



Public Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

6:30-9:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Invited Participants: Chair Wilson, Vice-Chair Hill, Director Makwana, Director Spahl, Director Lakhani, Director Qureshi, Director Fisher, Director Jin, Director Saini, CEO Nippard, COO Leinweber, CFO Estrada, Coordinator of Instruction Justin Kool, Director of Technology Jeff Cullen, EA P. Greentree

Guest Presenter: NEE Principal Educator, Krista Lee

Invited Attendees: RM, Guarav Jain, Michelle Mewell, Wayne Weinheimer, Sandra Cordero, Larissa Reichert, Andre Shoucri, Erkan Unal, Doug Lamb, Macarena Cameron, Tanya, Melissa, Oluwadamilola Awoniyi, Dawn, Marla Schatz, Sally, 劉心怡, Rachel Bradley, Chris, Fred, Angelina An, Sue Boyd

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: 6:32 p.m.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are gathered at this meeting as settlers on Treaty 7 land, the ancestral and traditional territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy: (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani), the Tsuut'ina, the Stony Nakoda First Nation. In the spirit of respect, reconciliation and truth, FFCA acknowledges this territory is home to the Metis Nation, Region 3 and further acknowledges all Nations – Indigenous and non – who live, work, and play on this land.

1. Review of Meeting Agenda - no changes.

2. Approval of Consent Agenda

2022-02-23-1CA Approve Consent Agenda

I MOVE that the Consent Agenda for February 23, 2022, be approved by the Board as presented.

- Public Board Meeting minutes of January 26, 2022 (attached),
- Special Meeting minutes and process notes of January 27, 2022 (Confidential Appeal Hearing),
- Special Meeting minutes of February 9, 2022 (attached),
- Letter sent from Chair Wilson to Minister of Municipal Affairs, February 8, 2022 (attached);

MOVED by Vice-Chair Hill and seconded by Director Makwana. **CARRIED.**

3. Staff/Campus Reports

3.1. Primary Literacy & Numeracy Intervention Project – Presented by Justin Kool and Krista Lee

FFCA's approach to Learning Disruption Grant for Grades 2 and 3 in literacy and numeracy due to the COVID pandemic and interruption to classroom learning.

Background: The learning disruption had to be identified by a standardized assessment or screening tool and had to fall outside a support that is typically provided in the classroom in order to qualify for the grant. Supporting 158 students in literacy and numeracy. Grade 2 students had bigger gaps due to impact at end of kindergarten year and throughout grade 1. Hired one Learning Intervention (LI) Teacher per elementary campus, time spent within each campus was dependant on the concentration of students in the campus. All funding dollars went towards resources or staff working directly with the students with learning gaps.

NEE learnings: FFCA's phonogram program has many strengths which helped with gaps. Currently developing background knowledge for students to help reading comprehension. Using informational text with non-fiction to teach concepts/understanding in various topics for more complex comprehension.

Students seem to be gaining understanding faster with numeracy and less have learning gaps.

4. Superintendent's Report

- Highlight that research is important to charter schools; one of the key areas the ministry uses to evaluate charter schools.
 - o Leading Learning Study since 2015 facilitated by Dr David Townsend. Two processes: collaborative inquiry and generative dialogue. Our work was just published in The Canadian Journal of Action Research. Authors: Dr. Marilyn Chaseling, Southern Cross University, Australia, and FFCA Coordinator of Instruction Retiree, Joan Burke! Congrats to you both and to all of FFCA for being involved in bringing that work to fruition.
- Advocating for changes in the funding manual: AB Ed hosted meetings on Feb 1 and 4 highlighting inconsistencies or funding that doesn't apply to charter schools in funding manual. Have been providing support to assist with policy changes to the Board and TAAPCS for charter schools to gain long term access to facilities, etc.
- Specialized Learning Supports (SLS) Grant review – extensive review; we were asked to provide five years of financial information and data on coded students; incredible challenging since we have never coded. As of last week, the report was finalized and provided to the minister.
- Students First Act – to be proclaimed here in AB: improves student safety and parent confidence by addressing gaps etc in AB's system of oversight and discipline for teachers and teacher leaders.
 - o COO Leinweber and CEO Nippard participated in those meetings

5. Information Items

5.1. Standing Item: Administrative Procedures Update

5.1.1. Rescinded AP-B-401.1 Being Heard (replaced by Policy 9 Being Heard)

5.2. Standing Item: Strategic/Education Plan

- In 2017, FFCA adopted a strategic plan to prepare future-ready, globally-competent graduates. Applied for research grant in 2018 to look at cultural diversity in FFCA as an asset. U of Alberta and U of Calgary asked to facilitate the project. 1500 students from FFCA, Golden Hills Division, and International School of Macao have taken the standardized GC assessment. Studied results and developed interventions to improve global competency. Study has concluded; results proved that diversity helps students to live, learn, and work locally and globally. Results shared via webinar, facilitated by Research Branch of AB Ed. Also presented online through a university in Sweden.
- Currently working on a formalized middle school leadership program
- Reporting Review surveys: administrators are compiling those results in a summary to be presented to board in the near future and will follow with recommendations to the board for next steps

5.3. Standing Item: High School Update: moving into demolition shortly. Standardization: working on a specifications manual for our next build!

5.4. Standing Item: COVID Response – following AHS' 3-stage plan to lift restrictions.

6. Discussion Items

6.1. Budget Guiding Principles (attached)

2022-02-23-1RA Budget Guiding Principles

I MOVE that the 2022-2023 Budget Guiding Principles be approved as presented.

