

Board Meeting Highlights February 2018

For the full agenda package, including reports and background information visit the following link:
<http://calgarygirlsschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/February-Agenda-Board-Package-Public-1.pdf>

Note: Highlights is a brief communication to the learning community presented after each Regular Board Meeting whereas the official record is the approved Minutes of the Meeting.

TAAPCS – Geordie MacPherson, the CGS Director representative to the Association of Public Charter Schools and Vice Chair of the Directors' Committee of TAAPCS reported on the Special Meeting of February 8 called for the purpose of establishing the fee structure. Geordie chaired this meeting where member boards approved the fee proposal put forward by FFCA (base \$5000/school authority plus \$2.50/enrolled Student as of September 30 count). The fee proposal provides for the 2017-18 budget and going forward until the next budget review. TAAPCS committees are now formed as per the new Bylaws and the list of volunteers was circulated.

Superintendent's Report – was attached to the agenda package. Dianne updated the Board on the status of the water leak and seepage into the boiler room at Lakeview. Both CBE and the City responded promptly and are addressing the problem. Access to the school and the parking lot are restricted due to road closures where the City is checking water mains.

Transportation Services Annual Monitoring Report – the Board reviewed the report which is attached to the agenda package. Despite the frequency of late arrivals related to one route, the overall performance from month to month, according to the GPS data from First Student is between 95.8 and 100% for on-time arrivals and departures. The total number of trips (2 times daily) range from 48 (August) to 432 (most frequent number) per month. Directors noted that fees compare very well to City transportation at about the same cost per ride (CGS is slightly less with dedicated seats and no transfers). The move to congregated stops increased a sense of safety (students cluster), reduced overall route times, and shaved about 30 minutes on average off the early start times. The "no child left behind" policy means buses are required to stop at all designated stops regardless of whether or not it may seem that no one is at the stop. Late buses are also required to complete the full route. Pressure points in transportation include: ridership uncertainty from year to year; metro/urban funding that covers about 1/3 of the actual cost; timeliness of communication to parents when buses are delayed; vast distances with limited numbers of routes due to the ongoing deficit in transportation. The Board noted that subsidy requests continue to increase and exceed \$18,000 this current year. Areas for advocacy include funding (sparsity and distance factors to be included in charter school formulas) and sharing among school authorities to reduce cost and improve service.

Enrolment Monitoring Annual Report – the Board reviewed the enrolment by grade over time noting that grades 5 and 7 are the most impacted by churn – exiting and/or new Student arrivals. The highest percentage of enrolment drop occurred in 2013/14 while the largest percentage gain was noted in 2014/15. The enrolment cap is 600 – the most efficient number for operating our two campuses. The average annual enrolment from 2005-2017 is 578



Superintendent
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students. While the largest percentage of students are from the South East and South West, several new schools recently opened in these quadrants and negatively impacted our enrolment. Bill 1 An Act to Reduce School Fees also impacted charter schools, including CGS. Enrolment from the North West and North East continues to grow.

Plant Operations and Maintenance – the Secretary Treasurer reported on this shared service agreement which has served both parties very well by reducing costs while increasing services.

Governance Policy Review Cycle – The Board continues the recommended practice of annually reviewing all its governance policies (2-3 / Board meeting) to build shared understanding, ensure compliance in decision-making, and to identify adaptations for changing circumstances. The Board reviewed Policy Making and the Role of the Superintendent.

Speak Out – The Board approved the plans for the annual Parent Speak Out which will focus on nurturing leadership in girls and young women. Speak Out on March 15 at Lakeview campus will open with a panel of distinguished Calgary women in various leadership roles. Facilitated “kitchen table” conversations will provide opportunity for participants (parents, staff, directors and panel members) to consider the most important priorities in developing a strong leadership component to the Go Girls Curriculum. All parents are welcome to attend!

