



Board Meeting

Agenda Package

December 16, 2020

☞ *New Horizons Charter School Society* ☞

AGENDA**Type of Meeting:** Board**Date:** December 16, 2020**Page:**1 of 2*"TOWARDS NEW HORIZONS"**Is it in the best interest of our students?**Does it support excellence?*

**NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
DECEMBER 16, 2020**

AGENDA

Vision: New Horizons School will enable gifted students to strive for excellence in a positive academic learning environment that fosters social and emotional support for each student.

- | | | | |
|--|--|--------------|---------|
| 1. | Call to Order | D. Hanson | 7:00 pm |
| 2. | Statement of Territorial Acknowledgment | D. Hanson | 7:01 pm |
| <p><i>The Board of Directors of the New Horizons Charter School Society respectfully acknowledges that the land on which we meet is Treaty 6 territory, a traditional home, gathering place, and travelling route for diverse Indigenous Peoples, including Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Nakota, Sioux, as well as the homeland of the Métis Nation. We recognize our responsibility as Treaty members and honour the heritage and gifts of the First Peoples of this land.</i></p> | | | |
| 3. | Adoption of Agenda | D. Hanson | 7:02 pm |
| 4. | Disclosure of Conflict of Interest | D. Hanson | 7:03 pm |
| 5. | Approval of Minutes | D. Hanson | 7:04 pm |
| | 5.1 November 25, 2020 – attachment | | |
| 6. | Administration Reports | | 7:05 pm |
| | 6.1 Principal's Report – attachment | T. Zarowny | |
| | 6.2 Superintendent's Report – attachment | D. Lindquist | |
| | 6.2.1 Re-entry Plan Update | | |
| | 6.2.2 Alberta Education Curriculum Working Group | | |
| | 6.2.3 2021 Charter School Conference Representatives | | |
| 7. | Board Reports | | 7:25 pm |
| | 7.1 Board Chair's Report | D. Hanson | |
| | 7.2 Committee Reports | D. Hanson | |
| 8. | New Business | | 7:35 pm |
| | 8.1 Counsellor's Report – attachment | L. Vigfusson | |
| | 8.2 Student Services Report – attachment | L. Vigfusson | |
| | 8.3 Stakeholder Forum 2021 – attachment | D. Lindquist | |

AGENDA**Type of Meeting:** Board**Date:** December 16, 2020**Page:**2 of 2*"TOWARDS NEW HORIZONS"**Is it in the best interest of our students?**Does it support excellence?*

- | | | | |
|-----|--|--------------|---------|
| 8.4 | Set March Retreat Date - attachment | D. Lindquist | |
| | | | |
| 9. | Receipt of Reports | D. Hanson | |
| 10. | Board Work Plan – attachment | D. Hanson | 8:35 pm |
| 11. | The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools | D. Hanson | 8:40 pm |
| 12. | Correspondence Sent | D. Hanson | 8:45 pm |
| | 12.1 Service Alberta Letter – Bylaw Changes | | |
| | 12.2 Minister of Education – Bylaw Changes | | |
| 13. | Correspondence Received | D. Hanson | |
| | 13.1 | | |
| 14. | In Camera | D. Hanson | 8:46 pm |
| 15. | New Business (cont'd.) | D. Hanson | 9:05 pm |
| | 15.1 Matters Arising from In Camera Meeting | | |
| 16. | Adjournment | D. Hanson | 9:10 pm |

Next Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 20, 2021

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY MINUTES

Type of Meeting: Board

Date: November 25, 2020

Initials: Chair _____

Approved: DRAFT

Recorded By: A. DeJong

Secretary _____

November 25, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Board Members Present at Call to Order:

Dan Hanson
CHAIR

Jason Clarke
VICE CHAIR

Vincent Tong
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Chris Burrows
DIRECTOR

Ijeoma Ukiwe
DIRECTOR

Administration Present:

Dean Lindquist
SUPERINTENDENT

Patti Dundas
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Ted Zarowny
PRINCIPAL

Members Present:

Jeffrey Blanchard

Tammie Cretney

Kandace Graham

Elizabeth Macve

Angela DeJong

Stephen Abioye

Julie Szweda (non-member)

Sarah Irving (non-member)

Sarah-Jane Lovgren (non-member)

Katrina Russell (non-member)

1. Call to Order

Superintendent Lindquist called the virtual meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. and made opening remarks.

