



Public Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Attendees

Board and Executive: Chair Jeff Wilson, Vice-chair Jenny Hill, Director Amanda Fisher, Director Naren Makwana, Director Randall Spahl, Director Jehn Scantlebury, Director Sam Jin, Director Shahid Qureshi, Director Sumara Diaz, ACEO Kurtis Leinweber, CFO Reta Morgan, Coordinator of Instructions Justin Kool, Director of Technology Jeff Cullen, Executive Assistant Phoebe Greentree

Gallery: AS, AW, ALomboy, Amy, Andre Shoucri, Bahareh Saeidikho, Candice Parno, Claire, Corey, Crystal, Darren Yeh, Dawn Ackroyd, Dinithi Weerasooriya, Dolly, Erkan Unal, Gaurav Jain, Harold Beatty, Julia Imanoff, Krista Lee, Lancong Mu, MD, Paul Bushell, Rachel Bradley, Reza Mashayekhi, Rosemary van Dyk, Tanya, VW, Weizhong Chen, Zongfu Su

MINUTES

6:32 p.m. CALL TO ORDER

1. Review of Meeting Agenda

2. **2021-09-29-1CA** Approval of Consent Agenda

MOVED by Director Hill and seconded by Director Diaz that the Consent Agenda for September 29, 2021; the minutes of June 9, 2021, Public Board Meeting; the minutes of August 31, 2021, Special Board Meeting; and the correspondence received from Minister LaGrange, July 20, 2021, be approved as presented.

Question re: correspondence – Is the accumulated operating surplus accurate? Yes - confirmed.

CARRIED.

3. Staff/Campus Reports

3.1. Steps to Truth and Reconciliation Presentation

- Land Acknowledgement Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3KeHCOKpDY>
- National Call to Action in 2015 formed a catalyst for action across the country. This was key to FFCA looking at what more we could do.
- Campuses engaged in arts, crafts, games, books, and indigenous traditions beginning last week and culminated with Orange Shirt Day on September 29.
- Looking forward to continuing the exploration of opportunities to leverage the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation to help our students expand their knowledge and appreciation to create a more inclusive school and society.
- Powerpoint presentation attached.
- Questions
 - What's the significance of the Blanket Ceremony? Several blankets are placed on the floor. As the stories are told regarding reservations, residential schools, and other impacts on the indigenous people, the blanket gets smaller and smaller. To the point, you are left with one single blanket with most people sitting on the outside looking in. Words do not do justice; it is an emotional, awe-inspiring, very personal symbolic and metaphoric experience.
 - How does FFCA compare to other schools? This journey has been one that we have walked through together in partnership with our surrounding jurisdictions. We are in constant communication to ensure we are doing this well.

- Has FFCA got the indigenous people's opinion regarding is what we have done enough? We have engaged Randy Bottle to help us through the journey of improving, growing and progressing in our learning about and teaching of the goals of truth and reconciliation. He has expressed satisfaction with our progress and partnership so far.
- How was the importance of the Orange Shirt / National Day for Truth and Reconciliation approached with the younger grades? Campus admin used very purposeful and specific language that was kid-friendly to help the kids with their understanding. They used books, games, crafts etc., to convey the learning.

4. Superintendent's Report

- Contextual Update
 - Draft K-6 Curriculum Pilot now 6-weeks underway and going well
 - FFCA is providing feedback to Alberta Education via the pilot process, and additionally, through consultations coordinated with TAAPCS and CASS
 - FFCA has now completed and submitted the results of our initial screening of grades 2 and 3 student literacy and numeracy competencies as part of AB Ed's catch-up program. Now awaiting approval of additional grants to provide intensive supports to lagging students.
 - TAAPSC Charter School Conference – October 22
 - STEM Innovation Academy (new SW charter school) opened on schedule with significant facilities and ICT support from FFCA.
- Operations Update
 - Mostly completed a full migration to a new Student Information System. Still a number of challenges and we will likely experience 'hiccups' during the year as we undertake some processes for the first time with the new system (e.g. report cards).
 - Enrollment is presently 22 students below budgeted targets
 - Central office and the high school campuses administration have drafted principles of cultural and programming alignment to support the FFCA 'One-campus' culture. Some key outstanding issues include whether to have a single combined graduation ceremony and how to coordinate the FFCA internally supported scholarships.
- Personnel Update
 - Bharati Singh LOA
 - Sue Boyd was named NHS Acting PE
 - Colin Marshall was named NHS Acting AP

5. Information Items

6.1. Standing Item: Administrative Procedures Update (all attached)

6.1.1 Rescinded AP I-501.1.1 Uniform Lists: replaced by Policy 14

All approved and posted:

