



Public Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 19, 2016

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

FFCA Central Office Boardroom

#240, 688 Heritage Dr. SE

Calgary, AB

Attendees:

Board & Administration: Amish Patel (Chair), Cindy McGlashan-Beaucage (Vice-Chair), Shelley Schroh, Cristian Rios, Pamela Wilson, Roger Nippard, Kurtis Leinweber, Reta Morgan, Lorne McDonald, Joan Burke, Meredith Poole

Presenters: Shelley Murray (ASC); Preston Lowther, Sandra Berner, Jocelyn Kerr, Pat Mealey, Tara Finch (NWE); Jim Poirier, Katie Dawe, Kate Marlow, Jay Kennedy (HS)

Gallery: None.

6:05 CALL TO ORDER – REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

1. Review of Meeting Agenda

MOVED by Cristian Rios and seconded by Cindy McGlashan-Beaucage that the agenda be adopted as presented, but timing may be adjusted as necessitated by late arrivals to the meeting. **CARRIED.**

2. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Shelley Schroh and seconded by Cindy McGlashan-Beaucage that the minutes of the September 21, 2016 Public Board Meeting be approved as presented. **CARRIED.**

3. Staff Reports

3.1 Link Crew – Link Crew is a high school transition program that recruits and trains grade 11 and 12 leaders to help grade 9 students adapt to high school life. At FFCA high school, there are 5 Link Crew Coordinators, one Link Crew Trained Administrator, 61 Link Leaders (Gr. 11 & 12 students), 2 Link Leaders-in-Training (Gr. 10 students), and 283 Gr. 9 students. Specific objectives for grade 9's are to: provide information about the school; create a sense of connection to the school and to students in the upper grades; facilitate an easier transition to high school; enhance school and character development; and to improve attendance, retention, academic behaviour and school climate. This program involves a huge time commitment on the part of both coordinators and leaders, but yields very positive benefits. The presenters issued an open invitation to come and view this amazing program during some of their key activities, specifically the Grade 9 Orientation Assembly, or the May Development Day (May 17). If the commitment of these teachers to their students is representative of all staff at FFCA high school, our kids could not be in better hands.

4. Campus/ASC Reports

4.1 Fresh Schools of Bells 'n Air – After leading the meeting participants through a "Raise the Roof" activity to increase blood flow and engage our brains, the presenters from NWE described their initiatives designed to maximize the health of their students, e.g. "Wellness Wednesdays" (where a wellness fact is introduced with the morning announcements), the grade 4 Sugar Challenge (eat as little sugar as possible between 8:30 & 3:30), Snack Swap (swap a sugary snack for a healthier alternative), "Run the Red Carpet". They have developed a new bell schedule that times breaks when they are most needed/effective to get the brain and heart working, and treated us to a rap of "Fresh Schools of Bells 'n Air" which showcased skills we never knew Preston Lowther possessed, but which will surely be in demand now that they have become known. You don't get a standing ovation for nothing at an FFCA Board meeting.

4.2 ASC Report – The first meeting of the year was held on Sept. 27/16, where discussion centered on plans for the year, including the community fund, a common date for a possible 20-year celebration, and the creation of (up to 3?) more high school scholarships.

5. Correspondence – None this month.

6. Policies

6.1 Policy 13 Appeals and Hearings regarding Student Matters

MOVED by Cindy McGlashan-Beaucage and seconded by Shelley Schroh that Policy 13 Appeals and Hearings regarding Student Matters be approved by the Board for First Reading as amended.
CARRIED.

6.2 Policy 7 Board Operations – This policy will be removed from the agenda until Policy 13 is finalized.

6.3 Policy 18 Parent-School Partnerships – This policy will be tabled until the December meeting.

7. Superintendent's Report – 1. NWE has had 2 breaks in the sewer lines under the building and had to close the school on Friday Oct. 14. Thanks to the great work of Calgary Catholic, our maintenance crew, and campus staff, they were able to reopen on the following Monday, but it is still uncertain as to the scope of work that will be required. 2. Curriculum Development Meetings were held on Oct. 12 with FFCA and other charter school participants, followed by one for parents; the AE on-line survey came out today. 3. We have put a "Research" button on our website with the goal of getting better at reporting the good things we are doing in fulfillment of our research and innovation mandate (e.g. our literacy acquisition project with Hetty Roessingh). 4. The latest round of PGP meetings with David Townsend happened over Oct. 11 & 12. 5. Marc Prefontaine will be here tomorrow to plan for the Implementation Phase of the Preferred Future Plan.