2. Statement of Territorial Acknowledgment

The Board of Directors of the New Horizons Charter School Society respectfully acknowledges that the land on which we meet is Treaty 6 territory, a traditional home, gathering place, and travelling route for diverse Indigenous Peoples, including Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Nakota, and Sioux, as well as the homeland of the Métis Nation. We recognize our responsibility as Treaty members and honour the heritage and gifts of the First Peoples of this land.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The following additions were made to the agenda:

- 11 – Receipt of Reports

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY MINUTES

Type of Meeting: Board**Date:** November 25, 2020**Initials:****Chair** _____**Approved:** DRAFT**Recorded By:** A. DeJong**Secretary** _____*Motion 2020-11-25-01**Moved that the agenda for the Board Meeting of November 25, 2020 be adopted as amended.**Moved: Director Burrows**Seconded: Secretary-Treasurer Tong**Carried***4. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest:**

None

5. Approval of Minutes**5.1 Minutes of October 7, 2020***Motion 2020-11-25-02**Moved that the Board Meeting minutes of October 7, 2020 be approved as presented.**Moved: Vice Chair Clarke**Seconded: Director Burrows**Carried***6. Administration Reports****6.1 Principal's Report**

Principal Zarowny provided a brief oral report relating to recent changes to COVID-19 protocols and requirements. Discussion followed.

Board members discussed the winter break and the impact of adjusting the school calendar.

6.2 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Lindquist spoke to the school's single confirmed case of COVID-19 and to the Charter School Superintendents Meeting with the Deputy Minister. Discussion followed.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
MINUTES

Type of Meeting: Board

Date: November 25, 2020

Initials: Chair _____

Approved: DRAFT

Recorded By: A. DeJong

Secretary _____

7. Board Reports

7.1 Board Chair's Report

Chair Hanson indicated that there are two vacancies on the Board and invited attending parents to consider joining.

7.2 Other Committee Reports

Policy Committee

Vice Chair Clarke indicated that the committee has met regarding the bylaw amendment and will be meeting to address numerous points and policy review. Individuals were invited to join and participate with the committee.

Survey Committee

No report.

Finance and Audit Committee

Secretary-Treasurer Tong indicated that the committee met to go over the audited financial statements.

Public Relations

Chair Hanson indicated that the committee will be meeting in the new year to continue discussion and development of the advocacy plan.

Personnel

Chair Hanson indicated that negotiation meetings with the ATA have been rescheduled to early February, 2021.

8. New Business

8.1 Approve Audited Financial Statement Year Ending August 31, 2020

The audited financial statements were approved at the AGM held on November 25, 2020.

8.2 Fall Budget Update 2020-21

Secretary-Treasurer Dundas spoke to the fall budget update as included in the agenda package. Discussion followed.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
MINUTES

Type of Meeting: Board

Date: November 25, 2020

Initials: Chair _____

Approved: DRAFT

Recorded By: A. DeJong

Secretary _____

8.3 Combined Annual Education Results Report for 2019-20 and Three Year Education Plan for 2020-21 to 2022-23

Principal Zarowny spoke to the combined Annual Education Results Report for 2019-20 and Three Year Education Plan for 2020-21 to 2022-23 and highlighted where changes have occurred. Discussion followed.

Motion 2020-11-25-03

Moved that the Combined Annual Education Results Report for 2019-20 and Three Year Education Plan for 2020-21 to 2022-23 be approved as presented for posting and submission to Alberta Education.

Moved: Director Burrows

Seconded: Secretary-Treasurer Tong

Carried

8.4 Service on Board Committees

Chair Hanson indicated that there are vacancies on the Board Committees allowing Society members to participate. Members are invited to contact Chair Hanson for more information. Discussion followed.

8.5 School Council Report

School Council Chair Elizabeth Macve provided an update on School Council activities to date in 2020-21. Discussion followed.

8.6 Stakeholder Forum

Superintendent Lindquist spoke to the annual stakeholder forum. Discussion followed related to hosting the forum in a virtual setting. Topic to be included on the December 16, 2020 agenda.

8.7 NHS Research Request

Superintendent Lindquist spoke to a research request as included in the agenda package. Discussion followed.

