



Public Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 14, 2015

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

FFCA Boardroom

#240, 688 Heritage Dr. SE

Calgary, AB T2H 1M6

Attendees:

Board & Administration: Shelley Schroh, Andrew Chu, Amish Patel, Cristian Rios, Wayne Weinheimer, Roger Nippard, Reta Morgan, John Deines, Judy Gray, Deanna Werklund, Salima Hudani, Jeff Cullen, Meredith Poole

Presenters: Shelley Murray (ASC) Phoebe Greentree, Gina Grace

Gallery: Jesse Classen, Sadiq Valliani

6:00 CALL TO ORDER – REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

- 1. Review of Meeting Agenda** - Add Item 3.2 ASC Report; Item 10.5 Director Highlights
 - Revise Items 10.2 & 10.4 to read “Update” rather than “Terms of Reference”
 - Add Item 10.5 Director Highlights
- 2. Approval of Minutes** of September 16, 2015
MOVED by Amish Patel and seconded by Wayne Weinheimer, as presented. CARRIED.
- 3. Campus/ASC Reports**
 - 3.1 Leadership Role of the Student Services Team** - Gina Grace, Counsellor at SMS, reported on the Family School Liaison Counsellor Conference hosted very successfully by our own Student Services Team on Oct. 1 & 2. There were approximately 90 people in attendance from all over the province, with several sessions being done by our own counsellors. It also provided an opportunity to spread factual information about FFCA to many other Alberta Boards. Thanks were expressed to our Tech Team which was on site for the 2 days to ensure that everything ran smoothly.

3.2 ASC Report – Shelley Murray reported that the last ASC meeting was held on Sept. 24, with Salima Hudani presenting on the use of Office 365. A review of ASC and School Council bylaws is underway with the plan being to present the ASC bylaws at the Dec. 2 AGM for approval. John Picard, principal of FFCA High School, will be presenting on FFCA Scholarships at the next meeting on Oct. 22.
- 4. Staff Reports**
 - 4.1 Digital Citizenship (DC) at FFCA** – Director of Educational Technology, Salima Hudani, reported on FFCA’s approach to teaching DC, which is direct rather than incidental. She showcased the 9-element DC poster which hangs in all of our classrooms and other key locations throughout FFCA. Our DC targets are also embedded in our Character Education Framework. As well, Salima uses the “traffic light” visual to help students learn which websites are appropriate (green), when you should be asking questions (yellow), and which are not right for you (red). Salima puts on sessions for teachers and parents as well, and our Schollie Surveys show evidence of significant improvement in the understanding and adoption of the rules of DC.
- 5. Correspondence**

Card to Board from Pamela Wilson
Several letters from Calgary MLA’s in response to our congratulatory letters sent in June
- 6. Policies** – The Board is meeting with Terry Gunderson on Nov. 28 to review the policy work done to date and determine next steps.
- 7. Superintendent’s Report:** Highlights: 1. Several meetings with MLA’s on behalf of both FFCA and TAAPCS, 2. EAC meeting in Red Deer had a “still waiting to see” atmosphere in terms of charter school support from the new government; of significance, however, are recent developments with New Horizons school, who have been “requested” to share their space with the Francophone Board, 3. Meetings with several campus admin teams and more in the coming days, 4. Admin meeting for 1½ days with David Townsend on the topic of goal-setting; we will be continuing this work, 5. Submission of a proposal by Gordon Welch to conduct a review of our HR policies and procedures; a decision is imminent, 6. HS

teachers Pamela Hunnisett and Ted McClare will present on behalf of FFCA at the NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English) conference in Costa Rica in Jan, 2016, 7. Tech Director Jeff Cullen will present at the CoSN (Consortium for School Networking) Conference in Washington in April 2016, 8. The Deputy Minister emailed all Principals directly to request a response concerning GSA's, with a 2-day turnaround, and also requested that we participate in EDI (Early Development Instrument) testing of Kindergarten students, 10. Attended the Night of the Phoenix which is an amazing celebration of the diverse achievements of our high school students, 10. The efforts of all involved with the facilities meeting at the high school were applauded, as we have a lot of good information to take to our Value-Scoping meeting with the government on Oct. 19/20.

8. Discussion Items

8.1 Board Goals

MOVED by Cristian Rios and seconded by Amish Patel that the Board accept the 2015-16 Board Goals as follows:

1. Preferred Future: approve the framework by March 2016
2. One School Mandate: define what One School is by March 2016 to put into Preferred Future
3. Parental Partnership: define what this means across our "One School"
4. Government Relations: includes Public Awareness

CARRIED.

8.2 Board Audit & Expulsion Committees – Even though these are not mandatory at this point given the delay in proclamation of the new Education Act, the Board felt that the creation of the Audit committee, in particular, should not be delayed, and should be populated according to the requirements of the new Act. Work will begin on this, and on the development of Terms of Reference. It was felt that some training is needed before proceeding with the formation of the Expulsion Committee; Roger has committed to investigating this.

