



Public Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday Dec. 18, 2013

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Central Office Boardroom

#240, 688 Heritage Dr. SE

Calgary, AB

Attendees:

Board & Administration: Cindy Higa (Chair *pro tem*), Bill McGregor, Shelley Schroh, Darren Martin, Darrin Whitbread, Bruce Hibbard, Jay Pritchard, Kurtis Leinweber, Reta Morgan, Judy Gray, Amy Donovan, John Deines, Meredith Poole

Presenters: Salima Hudani

Gallery: Jesse Classen, Michelle Drysdale

6:00 CALL TO ORDER

1. Review of Meeting Agenda – Item #3.1 postponed.
2. Approval of Minutes – Nov. 20, 2013
MOVED by Shelley Schroh, seconded by Darren Martin. **CARRIED.**
3. Staff Reports
 - 3.1 Use of Early Dismissal Days – Postponed.
 - 3.2 Assistive Technologies – Amy and Salima visited Foothills Academy to get an idea of what might be appropriate for use at FFCA. They identified three items: Dragon Naturally Speaking; Read, Write, Gold; and Smartpens; workshops will be available in the new year to assist in implementation of the first two. The initial investment will be approximately \$47,000 with yearly maintenance of Read, Write, Gold coming in about \$5500.
 - 3.3 Staff Leadership – This report was to be a follow-up on last year's regarding the Learning Forward Conference, however John Deines was not able to attend this year's conference due to weather-related flight cancellations.
4. Correspondence

Christmas card from Allison Redford
Christmas card from Kyle Fawcett
5. Policies (attached)
 - 5.1 H-201 Information and Communication Technology Use & Resources

Background – This policy has been sent out to campuses and school councils for Second Reading.

Shelley Schroh **MOVED** that Policy H-201 Information and Communication Technology Use & Resources be approved for Second Reading as presented. Bruce Hibbard seconded.
CARRIED.

Shelley Schroh **MOVED** that Policy H-201 Information and Communication Technology Use & Resources be approved for Third Reading as presented. Bruce Hibbard seconded.
CARRIED.
 - 5.2 H-401 Kindergarten

Background – This policy has been sent out to campuses and school councils for Second Reading.

Shelley Schroh **MOVED** that Policy H-401 Kindergarten (ECS) be approved for Second Reading as presented. Darrin Whitbread seconded. **CARRIED.**

Shelley Schroh **MOVED** that Policy H-401 Kindergarten (ECS) be approved for Third Reading as presented. Darren Martin seconded. **CARRIED**.

5.3 I-602 Field Trips

Background – This policy has been sent out to campuses and school councils for Second Reading.

Shelley Schroh **MOVED** that Policy I-602 Field Trips be approved for Second Reading as presented. Bruce Hibbard seconded. **CARRIED**.

Bruce Hibbard **MOVED** that Policy I-602 Field Trips be approved for Third Reading as presented. Darren Martin seconded. **CARRIED**.

5.4 Draft D-301 Disclosure of Expenses – Consideration of this policy has been postponed indefinitely.

6. Superintendent's Report

6.1 One School in Action – Several administration members cited an example of “One School” from their experiences. Kurtis Leinweber: High school play, attendance by Gr. 3 & 8 classes, as well as campus visits by casts; Reta: frequent meetings of admin assistants and secretaries to discuss policies, on-line processes, handing of cash, etc.; Amy: demonstration of iPad apps for ESL staff at November PD day; Judy: Learning for All sessions (see handout).

6.2 Wait List – Handout re stats showing sibling numbers 2010/11 to 2014/15.

6.3 Meeting with Avi Habinski – Our need for facilities was reinforced. An announcement regarding a modernization project will be coming at an unspecified date.

7. Discussion Items

7.1 Campus Crawl North March 12, 2014 – Darrin Whitbread will be unable to attend.

7.2 Partnership (Parent/School) – Kurtis presented a multi-dimensional view of parent partnership containing several questions around which discussion took place. It was pointed out that one missing element was the notion that the process was instigated in response to the perception that partnership opportunities were being limited at some campuses. The broader perspective was favoured but it does not need to delay consideration of the related administrative procedure.