8.8 2021-22 Modular Program Request

Secretary-Treasurer Dundas spoke to the 2021-22 Modular Program Request, as included in the agenda package. Discussion followed.

9. Board Work Plan

The Board reviewed the Work Plan for 2020-21, as included the agenda package.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
MINUTES

Type of Meeting: Board

Date: November 25, 2020

Initials: Chair _____

Approved: DRAFT

Recorded By: A. DeJong

Secretary _____

10. The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools (TAAPCS)

10.1 Report on Annual General Meeting

Chair Hanson spoke to the virtual Annual General Meeting held on October 24, 2020. NHCSS representatives were: Chair Hanson, Superintendent Lindquist, Secretary-Treasurer Dundas and Vice Chair Clarke.

10.2 Halvar Jonson Award

Chair Hanson and Vice Chair Clarke were honoured to present the Halvar Jonson Award to former NHS Superintendent Don Falk.

11. Receipt of Reports

Motion 2020-11-25-04

Moved that all reports be received as presented during the meeting.

Moved: Vice Chair Clarke

Seconded: Director Burrows

Carried

12. Correspondence Sent

None

13. Correspondence Received

13.1 CFEP Playground Grant

13.2 Email notice Modular Classroom Program 2021-22

13.3 Email notice of Release of Guide to Education 2020-21

13.4 Email notice of Curriculum Renewal Update

13.5 TAAPCS Letter to Deputy Minister

14. In Camera

Motion 2020-11-25-05

Moved that the meeting move in camera at 9:43 p.m.

Moved: Director Burrows

Seconded: Secretary-Treasurer Tong

Carried

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
MINUTES

Type of Meeting: Board

Date: November 25, 2020

Initials: **Chair** _____

Approved: DRAFT

Recorded By: A. DeJong

Secretary _____

Motion to Move Out of Camera:

Motion 2020-11-25-06 Moved that the meeting move out of camera at 9:46 p.m.

Moved: Director Ukiwe

Seconded: Secretary-Treasurer Tong

Carried

15. New Business (con't)

15.1 Matters Arising from In Camera Meeting

Motion 2020-11-25-07 Moved that the contract of employment for the following employees be ratified:

- *Employee #0317*
- *Employee #0310*

Moved: Director Burrows

Seconded: Secretary-Treasurer Tong

Carried

16. Adjournment

Chair Hanson adjourned the meeting at 9:48 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: December 16, 2020

Principal's Report

To the Board of Directors

December 16, 2020
7:00 p.m.
On-Line Meeting

1. Admissions Now Open

Admissions for the 2021-2022 School year are now open. Our procedures identified in our [Admissions Handbook](#).

- **Notable Changes**
 - We have typically used the *Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test* (NNAT) for the nonverbal measure in our Kindergarten assessment. Last year there were changes to the test and it was recommended we use the *Raven's 2* instead. We will continue to use the *Raven's 2*.
 - We added a COVID Protocols section.
 - In order to reduce the numbers outside individuals entering the school, we identified grades that will likely be full (grades 3, 4 & 6). We have suggested that interested parents complete the application, but to not complete the entire admissions process. We will contact those parents if spaces become available.

2. Curriculum Update

a) The Guiding Framework for the Design and Development of Kindergarten to Grade 12 Provincial Curriculum

Alberta Education recently released "The Guiding Framework for the Design and Development of Kindergarten to Grade 12 Provincial Curriculum." The document provides the context for the design and development of the new curriculum.

- [Link](#)

b) New Curricula Release Schedule

- Grades K to 6
 - Early 2021 – Drafting
 - September 2021 to August 2022 – Piloting in classrooms
 - September 2022 to June 2023 – Implementation
- Grades 7 to 10:
 - Early 2021 to 2022 – Drafting
 - September 2022 to August 2023 – Piloting in classrooms
 - September 2023 to June 2024 – Implementation
- Grades 11 to 12:
 - Early 2022 to August 2023 – Drafting
 - September 2023 to August 2024 – Piloting in classrooms
 - September 2024 to June 2025 – Implementation



Dean Lindquist

Superintendent

Phone: 780-416-2353

Email: dlindquist@newhorizons.ca

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 16, 2020

To: Board of Directors

From: Dean Lindquist - Superintendent

Re: Superintendent's Report

Background:

COVID-19 Re-entry Plan Update

The following new health and safety measures were announced and were initiated effective November 30:

Mandatory restriction – Provincewide – Starting Nov. 30

Grades 7-12 students

- Move to at-home learning Nov. 30 to Jan. 8, except during winter break*
- Resume in-person classes Jan. 11
- Diploma exams are optional for rest of the school year. Students and their families can choose whether to write an exam or receive an exemption for the January, April, June and August 2021 exams.

