



Public Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday February 13, 2013

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Central Office Boardroom

#240, 688 Heritage Dr. SE

Calgary, AB

Attendees:

Board & Administration: Bill McGregor (Chair), Cindy Higa (Vice-Chair), Shelley Schroh, Darrin Whitbread, Darren Martin, Bruce Hibbard, Deekay Fox, Jay Pritchard, Reta Morgan, Lorie Skaper-Burtch, Cathy McCauley, Meredith Poole

Presenters: Lorne McDonald, Shawna Drummond, John Kostas, Olana Thomson, Marla Johnson

Gallery: Yvonne DePeel, Haytham Ghouriri, Wanda Hayes, Sheri Rolfe, Key Dang

6:00 CALL TO ORDER

1. Review of Meeting Agenda – Move item 7.4 - Community Relations to follow Item 3 - Staff Reports
2. Approval of Minutes - Jan. 16, 2013 as presented.
MOVED by Shelley Schroh, seconded by Cindy Higa. **CARRIED.**
3. Staff Reports
 - 3.1 North Middle School – Lorne McDonald, Shawna Drummond, Olana Thomson and John Kostas described the evolution of the “Culminating Activity” at NMS, which developed to answer 3 concerns with the year-end Comprehension Tests that were then being used: 1. Are we assessing for higher learning?, 2. Are we creating undue stress?, and 3. How do we make the best use of time re student engagement? From the creation of a “Book of Knowledge” to ongoing written, oral and performance assessments, the assessment process has been refined and enhanced to ensure that it is both accurate and engaging for students.
 - 3.2 Framework for Student Learning – Marla Johnson, also from NMS, reported on her work with Alberta Education on the “Framework for Student Learning”, which is attempting to create a profile for students in the 21st century (“Competencies for Engaged Thinkers and Ethical Citizens with an Entrepreneurial Spirit”). What has struck her most vividly, and has been most gratifying, about this process is that it describes a lot of what we already do at FFCA.
4. Correspondence
Letter to Chair from Chief Electoral Officer re Disclosure of Investigation Results
5. Policies
 - 5.1 I-601 Transportation of Students
Background: This policy has been sent out to campuses and school councils for Second Reading.
Darren Martin **MOVED** that Policy I-601 Transportation of Students to Campus be approved for Second Reading as presented. Cindy Higa seconded. **CARRIED.**
Shelley Schroh **MOVED** that Policy I-601 Transportation of Students to Campus be approved for Third Reading as presented. Bruce Hibbard seconded. **CARRIED.**
 - 5.2 I-701 Counseling
Background: This policy has been sent out to campuses and school councils for Second Reading.

Shelley Schroh **MOVED** that Policy I-701 Counseling be approved for Second Reading as presented. Deekay Fox seconded. **CARRIED.**

Shelley Schroh **MOVED** that Policy I-701 Counseling be approved for Third Reading as presented. Cindy Higa seconded. **CARRIED.**

6. Superintendent's Report

6.1 Gonzaga Partnership – Reps from Gonzaga and FFCA met for the fourth time last week and developed a plan for a partnership which will be presented to higher officials at Gonzaga. The first offering (this spring) will be a stand-alone course (“The Principalship”) which will be transferrable to a Master’s degree from GU. Future plans include an FFCA cohort in an FFCA- tailored Master’s program, as well as collaboration in research and publishing.

6.2 Wait List – Our Wait List is “out of control” with approximately 150 names having been added in only the last few days, and the entering of new applications having turned into a full-time job. K 2018 is already full, and K 2019 is almost full. Moreover, it has been determined that the Wait List functions less on a “first-come-first-served” basis than a “first-born, first-served” basis, with most of the potential admissions being born in October through January, and subsequent entries being so far down as to be unlikely to gain admission in the designated year. The Board will have further discussions on potential future amendments to the admission procedures.

7. Reports of Committees

7.1 Finance

7.1.1 Finance Committee Meeting Report

The Finance Committee (of the whole) met on Jan. 23/13 and refined the guiding principles for the 2013-2014 budget. The next meeting will take place after the provincial budget announcement on March 7.

7.1.2 Transportation Payment Options

Changes to the payment options are something that we can consider, but since re-registration begins first thing next week, it is impossible to do this for the 2013-14 year. Reta pointed out that the collection of fees is a very time-consuming process, and to increase the number of times that fees have to be collected will make it even more time-consuming. She also mentioned that she is, and always has been, very open to requests for tailored payment plans when approached by parents.

7.1.3 Fee Structure

7.1.3.1 Resource Fee – Discussion took place around the justification for an increase in the Resource Fee. Administration had done some research and had found that the only place that has a case for increased fees is the high school.

Background: The School Act allows for certain fees to be collected for instructional supplies and materials. Fees may be charged for supplies and materials provided for the student’s personal use or consumption. The fees charged are done on a cost recovery or cost shared basis, and administration is recommending that they be set as follows:

Kindergarten	\$115.00 (increase of \$5)
Grades 1 to 6	\$145.00 (increase of \$10)
Grades 7 to 12	\$195.00 (increase of \$10)
Family Maximum	\$450.00 (increase of \$25)

Families who qualify for the Resource Fee Waiver will be expected to pay \$50/student.