8.3 2014/15 PAT/Diploma Results – John explained to the Board the purposes behind these exams and showed FFCA's results for the past year. In the few areas where FFCA results are not as good as those of the province, it is interesting to note that FFCA's results have stayed fairly stable over the last few years whereas the provincial results rose significantly this past year. The Grade Threes will not write PAT's in the future, but rather SLA's (Student Learning Assessments), and the PAT's will be similarly phased out for Grade 6 and 9 students over the next few years. As well, Diploma exams will now count for 30% of the final mark rather than 50%.

8.4 Wait List Study – Our Wait List Coordinator, Phoebe Greentree, conducted an investigation of wait list admission methods and reported that there are basically only two options open to us: our current first-come, first-served process, or a lottery system. In adopting the latter we would still admit siblings and priority candidates first, and the lottery would apply to the remaining spots. This is something to be considered, bearing in mind that a lot of advance notice would have to be given. There are many expensive programs for conducting such a process; we would likely opt for a manual system which would not cost anything.

8.5 Facilities Meeting – The purposes of the meeting held at the high school on October 7 were 1. To inform the upcoming Value Scoping process with Alberta Education and Infrastructure, and 2. to gather data pertinent to the Preferred Future document which is scheduled to be finalized by the Board this year. The meeting was well-attended and engagement was high.

8.6 Fall Budget Update – The purpose of the Fall Budget Update is to provide current information that may impact the previous budget submission. In the case of FFCA, there is very little variance between predicted and actual enrolments (4 students), and upon examination of the original budget, the Board was in agreement that the original budget submitted in June would remain as is and that Alberta Education be advised accordingly.

8.7 Report from Director of Strategic Partnerships – Deanna itemized some of her recent activities: 1. Working with the First 2000 Days Network regarding Early Childhood Development, with an eye to getting FFCA on board with a pilot project on EDI; 2. Developing an Alumni Network via Facebook, and 3. Looking at the possibility of supporting the use of Emergenetics more broadly throughout FFCA. She is getting some very capable help with this from our HR Administrator, Chloe Radetzky.

9. Information Items

- 9.1 Website Update – The website photographer has taken some good shots at HS, NWE and NMS. This is one of the final phases of our website renewal.
- 9.2 Spirit Wear – Jeff Cullen will be working with Judy to develop an on-line store, and ASC will partner in marketing, with the profits going back to ASC to be used either for the Community Fund or to send reps to the annual ASCA conferences. The Varsity jackets will be available by special order only to Gr. 12 students, and will be modeled by 2 students at their upcoming “Shave your Lid for a Kid” event. Judy is also looking for volunteers to model items for the online ad. The supplier, Dynamic Advertising, has offered to warehouse the items and deliver them free to the schools when they are ordered, or to homes for a charge.
- 9.3 Uniforms – 608 responses were received to the survey, with about 19 pages of comments. The analysis will be complete for presentation at our November meeting.
- 9.3.1 Interpreters - Judy is also looking into ways to access translation services (for P/T conferences, etc.). A proposal will be presented to administrators at their next meeting.
- 9.3.2 Learning for All – Judy is meeting with 6 campuses to try to determine how many students require “accommodations”, and how many “significant modifications” in programming - where might we need to modify curricular outcomes and how do we communicate on the report card?
- 9.4 ABC Connection – Approximately 20 School Council members were in attendance along with several administrators, for a total attendance of approximately 35. Thanks were expressed to Salima Hudani for her informative presentation on Social Media.

10. Committees

- 10.1 Charter Board Committee of the Whole – The Board as a whole met on Oct. 1 and stayed late in order to determine their goals for this year, among other things. John Deines presented PAT/Diploma information, and Judy Gray was in attendance to provide updates on the Spirit Wear & uniform initiatives. The next T-8 (Oct. 27) will be attended by Reta Morgan who will conduct a “Finances 101” class for Directors.
- 10.2 Community Relations Committee Update – The first newsletter of the year went out to all staff and parents on Oct. 8; the next is scheduled to be released prior to the December break. Board Chair Shelley Schroh will be an *ex-officio* member of this committee, and Director Pamela Wilson will assume Shelley’s spot on the committee when she returns from her leave of absence. The Board Christmas party is scheduled for Dec. 12.
- 10.3 Executive Committee – This committee, consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Superintendent, is meeting regularly to plan and coordinate Board operations and review agenda topics.
- 10.4 Human Resources Committee – The HR Committee will be reviewing the Superintendent Performance Review template and related policies in advance of conducting this process. They are also organizing some Board PD where Directors will present on various topics.
- 10.5 Director Highlights – Amish Patel: ABC Connection evening on Social Media and, in particular, the use of Twitter; Cristian Rios: the NMS playground build and the obvious power of community (also got to use power tools!); Wayne Weinheimer: NMS playground build (but he did NOT get to use power tools ☹); Andrew Chu: NMS playground build as well, and how well the event reflected one of our guiding principles about “strong, positive, respectful partnerships among students, staff, parents and community”; Shelley Schroh: The Night of the Phoenix and the obvious evidence of the positive relationships between staff and students.

11. Open to Gallery – Jesse Classen echoed Shelley’s comments about The Night of the Phoenix.

12. Talking Points – Will be circulated.

13. Chairman’s Remarks – Shelley expressed her thanks to the Board and gallery.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:25 p.m.