Grades K-6 students

- This includes [Early Childhood Services](#)
- Continue in-person learning until their scheduled winter break (generally Dec. 18*)
- Move to at-home learning after the winter break until Jan. 8
- Resume in-person classes Jan. 11

*Schools have different winter break schedules, check with your school for details.

Supporting students with disabilities and in outreach programs

All students with disabilities who require support and services in any grade whose needs cannot be met through at-home learning and students in [outreach programs](#) can continue to receive supports and services in-person at school, regardless of the shifts to at-home learning before and after the winter break.

- This exemption for in-person learning was based on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- In consultation with parents, schools are expected to continue to provide students with disabilities with services and support they need.
- Parents should work with their teacher and school principal on appropriate arrangements.

Work arrangements for school staff

Local school authorities, as employers, are responsible for decisions relating to school staff continuing to work at the school or working from home.

School authorities' decisions and approach must continue to follow Occupational Health and Safety as well as provincial health measures.

([https://www.alberta.ca/k-to-12-school-re-entry-2020-21-school-year.aspx#:~:text=October%2029%2C%202020\),School%20health%20measures,in%20a%20COVID%2D19%20environment.&text=Grade%204%20to%2012%20students,shared%20areas%20such%20as%20hallways.](https://www.alberta.ca/k-to-12-school-re-entry-2020-21-school-year.aspx#:~:text=October%2029%2C%202020),School%20health%20measures,in%20a%20COVID%2D19%20environment.&text=Grade%204%20to%2012%20students,shared%20areas%20such%20as%20hallways.))

At a November 25 CASS Meeting with Deputy Minister Corbould, the following items were discussed:

- Jurisdictions have autonomy with their calendars
- Diplomas are optional - exemptions will be granted - if kids write, the exam will be worth 30%
- There will be no additional funding
- Special needs and Outreach kids 7-12 can continue in-person learning
- Split classes that bridge from K-6 to upper grades have two choices - upper grades go home or stay in class - lower grades must stay in class
- **Schools remain open** - kids can come in to do one-on-one with teachers, use computers, get materials and resources - appointments would be a good idea - recommended that teachers be in and teach from their schools
- Discussion around allocating credits and the DM is looking at flexibility here due to quarters
- There is hope that decisions about January 11 and onward will be made before the break.

As noted these measures were applied at NHS for November 30. The school administration has worked with teachers and parents throughout the changes. There was some confusion as to whether the last day of school would be December 18 or 22 as Premier Kenney announced December 18. This has since be clarified as the final day set in the district calendar. This is important as we need to ensure that we meet minimum hours of instruction.

Alberta Education Curriculum Working Group

TAAPCS was asked to solicit nominations of teachers to work on the Alberta Education Curriculum Working Group.

The areas curriculum areas were as follows with accompanying NHCS Nomination

Curriculum Area	Charter Nominee K-6	Charter Nominee 7-10
English Language Arts	Andrea Watson Janice DInel	
French Language Arts	N/A	N/A
Français		
Mathematics	Andrea Watson Janice DInel	
Social Studies	Andrea Watson Janice DInel	
Sciences		
Arts Education: Dance, Drama, Music and Art	Kandace Graham	
Wellness Education		

Unfortunately, none of our nominations were approved. However, there are four representatives from other charter schools who will serve on the working groups. These teaches are from Almadina Language Charter School (French Language Arts), Westmount Charter School (Wellness), Foundations for the Future Charter School (English Language Arts) and Centre for Academic and Personal Excellence (Math).



Dean Lindquist

Superintendent

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We would have liked to have representation on the working groups as New Horizons School staff are very involved in curriculum design at the local level.