7.3 AGM – Successful.

7.4 Calendar Feedback – In advance of the deadline for feedback, John Deines has already begun to analyze the 3300 parent emails, and 136 from staff. Parent responses run 1.4:1 positive to negative, whereas staff are equally divided. The major issue is the loss of the August week. A more complete report will be available in January.

8. Information Items

8.1 ASC Report – No report.

8.2 Transportation Optimization Project – U. of A. has been engaged in a project to improve our bus service and potentially reduce the number of routes. Initial data has been loaded and some preliminary predictions will be available shortly.

9. Reports of Committees

9.1 Finance

9.1.1 Q1 Report

Background: Administration is recommending that the Board receive the 2013-2014 First Quarter Financial Report as presented.

Shelley Schroh **MOVED** that the Board receive for information the FFCA 2013-2014 First

Quarter Financial Report as presented. Darren Martin seconded. **CARRIED.**

9.1.2 Budget Update – The Finance Committee met on Dec. 12 to consider non-salary expenses line-by-line. The next meeting will be on January 29, 2014.

9.1.3 Inclusive Education Funding Proposal – A proposal created by TAAPCS to obtain partial inclusive education funding did not meet the approval of the Board. The proposal would have given most charter schools, including FFCA, a reduced amount (in relation to the full amount given to other public school boards) in exchange for ensuring that high needs charters would not suffer any funding reductions.

9.2 Facilities

9.2.1 Meeting with CBE Jan. 22/14 – An update will be available at the January meeting. Please send any suggestions for this agenda to Jay.

9.3 Community Relations

9.3.1 Stakeholder Communications – The newsletter was completed and sent out in November; Darrin will forward it to MLA's along with a Christmas card. The next one will go out in February.

9.3.2 Communication Plan – No report.

9.3.3 School Council Appreciation – March 13/14 at the Deerfoot Inn; a committee will be formed after Christmas to look after the details.

9.3.4 Scholarship Fund – Several ideas for a new scholarship fund were put forward. The Board will discuss them at their next T-8.

9.3.5 Fund Development – Bruce and Darren will be engaging some outside expertise in the new year to look at possibilities.

9.3.6 Board Technology/Media – A report will be available after the Board retreat on this topic.

9.3.7 Board Social Events – Appreciation was expressed to the Martins for their gracious hosting of the very enjoyable Christmas party.

9.4 Human Resources

9.4.1/4.2 Board/Board Chair Performance Reviews – To commence in February.

9.4.3 Superintendent Performance Review – Darren will be assisting Bruce with this beginning in January. A schedule of interviews is being developed.

9.4.4 Bylaw Review – Cindy will be assisting Bruce. Please bring any questions/comments to the next T-8.

9.4.5 Director's Handbook Review – No report.

9.5 Executive

9.5.1 Director Updates/Highlights: Shelley Schroh: High School play, SEE Teacher Appreciation lunch; Bruce Hibbard: HS play; Darrin Whitbread: SEE SC; Darren Martin: HS play; Wild Rose event; Cindy Higa: SEE SC, meeting with NEE SC Chair; Bill McGregor: see 9.5.5

9.5.2 Preferred Future: Meetings are continuing, with a good turnout expected for the alumni consultations in January. Heidi Miller-Zerr is developing role descriptions for the March 18 synthesis session. It was suggested that a communication be sent out to parents regarding the process and the progress so far.

9.5.3 Board Retreat Update – The agenda will be prepared after the upcoming meeting with the presenter, George Couros.

9.5.4 Review of “Being Heard” - Suggested edits will be made prior to bringing the document back to the Board in the new year.

9.5.5 Government Relations

9.5.5.1 PC Convention – Bill had the opportunity to speak to a number of MLA's at the PC Convention in Red Deer.

9.5.5.2 Other – A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow with MLA Sandra Jansen; main topics are inclusive education funding and anti-bullying; also with Linda Johnson, chair of Calgary Caucus at the end of January to try to get a date to present. There are a number of events scheduled for this time of year – please attend if you can.

Shelley Schroh **MOVED** that the meeting be extended by 15 minutes to accommodate the remaining agenda items. Darren Martin seconded. **CARRIED**.

10. Open to Gallery – The two members of the gallery were thanked for coming out in such miserable weather.

11. Talking Points – Cindy will email talking points.

12. Chairman's Remarks – Safe driving and Merry Christmas!

ADJOURNMENT: 9:08 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Jan. 22, 2013