



Board Meeting Highlights October 2018

Please note: The *Highlights Summary* is intended to support communication about Board decisions. The record of a Board Meeting is found in the Minutes which are posted to the website following approval at the next Meeting. More detailed information about each item is also in the background information that forms part of the posted agenda package.

Questions are always welcome – please email Dianne.mcbeth@calgarygirlsschool.com

Chair Natalya Nicholson welcomed and introduced School Council Co-Chair Elizabeth Werner and noted that Co-Chair Jennifer MacLellan was unable to attend. The Board was pleased to meet Ms. Werner and expressed appreciation for her voluntary service to the CGS community. Natalya also reviewed the correspondence and circulated the folder.

Director Christine Jackson, the Board's representative to TAAPCS (charter schools association) encouraged attendance at the upcoming fall AGM and shared the agenda for that meeting. She also reviewed highlights of the letter to the Hon. David Eggen, Minister of Education, from Mr. Ron Koper, Chair of the Governors' Committee. On behalf of all charter schools, Mr. Koper raised concerns about the impact of recent GOA decisions that undermine board autonomy and compromise the work of boards. Among the concerns: enrolment caps, expansion requests, equitable funding for inclusive education, infrastructure and other examples of "breaches in fair and reasonable equity in the allocation of public funds [to public charter schools]." A copy of the TAAPCS letter will be sent to MLA Anam Kazim (Calgary Glenmore) and MLA Greg Clark (Calgary Elbow).

Director Margo Purcell reported on the meeting of the Board's Governance and Policy Committee. She reviewed Policy 3 Role of the Director and Policy 4 Director Code of Conduct. Policy 3 was approved to "remain in force" whereas Policy 4 was approved "as amended" by recommended by the Committee.

Director Gary Care reported on the meeting of the Board's Compensation Committee. The Board approved the Non Certificated (Classified) Staff Compensation which included updated grids applicable to new hires as of 2018-19. Existing employees will continue on the previous grid. Updates included clarity around the many new Leaves of Absence (unpaid) arising from legislative changes and a definition of overtime also consistent with the Labour Standards. The Certificated Staff Compensation was also approved for the grids to remain "as is" as they are competitive and consistent with surrounding school authorities.



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Director Stanley Wong reported on the meeting of the Audit and Finance Committee. He reviewed the year end DRAFT financial statements noting the impact of unpaid transportation fees and fuel escalation on the deficit in this budget envelope. The Committee will meet before the November Board meeting and the Society AGM, also in November, to receive the Audited Financial Statements from KPMG, the Board's appointed audit firm.

Director Caroline Claussen reported on the meeting of the Branding and Marketing Committee and outlined the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for October 24 at which time the Directors would develop the scope for a multi-year branding and marketing strategy. At the upcoming Society AGM, the Board hopes to announce the strategy to stabilize enrolment. Numerous new or modernized schools in the traditional catchment area, a weak definition of the unique value of CGS, increased competition from an alternative all-girls program, and inequitable funding that discriminates against parents of students in programs of choice are reflected in significant fluctuations in enrolment.

The Superintendent's report was included in the agenda package posted to the website. Additionally, Dianne summarized meetings with the School Council regarding the Board's motion related to "celebration of girls and women", Executive Director of the National Coalition of Girls' Schools (250 member all-girls schools), Alberta Education Field Services, Mandatory Driver Training (MELT program) implemented by the GOA, CGS engagement with a UA research project on computational thinking and coding, and the school leadership team's upcoming (November 29) attendance at sessions on the new Teaching Quality Standards and Leadership Quality Standards.

Secretary Treasurer, Wendy Juergens provided a brief update on the move to a new accounting system and noted that this year's audit will review both systems to ensure an accurate transfer of balances. The new system will provide staff with viewing privileges that will support better monitoring of the school's various budget lines. AS well, Ms. Juergens outlined the benefits of the new *Public Works* online program that supports implementation of recent changes to OHS legislation. Implementation will occur before the end of November.

The Superintendent presented the Accountability Pillar results from May 2018 (stakeholder survey information gathered in January / February of 2018) and the Provincial Achievement Tests (June 2018 administration) results. The PAT information was presented in camera as the provincial release date was October 18 (one day after the board meeting). A news release to parents will provide a summary of the PAT results as the individual results were provided to students (grade 7 students who wrote in grade 6) and mailed to the grade 9 students who are

now in various high schools. Principal Oliver Fisher will review the results with staff and present to the School Council at the upcoming meeting in November. The Results form part of the Annual Education Results Report (AERR) and inform the Three Year Strategic Plan (annually revised) that will come to the Board at the Regular Meeting in November. The combined AERR/3YEP is due to Alberta Education by November 30. The AERR/3YEP which includes the Accountability & PAT results, along with strategies for improvement will be posted to the CGS website on or before November 30.

The Superintendent presented changes to the Administrative Procedures Manual (AP). AP 163 Drugs and Alcohol was amended and renamed to *Impairment, Possession and Use*. The changes are in response to the recent legalization of cannabis. Further AP507 *Student Technology Devices* (previously amended and reviewed by the Board) was further amended to include changes to the appendixes: (B) Parent Information, (C) Responsible Use Agreement, and (C) Summer or Extended Absence Agreement. The AP and appendixes will be posted in Family Zone on the website.

Three D Forest Created by Grade 6



Teachers at work learning about learning – PD Day!