2021 Charter School Conference

The Charter School Conference is in the planning stages for next October 22, 2021. As noted by Calgary Girls Charter School Superintendent Pamela Davidson:

On behalf of the Calgary Girls Charter School and Calgary Regional Consortium, we are writing to you with respect to the Charter School Professional Learning Conference scheduled for October 22, 2021. As we focus on the future and what education will hold for us, we are eager to engage with our partner schools to co-create our bi-annual professional learning opportunity.

Representing New Horizons Charter School on the organizing committee will be Vice-Principal Lori Vigfusson and Jennifer Asquini.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board receive this report as information.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dean Lindquist", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Dean Lindquist



November 4, 2020

TAAPCS Superintendents

Dear Superintendent:

On behalf of the Calgary Girls Charter School and Calgary Regional Consortium, we are writing to you with respect to the Charter School Professional Learning Conference scheduled for October 22, 2021. As we focus on the future and what education will hold for us, we are eager to engage with our partner schools to co-create our bi-annual professional learning opportunity.

As has been the case in previous years, interested representatives from multiple charter schools have collaborated to design a one-day professional learning opportunity for all charter schools' staff. By good fortune, the in-person conferences have often alternated between Edmonton and Calgary and the committee has always been mindful to take this into consideration. In light of the current COVID-19 Pandemic, the location and the method of delivery (eg. virtual vs. in-person) will need to be discussed and determined by the conference design team.

The date for our conference is less than a year away and we would like to invite a representative from each of the charter schools to join the design team, if you are interested. Please contact Krystal Abrahamowicz, Executive Director at the Calgary Regional Consortium, at kabrahamowicz@crpcd.ab.ca, to provide the name of your school representative to the Conference design team by no later than **Friday, November 27, 2020**, so that planning may commence.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter and we look forward to learning and working with you.

Make it a great day.

Yours in education,

Krystal Abrahamowicz
Executive Director
Calgary Regional Consortium

Pamela Davidson
Superintendent
Calgary Girls Charter School

Dani Sever
Principal
Calgary Girls Charter School

Counsellor's Report

The 2019-2020 school year was an interesting one! At the beginning of the school year I set up and delivered whole class, small group, and individual counselling programs.

At the whole-class level, I delivered a series of lessons relating to executive functioning and conflict resolution/sportsmanship to division 1 and 2 classes. I also provided executive functioning resources to Mrs. LB for her life skills classes as it was decided that a focus on executive function for junior high was necessary for all students.

In my small group counselling I was only able to hold one small group series in the late fall on anxiety with the plan to increase this in the new year as in previous years. The group consisted of 5 students in grade 2 and 3.

I focussed more time before the winter break to individual counselling and check-ins as needed for students. These check-ins were requested by teachers for a variety of reasons: conflict resolution, organization and prioritization, anxiety, stress and family dynamics.

After Christmas, I continued with my individual counselling and check-ins as well as with whole class lessons but due to the pandemic was unable to deliver small group counselling as planned.

Once we moved to remote learning I continued to meet with a number of students via google meet as per parent, teacher or student request. I also met with some classes for 'remote recess' as a way to maintain connection with some of the classes I had been working with.

I provided digital resources to teachers on a variety of topics to help deal with the isolation felt by students and staff. These included mental health contacts in the community as well as conversation starters and digital tools for students to record their feelings while learning from home.

This year, I have focussed on individual counselling and check-ins with students as small groups are difficult to manage with health and cohorting restrictions in place. These individual meets take place both face-to-face and via google meet for remote learners. I have also created a student support webpage with information for parents and students on Anxiety, Executive Functioning and Growth Mindset.

We are fortunate to have a Psychology PhD student, Richelle Wagner, from the University of Alberta working with us. She is in 1 day per week on average with this amount increasing in the new year. She has met individually with students and done observations in various classrooms as requested by teachers due to student need. She will be completing a number of assessments for different students so she can provide targeted interventions for students with higher needs.

At the beginning of this school year we brought in Dr. Shaun Reynolds to speak with parents about dealing with stress and anxiety during the pandemic. Parents joined via google meet and the session was well attended by close to 40 people.

I am currently working on a plan to host a virtual mental health week with the hope of having speakers for classes remotely as well as perhaps host another parent session. I have also been working with Strathcona County Family and Community Services to create mental health kits for our school that teachers can sign out and use with their classes. These should be up and ready to go in the new year.