Shelley Schroh **MOVED** that the 2013-2014 FFCA Resource Fee Schedule be approved as presented. Cindy Higa seconded. **CARRIED.**

7.1.3.2 Transportation Fee

Background: Each year the Board is requested to set the transportation fee schedule for the following year. In considering the fee structure for the 2013-2014 school year, administration is recommending that the transportation fee be set as follows:

Kindergarten	\$350.00
Grades 1-12 (2-way)	\$700.00
Grades 1-12 (1-way)	\$500.00
Family Maximum	\$1950.00

Families who qualify for the Transportation Fee Waiver will be expected to pay \$250/student (increase from 2012-13 amount of \$100/student).

Deekay Fox **MOVED** that the 2013-2014 FFCA Transportation Fee Schedule be approved as presented. Shelley Schroh seconded. **CARRIED.**

7.2 Facilities

7.2.1 Northwest Elementary Update – No report.

7.3 Human Resources

7.3.1 Performance Reviews – Superintendent Performance Review: The HR Committee has received Jay's response and will put together their report. The Committee is considering options to proceed with the Board Performance Review, to commence after spring break.

7.3.2 Charter School Regulation Review – The HR Committee will be reviewing the TAAPCS response to some of the points in the new Act that are particularly troubling to charter schools (detailed in TAAPCS document "Regulation Changes for Consideration by TAAPCS Representatives"). The committee will prepare a response for the Board. A letter has recently been sent from TAAPCS to the Minister requesting that Section 24(2) be eliminated from the new Act.

7.4 Community Relations

7.4.1 School Council Appreciation Event Report – Very successful evening.

7.4.2 Newsletter – Should be out sometime next week.

7.4.3 Board Bios – Updating of bios on CR Committee agenda for next meeting (Feb. 26).

7.4.4 Board/Admin Event – CR Committee will discuss possibilities at its next meeting.

7.5 Executive

7.5.1 Director Updates/Highlights – Most Directors attended the School Council Appreciation event and south Campus Crawl. Shelley Schroh: NWE SC; Cindy Higa: SWE K Assessments, SEE SC; Bruce Hibbard: SMS SC, SWE field trip; Darren Martin: HS SC; Deekay Fox: nothing this month; Bill McGregor: conversations with Christine Cusanelli and Dave Rodney.

7.5.2 Retreat: Next Steps – It was suggested that perhaps the Board should engage in more long-term strategic planning and goal setting, as well as addressing the questions raised in Judy's retreat summary. The Executive Committee will discuss these ideas at an upcoming meeting.

7.5.3 Board Casino – Darren Martin has begun the process of determining our eligibility, and will subsequently proceed with the application for the Board to hold its own casino.

8. Discussion Items

8.1 Parent Partnership AP – 2 handouts. Cathy has received favourable feedback from the campuses, and some from the Board, regarding the expanded concept of parental partnership. Now it needs to be determined how we move forward in regard to such things as educating staff and parents, monitoring the success of our efforts, etc. The committee will be meeting again soon to finalize AP-J-401.1. Bill will be providing his feedback to Cathy, and has also offered to work with the committee in determining what Spirit Wear might be made available.

8.2 Inclusive Education – Handout. It appears unlikely that, in the upcoming budget announcement, we will receive the Inclusive Education funding we have requested. Bill commented that this is not just an FFCA concern, but an issue for all charter schools, and that Cindy is setting up a meeting with Calgary Caucus Chair Sandra Jansen to see if they can afford some time on an upcoming agenda regarding this. In the meantime, Central Office will draft a letter for Alberta Education.

9. Information Items

9.1 ASC Report – Key Dang (SC Chair, NMS) reported that 1. The Community Fund disbursements have been made and reports are starting to be received on how the money has been spent, 2. ASC is looking into providing information on options for child care for the 2013 November break, 3. There will not be a school-wide online auction, but campuses are at liberty to do their own, 4. All volunteer coordinators came to the last meeting to compare notes on their challenges and successes.

9.2 AISI Conference Update – Seven teachers represented FFCA at the recent conference in Edmonton; we had been asked to do a session on “how we created connections from one AISI cycle to the next, and on the successes and challenges of our current project”. Close to 100 people attended their session, and it was video-taped. The feedback from AE was that it was very well done.

9.3 Staff leadership Learning Series – Handout. The fourth and final session will be held on Feb. 26 (“So you want to be a principal?”). Approximately 25 people have attended each session, and the committee will be surveying the staff in March to see what other opportunities FFCA staff may need/want.

9.4 Uniform Contract – Negotiations, including a review of pricing, have been completed for the new 5-year contract.

10. Open to Gallery – Shawna Burke-Martin offered to share with the other campuses what she has learned in regard to allocation of casino funds, and the offering of scholarships. Please feel free to pass along her Telus email address. (The CR Committee will put a blurb in a future newsletter about scholarships.) Key Dang suggested that the administration consider out-sourcing the collection of transportation fees. Sheri Rolfe expressed thanks for the School Council Appreciation evening, and Haytham Ghouriri thanked the Board for their invitation to attend the meeting on behalf of Almadina.

11. Talking Points – None.

12. Chairman’s Remarks – None.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:38 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 13, 2013