6.1.2 AP-D-101.1.2 Expense Reimbursement

6.1.3 AP-D-101.1.3 Company Credit Cards

6.1.4 AP-D-101.1.5 Campus-based Budgeting

6.1.5 AP-D-701.1.3 Directory of Personal Information

6.1.6 AP-H-104.1 Library Learning Commons and Supplementary Resource Collections

6.1.7 AP-H-104.2 Instructional Resource Selections

6.1.8 AP-H-501.1 Learning Commons

6.1.9 AP-I-602.1 Field Trips

6.1.9.1 AP-I-602.1.1 Field Trips Request & Approval Form

6.1.9.2 AP-I-602.1.2 Field Trips Consent & Permission Form

6.1.9.3 AP-I-602.1.3 Field Trips Medical Information Form

6.1.9.4 AP-I-602.1.4 High-Risk Field Trip Questionnaire

6.1.9.5 AP-I-602.1.5 Overnight Out-of-Province High-Risk Field Trip Questionnaire

6.1.10 AP-I-801.1 Responding to Students with Medical Needs

6.1.11 AP-I-802.4 Specialized Assessments and Support

6.2. Standing Item: Strategic/Education Plan Update

- Education Plan Review meeting with AB Ed
 - AB Ed was, in general, impressed with our plan, appreciated our shift towards Assurance from Accountability, and requested no substantive changes.
 - Discussed limitations given lack of historical data because of the new framework and reduced provincial testing data due to COVID
 - Discussed exploring revision and expansion of local measures as KPIs
 - Continued advocacy for equitable funding consistent with the legislative mandate (e.g. WMA, SLS & HS CEU funding)
- Reporting and Report Card Review
 - Been over a decade since the last formal review of academic reporting and five years since we introduced the current character reports
 - Survey engagement with campus councils in Oct-Nov
 - Broad parent survey in December or January

6.3. Standing Item: High School Update

- SHS modulars are now complete, and classes have occupied them
- High School Replacement Tentative Project Timeline:
 - Hazardous Materials Removal Contractor Selection – Oct
 - Primary Contractor Selection – Dec/Jan
 - Phase 1 – Central Hazmat and demolition – Jan-Mar 2022
 - Phase 2 - Construction – Apr 2022 to Dec 2023
 - Phase 3 – North Hazmat and demolition – Apr-Jun 2023
 - **Loss of Gym – Apr 2023
 - Phase 4 – North and West Parking Construction – Jul-Sep 2023
 - MOVE IN – Jan 2024
 - Phase 5 – South Hazmat and demolition – Jan-Mar 2024
 - Phase 6 - Sports field landscaping – spring 2024

6.4. Standing Item: COVID Response

- Total of 22 students tested positive so far this school year, and one staff member
- Average 90 absences per day for untested students, with COVID symptoms as per the AHS recommendations
- Vaccination Clinics at middle and high campuses scheduled, minimum 18 participants

7. Discussion Items

7.1. Q4 Preliminary (incomplete) Report: Report is incomplete because the report is produced 3 days following year-end, August 31. Staff were just back from summer break and school was recently back in session; invoices were still arriving. Audit committee reviewed the report September 7.

- Salary and Benefits are the most significant expenditures. Showing slightly over budget due to additional teachers hired in 20/21 using the 'COVID safe return to work' funding.
- Under budget in transportation due to low ridership in 20/21 (online learning or parents chose to drive students)
- Facilities showing over budget due to the HS emergency split (received additional funding)
- Received funding for 'critical workers' identified by the government.
- Question: Surplus amount? Surplus for Sep 2021 to Aug 2022 is \$858,000.

2021-09-29-1RA Q4 Financial Report

MOVED by Director Hill and seconded by Director Qureshi that the Board receive for information the FFCA Fourth Quarter Preliminary Financial Report as presented. CARRIED.

8. Committees/Liaison Reports

8.1. Executive Committee: Met two times since the last public meeting. No decisions were taken.

8.2. Communications and Community Relations (CCR)

- Prioritized some upcoming activities – stay tuned
- Update from the Board in this week's campus newsletter