Dean Lindquist, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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MEMORANDUM

December 16, 2020

To: Board of Directors

From: Dean Lindquist – Superintendent

Subject: Stakeholder Forum 2021

Background:

For the last number of years, the Board has hosted a Stakeholder Forum early in the new year.

To prepare for hosting this important event, the Board should finalize the following:

1. Date of the Stakeholder Forum –
 - a. Last year the Forum was held Monday, February 3, 2020
 - b. The selected time and date for Stakeholder Forum 2021 is: 6:30 pm, Monday, January 25, 2021. This date was chosen to ensure that any type of cancellations or delays would not push our forum too late into the school year.
2. Facilitator of the Stakeholder Forum – Dean Lindquist, Ted Zarowny, Lori Vigfusson
3. Proposed Topics:
 - a. **What are the attitudes and behaviors that will make students successful at school?** (Strategy contained in Combined 3-Year AEP and AERR, p. 21)
 - b. **In what ways (e.g. teaching, learning, programming, organization, etc) has NHS improved, stayed the same or declined in the last three years?** (Strategy contained in Combined 3-Year AEP and AERR, p. 21)
 - c. **Meeting the needs of students through and beyond the pandemic (including Mental Health)**
 - d. **Other topics to be determined**
4. Board should provide feedback on Stakeholder Forum date, facilitation process and discussion topics.

Recommendation:



Dean Lindquist, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Phone: 780-416-2353

Email: dlindquist@newhorizons.ca

It is recommended that the Board of Directors engage in a discussion with a view toward responding to each of the four points above in addition to any further direction by the Board.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dean Lindquist".

Dean Lindquist, Ed.D. – Superintendent

Attachment – Draft agenda

**New Horizons School – Stakeholder Forum
6:30 p.m., January 25, 2021**

AGENDA

Welcome & Introductions	Dean Lindquist
Opening Remarks	Dan Hanson
Housekeeping Items	Dean Lindquist
Background/Explanation of Process	Ted Zarowny / Lori Vigfusson

Question #1 – XXXXXXXX

Background	Ted Zarowny / Director
Small Group Discussion	Table Groups
Small Group Prioritization	Table Groups
Collection of Suggestions	Ted Zarowny / Lori Vigfusson
Questions for Clarification	All
Poll #1	Ted Zarowny / Lori Vigfusson

Question #2 – XXXXXXXX

Background	Ted Zarowny / Director
Small Group Discussion	Table Groups
Small Group Prioritization	Table Groups
Collection of Suggestions	Ted Zarowny / Lori Vigfusson
Questions for Clarification	All

Poll #2

Ted Zarowny / Lori Vigfusson

Wrap-up and Closing Comments

How Input Will Be Used

Dean Lindquist

Final Poll

Lori Vigfusson

Thanks & Closing Comments

Dan Hanson

Adjournment



Dean Lindquist, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Phone: 780-416-2353

Email: dlindquist@newhorizons.ca

Invitation to attend the 2021 Stakeholder Forum

December 17, 2020

Dear Students, Staff, Parents and NHS Society Members

Re: Stakeholder Forum 2021

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to invite you to participate in our school's sixth annual Stakeholder Forum, to be held at 6:30 p.m. on **Monday, January 25, 2021** via Zoom.

The Stakeholder Forum is an important opportunity for you to share your views on how our school can continue to grow, develop, and improve. In addition, you will have opportunity to hear and discuss ideas brought forward by other parents, students and members of the school staff.

The Stakeholder Forum is an essential element in our school's planning process and contributes significantly to the development of our Three-Year Education Plan, which in turn establishes the direction and priorities for our school.

This year's Stakeholder Forum will focus on two discussion topics:

- a. **What are the attitudes and behaviors that will make students successful at school?**
- b. **COVID-19 and or Mental Health question**

The Zoom Link to register your attendance at the Stakeholder Forum is:

<https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJErdeCgqjsjG9czxh71SCU2vIHUI29Dqvff>.