8. Information Items

8.1 Fall Budget Update – Reta Morgan ensured that Board formally received the information that that we are within 9 students of our budgeted number, which will not require a revision to the previously submitted budget.

8.2 Transportation Update – Approximately 72% of our students (2485 of 3455) ride the bus with an average of 41.4 students per route. We have 60 routes and 58 of those have had returning drivers this year, which is a testament to the great work of our Transportation Director Susan Goldsmith, who ensures that they are made to feel an integral part of the FFCA community. At the end of 2015, our deficit in Transportation was approx. \$270,000; at the end of 2016, we were able to contribute back to that about \$155,000, leaving the deficit reduced to \$116,000, which is good news. On the downside, where \$60,000 in subsidies was budgeted for, \$75,000 has been applied for and approved.

8.3 PAT/Diploma Exam Results – Joan gave a presentation showing our outstanding 2015-2016 PAT and Diploma results, exceeding provincial averages in both acceptable and excellent categories in all subjects at all levels, a fact which is even more impressive when our extremely high participation rates are taken into account. She noted that this is a consistent phenomenon over at least the last 3 years, which testifies to its validity. One major change that has been made this year is that the weighting of marks has changed to 70-30 (school-exam) from 50-50.

8.4 Kindergarten – Currently the south elementary campuses offer a full day Kindergarten program and a ½ day program, while the north campuses offer only a ½ day program. The full day program was implemented in response to the transportation and child care needs of some parents, but was never ideal educationally. Their preference would be to return to consistency among the 4 campuses with a ½ day program only, beginning next year.

9. Committees

9.1 Charter Board Committee of the Whole – The recent T-9 (Oct. 13) lasted 5 hours and covered many weighty topics, including policies, audit committee, parental partnership, etc.

9.2 Executive Committee – This committee of 4 (Chair, Vice-Chair, CEO, COO) discuss item s for the T-9 which will then flow forward to the Board agendas.

9.3 Community Relations Committee – The main focus at this time is on the Parental Partnership surveys and forums. Newsletter topics were sent out by Cristian and articles are to be sent to Meredith by Nov. 4. The date/location for the Christmas party is Dec. 16 at Amish's; more info later.

MOVED by Amish Patel and seconded by Cindy McGlashan-Beaucage that the meeting be extended to 9:15 to facilitate completion of remaining agenda items. **CARRIED.**

9.4 Human Resources Committee – Cindy reporting for Wayne: 1. 5 Board members travelled with Roger to Edmonton for weekend sessions on School Board Governance and the Law; very informative. 2. Board attended an Oct. 5 session put on by Becky Kallal on Governance with other Calgary charters plus CAPE and Valhalla. 3. The Superintendent and Board/Board Chair Evaluation processes are being finalized for presentation at an upcoming Board meeting.

9.5 Audit Committee – Candidate Selection: Amish Patel declared Conflict of Interest and left the room. **MOVED** by Pamela Wilson and seconded by Cindy McGlashan-Beaucage that Amanda Fisher, Franklin Eldridge and Bruce Hibbard (pending receipt and approval of his application) be appointed to the Audit Committee for a two-year term. **CARRIED.**

9.6 TAAPCS Board Rep Report

9.6.1 TAAPCS Bylaws & Nominating *Ad Hoc* Committee

MOVED by Shelley Schroh and seconded by Cristian Rios that the TAAPCS Bylaws & Nominating *Ad Hoc* Committee be continued to May 2017. **CARRIED.**

MOVED by Amish Patel and seconded by Cristian Rios that the meeting be extended by a further 5 minutes. **CARRIED.**

9.7 Director Highlights – Cristian Rios: Governance Session with Becky Kallal, Director work with TAAPCS, tonight's staff presentations. Pamela Wilson: PD in Edmonton, passion for Parental Partnership. Cindy McGlashan-Beaucage: Edmonton trip (learning & team-building), Becky Kallal session, TAPPCS work, all the work we are doing as a Board. Shelley Schroh: Edmonton PD, Becky Kallal session. Amish Patel: Becky Kallal session, see Chairman's remarks.

10. Open to Gallery

11. Talking Points (Standing Item)

12. Chairperson's Remarks – Amish was gratified to sense that our Board was viewed to be leaders at the session with Becky Kallal. He remarked that the Executive Committee is working very well together, and thanked the Committee Chairs for their hard work.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:20 p.m.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING: November 23, 2016

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Dec. – Policy 18 Parent-School Partnerships; Policy 7 Board Operations, Policy 11 Delegation of Authority, Policy 14 Uniforms, Policy 15 Managed Growth, Policy 17 Transportation of Students to Campus