annual General Meeting of the Board of Directors.
Moved: Natalya **Carried**
5. **Chair’s Report (Inserted below)**

It has been another incredibly busy year as we continue to position CGS as a school of choice by supporting an innovative, successful program designed to support and maximize learning for our girls.

- Our girls continue to excel academically – and our results on the provincial achievement tests exceeded the provincial averages.
- Ensuring that our girls continue to succeed, the Board approved a number of locally developed courses, including the Go Girls curriculum, for the maximum three year term.
- We hosted our first student *Speak Outs* for our girls and also for the Calgary-area charter school. This allowed an incredible opportunity to engage our student communities in an important dialogue that will help shape the future direction of the charter schools.

In addition to the oversight functions the board continued to strengthen its internal processes and governance. In 2014-15 we:

- Welcomed new members to the Board of Directors including Wayne Marshall, Shary Baig, and Natalie Kwandrans.
- Met with government representatives including MLA Linda Johnson and Councillor Brian Pincott to discuss some of our unique opportunities for partnership and growth.
- We attended a meeting of charter school Superintendents and Board Chairs with his Honourable Gordon Dirks, Minister of Education.
- We performed an annual Board self-evaluation and evaluation of the Superintendent which were both externally facilitated.
- We continue to review our board policies to ensure we are compliant and the policies remain relevant.
- We continue to support numerous opportunities for professional development for our staff.
- We approved the 3 year capital plan for lease support and major modernization to Lakeview.
- We engaged Matt Knapik, architect, as we consider some options for long range student accommodation and planning.
- We developed a Graduation Gift Policy to assist and support decision-making into the future and supported the Art Inventory to ensure proper accounting for the Fine Art gifts.
- To balance our operating budget, we made changes to our transportation services that resulted in greater efficiency while ensuring safe, timely and affordable transport to and from school.
- We updated our society bylaws to ensure greater accountability and to improve the inner-workings of the society.
- We purchased a Board Office condo for administrative offices and reduced the long term costs of leasing a much larger facility.
- We reviewed HR policies and employee compensation to help recruit and retain staff through a competitive compensation package.
- The Honorary Council continues to thrive and provides a valuable connection to our school community.
- We balanced our budget without having to raise fees.

To my fellow board members:

- Shary
- Wayne
- Heather
- Marcus
- Natalie
- Stanley
- Greg
- Miriam
- Caroline
- Geordie
- Margo
- Natalya

To our amazing team:

Superintendent Dianne for her incredible leadership, compassion and professionalism; Secretary-Treasurer Wendy, our financial beacon; Principal Judi and Associates Valda and Oliver as well as the educators and support staff at the schools; and Tara and Ruth for keeping the administrative office humming!

Thank you, everyone!

Over the past 8 years I have had the opportunity to see many things that volunteer leaders never get to see! I have had the tremendous opportunity of working with all three of our wonderful and highly skilled superintendents, witnessed a school that has had the courage to do what it believes is the best for its students and have witnessed the school's transformation into a place where girls feel safe to grow and learn. We have solid governance practices, a balanced budget and a wonderful team of people to continue our success into the future. If I could share any wisdom it would be to never lose sight of why we are here and to always have the courage and conviction to do what we think is best.

On behalf of the board of directors, we are extremely proud of our students and their many accomplishments. We appreciate our staff for their commitment to professional excellence. We are grateful for the parents and families who support our girls in their academic and social learning.

On a personal note - it has been a wonderful privilege to serve on the board for the Calgary Girls School and I wish you tremendous success and I thank you for this most amazing experience.

Submitted by Tamara McCarron, President of the Calgary Girls' School Society and Chair of the Charter Board of Directors.

7. Report on Results Achieved – Superintendent Dianne McBeth presented the Summary of Results achieved on the Accountability Pillar. The Summary was attached to the agenda and also posted in the AERR-3YEP on the CGS website. Dianne noted the outstanding results achieved especially the charter goals related to improving girls academic achievement and social/emotional growth.

8. Report on the Financial Results - The Audited Financial Statements were presented by Stanley Wong, Secretary-Treasurer of the CGS Society and Chair, Finance and Audit Committee. The AFS are posted to the website and additional financial information is also included in the AERR/3YEP which is also posted annually to the website by November 30 as required by Alberta Education.

9. Vice Chair's Report on Transition Plans for Electing Directors to the Charter Board.

Natalya explained changes resulting from the New Bylaws. In accordance with the Bylaws, Society Officers would give Members notice of a Special Meeting for the purpose of holding an election. This Meeting would occur before the end of May in a given school year. Directors who are concluding their terms would either seek re-election or step down. Members would be advised of any openings and interested parties would be invited to submit their applications to the Governance Committee of the Board. She noted that the Board would move from 13 to 9 members.

10. Motion: 2015-11-25-03: to Adjourn at 8:25 pm

Moved: Tamara

Carried