MOVED by Vice-chair Hill and seconded by Director Qureshi. **CARRIED**.

6.2. Resource Fees Discussion and Approval:

Underwent full review to ensure compliance with fees regulation.

2022-02-23-2RA Approve Resource Fees

MOVED by Director Spahl that the Resource Fees be approved as discussed. Friendly

AMENDMENT TO MOTION by Vice-Chair Hill to include the year and fee amount in the motion: I

MOVE that the 2022-2023 Resource Fees be approved as discussed and presented below.

Kindergarten ..\$115.00

Grades 1-6\$145.00

Grades 7-12 ..\$150.00

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

Amendment accepted. Motion seconded by Director Lakhani. **CARRIED**.

- 6.3. Resource Fee Family Maximum Discount Elimination Discussion
Background: Families with 3 plus students attending FFCA receive a discount to their Resource Fees. This does not affect families who qualify for the subsidy, only the Family Maximum.

2022-02-23-3RA Resource Fee Family Maximum Discount Elimination

MOVED by Director Qureshi that the Resource Fee Family Maximum Discount, currently \$450.00, be eliminated effective for the 2023-2024 school year. Friendly **AMENDMENT TO MOTION** by Director Spahl to change to the upcoming year in the motion: I MOVE that the Resource Fee Family Maximum Discount, currently \$450.00, be eliminated effective for the 2022-2023 school year. Amendment accepted. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Hill. The Board requests that affected families are contacted directly regarding the upcoming change. **CARRIED**.

- 6.4. Transportation Fees and Number of Payment Installments Discussion

All transportation fees are recommended to remain the same. Administration recommends moving from three to two installments to manage time spent collecting payment three times a year.

-Members discussed and are not in alignment.

-Installment discussion **TABLED** for further discussion to maintain three installments in 2022-23 and move to two installments in 2023-2024.

-Installment Discussion **POSTPONED** at this time due to members not in alignment.

2022-02-23-4RA Approve Transportation Fees

Kindergarten..... \$425.00

Grades 1 to 12 (2-way).. \$855.00

Grades 1 to 12 (1-way) . \$770.00

Shuttle (1-way) \$200.00

Families who qualify for the Transportation Fee Subsidy will be expected to pay \$325/student.

MOVED by Vice-Chair Hill and seconded by Director Qureshi that the 2022-2023 FFCA Transportation Fees be held at the same level and approved as discussed and presented above. **CARRIED**.

- 6.5. Transportation Fees - Family Maximum Discount Elimination Discussion

Background: Family maximum is recommended for elimination effective 2023-24 to more accurately reflect / distribute the actual transportation costs. This would allow us to save approximately \$44,000/yr to reduce our accumulated transportation deficit of \$110,000. 1-year advance notice allows impacted families to prepare for change. This impacts 119 families with 3 or more children accessing the bus.

2022-02-23-5RA Transportation Fees - Family Maximum Discount Elimination

I MOVE that the Transportation Fee Family Maximum, currently \$2285.00, be eliminated effective for the 2023-2024 school year. **MOVED** by Vice-Chair Hill and seconded by Director Qureshi. The Board requests that affected families are contacted directly regarding the upcoming change. **CARRIED**. (1 director opposed)

7. Committees/Board Rep Reports

- 7.1 Executive Committee: has met twice since the last public meeting. 1. Reviewed the fee schedule and tonight's agenda. 2. Met with Premier Kenny and Minister LaGrange regarding the SLS review. Charter schools have been under-funded by approximately \$400.00/student but that is no longer the case! Chair Wilson acknowledges the work of TAAPCS, Vice-Chair Hill, CEO Nippard, COO Leinweber, and those who served on past boards in the work towards equality. The new funding, retroactive for the 2021-2022 academic year, will be tabled on February 24th. It was communicated to be 5.8 million for all charter school students in Alberta. Within that, FFCA has been funded an additional 1.7 million for the current school year in addition to our current 1.3 million, for a total of almost 3 million. Details to be confirmed in the coming weeks.

- 7.2 Communications and Community Relations (CCR) have met once and have begun looking at ways to bring more value to our stakeholders through our communication channels. Press release to be drafted according to budget outcome.
 - 7.3 Policy and Performance Review (PPR) met two times in the last month. Looking at work plan, focus, governance rules. Trying to evolve the committee to be more functional. Will be focusing on governance and a more strategic view of the committee and the board. Also will do some work on the election for better results and professional development.
 - 7.4 Audit Committee: Director Shahid met with CFO Estrada to discuss work plan alignment and logistics.
 - 7.5 TAAPCS Board Rep Report:
SLS funding is for all AB Charter Schools, not just FFCA. TAAPCS will be working toward supporting charter schools across the province as the budget comes out tomorrow in order to combat mis-information. TAAPCS is currently recruiting for the Executive Director role. Looking at upcoming goals now that SLS funding equality has come to fruition for charter schools.
 - 7.6 ASC Rep Report: Director Shahid enjoyed speaking with all the chairs of the councils. Lots of discussion around the 25th Anniversary Celebration. He is looking forward to the meetings and gaining a higher understanding of ASC.
- 8. Director Highlights
 - 9. Open to Gallery
 - 10. Chairperson's Remarks: significant milestones that this group has helped move forward. I take immense pride in the advancement as do the rest of the board members, I know. The wave of push back is coming, we need all the ambassadors we can get to combat the mis-information that will be out on social media. Our best remedy is to share positive facts about what/who charter schools really are. Thank you to the board, administration and staff for your ongoing support

ADJOURNMENT: by 8:42 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 16, 2022