- Focus on highlighting some big organizational challenges (inequitable charter school funding, increasing costs, long waitlists, outdated regulatory restrictions prohibiting our growth, AB political landscape and fiscal situation are unstable, growing lack of awareness and support for public charter schools among Albertans).
 - Evaluating and looking at ways to proactively respond to these challenges
- Elections are coming up in December. Nomination call-out coming soon.
- 8.3. Policy and Performance Review (PPR)
 - Election planning and enhancing communications around the election
 - Feedback requested from school councils on the below policies by October 31
 - 8.3.1. **2021-09-29-2RA** Policy 09 Being Heard
MOVED by Director Makwana and seconded by Director Scantlebury that Policy 09 Being Heard be approved for First Reading as presented. CARRIED.
 - 8.3.2. **2021-09-29-3RA** Policy 18 Parental Partnership
MOVED by Director Makwana and seconded by Director Hill that Policy 18 Parental Partnership be approved for First Reading as presented. CARRIED.
 - 8.3.3. **2021-09-29-4RA** Appointments: Chief Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer
MOVED by Director Makwana and seconded by Director Spahl that the Board appoint Kurtis Leinweber as Chief Returning Officer and Reta Morgan as Assistant Returning Officer. The Chief Returning Officer may delegate election support duties to one or more other FFCA employees as necessary. CARRIED.
- 7.1. Audit Committee
 - Met on September 7
 - Reviewed the preliminary Q4 financials.
 - Are in discussions with admin regarding the Enterprise Risk Framework; will then be presented to the board.
 - The Board is under budget due to COVID and the lack of in-person meetings and campus visits.
- 7.2. TAAPCS Board Rep Report – Meeting September 21, 2021
 - Two new charter schools have started up in Alberta, STEM in SW Calgary and New Humble Community Charter School near Leduc. There are 15 Charter Schools in AB.
 - TAAPCS signed three months contract with GPA (a Government Relation Firm) to get advice and make connections with the Calgary Caucus and UCP government regarding Equitable funding, and other proposals.
 - AB Ed has given TAAPCS \$35,000 in funding to research the feedback of the new curriculum draft.
 - Funding is based on the questions CASS offered, charter school teachers will look at the 6 questions within different subject areas. Funding depends on which charter is willing to free up teachers to do the research and their area of expertise.
- 7.3. ASC Rep Report
 - The three policies under review have been passed on to ASC for feedback
 - Public School Board Trustee elections (CBE and CCSD): two largest AB Boards. Have influence with AB Education. They are politicians, policymakers, and lobbyists. Reach out to the trustee in your ward and ask them where they stand on AB Charter schools to help you decide who to vote for if you plan to vote.
 - Advocacy Committee: created from a need to restore and improve support for charter schools.
 - Made up of representatives from 8 Alberta charter schools
 - Spreading awareness, support and understanding.
 - Myth-busting: some organizations may use information from the US charter schools and spread misinformation.
 - CALL to ACTION: follow the committee on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/AbeDiversity>
- 8. Director Highlights
 - Sumara – It was nice to see the Truth and Reconciliation presentation and what FFCA did today and all week to acknowledge Truth and Reconciliation
 - Jenny – The PPR committee brought some policies to the school councils for feedback in late May 2021. Jenny loved attending a couple of council meetings to engage with parents and hear about what students are up to at a campus level.

- Naren – Was able to go to a few North campuses and loved how engaged and interested the parents are. He appreciated that opportunity.
- Sam – We have three director openings at the end of the year. Come contribute your ideas and help us overcome challenges, including funding.
- Amanda – Loved seeing what the campuses did for the recognition of Truth and Reconciliation; it's so much about the storytelling and relationships. Amanda encourages the campuses to continue down this path to open the door to Truth and Reconciliation.
- Shahid – Gratitude: the inability to travel created a positive in his life – for the first time ever he was able to spend the entire summer with his wife and kids!! Was a great experience!!
- Jehn – FFCA embarking on the Truth and Reconciliation path, seeing the engagement in that whole process of learning makes Jehn happy! The board is a great team; it's much deeper than sitting around discussing policies. Becoming a director will give you the experience of serving with a truly dynamic group of people who are here to serve. You will grow as a person and a leader!
- Randall – a positive spin on current events: the majority of the people are behaving in a responsible and positive manner with respect to Truth and Reconciliation.
- Jeff – Commends admin and teachers for taking the Day for Truth and Reconciliation very seriously. He reflects on how far we have come from when he was in school. We can find our way to the truth by educating our kids today.

9. Open to Gallery

- Should we vote for CBE or CCSD School Trustees? You are given the option to vote and the choice to vote for either CBE or CCSD. Some trustees can be more vocally opposed to charter schools.
- How can parents get involved with charter school funding and curriculum process with regards to MLAs? Reach out and share your perspectives; they are here to serve you.
www.assembly.ab.ca. You can do some research at www.taapcs.ca or talk to the board.
- Comment: Commending FFCA for adopting September 30 holiday on such short notice. The Board's decision was made in consultation with admin. The Board thanks all admin, staff and parents for the support in making the decisions to recognize the holiday.
- Board member time commitment? 4-8 hours per month, depending on how many committee meetings there are or what topics are up for debate.

10. Chairperson's Remarks: It's great to be back in school! It was great to see the smooth back-to-school transition. That really speaks to the level of care that the team at every campus puts into making sure our students are their number one priority.

ADJOURNMENT: by 8:26 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: November 24, 2021