Registration is open to all interested in attending. Remember your voice and participation is important.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Administration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dean Lindquist", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Dean Lindquist, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Dean Lindquist

Superintendent

Phone: 780-416-2353

Email: dlindquist@newhorizons.ca

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 16, 2020

To: Board of Directors

From: Dean Lindquist - Superintendent

Re: March 2021 Board Retreat Date

Background:

The Board, in their Annual Work Plan, has identified that they will plan a Board Retreat for March 2021. To begin working on the planning of the retreat, the Board needs to identify the following:

1. March date for the event;
2. Medium for hosting the retreat (e.g. Zoom);and
3. Agenda items for the Retreat.

Our last Board Retreat was via Zoom on August 15, 2020. The March 2020 Board Retreat was held on March 14, 2020.

When setting the date for the Retreat, it is important to take into consideration that Spring Break begins on March 29 and ends April 5, 2021.

It is suggested that the Board consider either Saturday, March 13 or March 20 for the date of the March 2021 Board Retreat.

Given the pandemic, it is suggested that the Board attend the retreat using Zoom as the electronic means for facilitating the meeting.

The agenda will be created over the next few months. However, the Board may wish to identify topics for the March 2021 retreat.

Potential March 2021 Retreat Agenda Items

- Review of 2021 Stakeholder Forum Results
- Review of the new Alberta Education Funding Framework as compared to NHS student demographics
- Advocacy Committee – NHS High School and Funding Framework Advocacy
- Others:

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board set a March date and develop a prioritized list of agenda topics.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dean Lindquist". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dean" and last name "Lindquist" clearly distinguishable.

Dean Lindquist



Board of Directors – Work Plan for 2020-21

September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt Board Work Plan for 2020-21 Set date for October Board meeting Receive report on provincial achievement test results (closed meeting) Re-entry Plan Update 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Board Organizational Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct Special General Meeting; hold Board elections Elect Board executive officers (must be within one week of SGM) Select members for Board standing committees Set dates for Board meetings (motion required) Notify Service Alberta of change in executive officers Identify Board signing authorities Sign Board Member Code of Conduct – Policy #101 Receive Accountability Pillar Results Report for October 2020 Attend TAAPCS Annual General Meeting Receive enrolment report for September 30, 2020 Conduct initial orientation session for new Board members Submit request to Alberta Education for modular classrooms Set date for NHCS Society Annual General Meeting Create Task Force to investigate establishment of New Horizons High School Program (as per Education Plan) Re-entry Plan Update 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct AGM of NHCS Society Approve final Three-Year Education Plan 2020-2021 to 2022-23 Approve revised budget for 2020-21 Approve Annual Education Results Report 2019-20 Approve Audited Financial Statement Year Ending Aug 31/20 Receive Report #1 from School Council Determine priorities, possible date for Stakeholder Forum Re-entry Plan Update 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set date for March Board Planning Retreat Receive Counsellor's Report for 2019-20 School Year Re-entry Plan Update 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receive Quarterly Financial Report for Sep - Nov 2020 Review Policy 210 and associated Student Code of Conduct Approve school calendar for 2021-22 in principle Stakeholder Forum – Gather input on possible Education Plan priorities Re-entry Plan Update 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Board Annual Work Plan – Approved September 23, 2020

February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide final approval of school calendar for 2021-22 Prepare breakfast for school staff Receive mid-year progress report on Three-Year Education Plan 2020-23 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Retreat – Identify priorities for upcoming Education Plan Approve Three-Year Capital Plan for 2021-22 to 2023-24 Administer Board-developed Stakeholder Survey Re-entry Plan Update 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide provisional approval to Education Plan 2020-21 to 2022-23 Receive Quarterly Financial Report for Dec 2020 – Feb 2021 Re-entry Plan Update 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend TAAPCS Spring General Meeting Approve Budget for 2021-22 Receive Accountability Pillar Results Report for May 2021 Receive Board-developed stakeholder survey results Consider salary adjustment for support staff, senior administration Receive report from FANHS Re-entry Plan Update 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess Board Work Plan progress for 2020-21 Receive Quarterly Financial Report for Mar – May 2021 Schedule SGM of NHCS Society (requires 21 days' notice; must be on or before Oct 10) Schedule September 2021 Board meeting Set date for Summer Board Housekeeping Retreat Receive Report #2 from School Council Re-entry Plan Update 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider proposals for new or amended Board policies Receive recommendations from Board committees 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiate collective agreement with ATA (as needed) 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
As Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Council MLAs 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>



Dan Hanson

Board Chair

Phone: 780-416-2353

Email: dhanson@newhorizons.ca

November 26, 2020

Service Alberta

Registries

P.O. Box 1007 Stn. Main

Edmonton, AB T5J 4W6

Re: New Horizons Charter School Society Bylaw Amendment

To Whom it May Concern:

I hereby certify that the following Special Resolutions were passed at the Annual General Meeting of the members of *New Horizons Charter School Society* on November 25, 2020.

The by-laws were changed as follows:

- By-law 5.4.1 is amended to include section 5.4.1.1:
 5.4.1 *Attendance by the Public*
 General Meetings of the Society are open to the public. A majority of the Members present may ask any persons who are not Members to leave.
 5.4.1.1 *The Special General Meeting and Annual General Meeting may take place by Electronic Means if the majority of the Board of Directors determine that meeting in person is not in the best interests of the members of the Society, Directors and other stakeholders.*
 (Definition: "Electronic Means" is defined as the use of publicly available electronic communication tools which permit multi-party audio and/or video communications such that participants may have both audio and video, but all participants must have audio access.)
- By-law 5.4.5.1 is deleted and replaced with the following:
 5.4.5.1 *Each member has one (1) vote. The Chair will declare how votes will be called and recorded at the beginning of a meeting. That methodology will be used for the duration of the meeting. The voting methodology declared by the chair must be inclusive and accessible to all present members, transparent and verifiable.*
- By-law 6.1.7.1 is deleted and replaced with the following:
 6.1.7.1 *There shall be a minimum of nine (9) meetings each year. The Board of Director Meetings and Special Meetings including committee meetings may take place by Electronic Means if the majority of the Board of Directors or committee members, in the*

case of committee meetings, determine that meeting in person is not in the best interests of the members of the Society, Directors and other stakeholders. (Note: See 5.4.1.1 for the definition of meeting using electronic means.)

- By-law 6.1.7.7 is deleted and replaced with the following:
6.1.7.7 Each Director present has one (1) vote. The chair will declare how votes will be called and recorded at the beginning of a meeting. That methodology will be used for the duration of the meeting. The voting methodology declared by the chair must be inclusive and accessible to all present Members, transparent, and verifiable.

Two copies of the amended by-laws are attached: one for Service Alberta records and the second for approval and return to the New Horizons Charter School Society.

Sincerely,



Dan Hanson, Board Chair
New Horizons Charter School Society



Dan Hanson

Board Chair

Phone: 780-416-2353

Email: dhanson@newhorizons.ca

November 26, 2020

Minister of Education
Office of the Minister
Education
228 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Re: New Horizons Charter School Society Bylaw Amendment

Dear Minister LaGrange:

On behalf of the Board, I am submitting the following New Horizons Charter School Society bylaw change for your approval.

I hereby certify that the following Special Resolutions were passed at the Annual General Meeting of the members of *New Horizons Charter School Society* on November 25, 2020.

The by-laws were changed as follows:

- By-law 5.4.1 is amended to include section 5.4.1.1:
 5.4.1 *Attendance by the Public*
 General Meetings of the Society are open to the public. A majority of the Members present may ask any persons who are not Members to leave.
 5.4.1.1 *The Special General Meeting and Annual General Meeting may take place by Electronic Means if the majority of the Board of Directors determine that meeting in person is not in the best interests of the members of the Society, Directors and other stakeholders.*
 (Definition: "Electronic Means" is defined as the use of publicly available electronic communication tools which permit multi-party audio and/or video communications such that participants may have both audio and video, but all participants must have audio access.)
- By-law 5.4.5.1 is deleted and replaced with the following:
 5.4.5.1 *Each member has one (1) vote. The Chair will declare how votes will be called and recorded at the beginning of a meeting. That methodology will be used for the duration of the meeting. The voting methodology declared by the chair must be inclusive and accessible to all present members, transparent and verifiable.*

- By-law 6.1.7.1 is deleted and replaced with the following:
6.1.7.1 There shall be a minimum of nine (9) meetings each year. The Board of Director Meetings and Special Meetings including committee meetings may take place by Electronic Means if the majority of the Board of Directors or committee members, in the case of committee meetings, determine that meeting in person is not in the best interests of the members of the Society, Directors and other stakeholders. (Note: See 5.4.1.1 for the definition of meeting using electronic means.)
- By-law 6.1.7.7 is deleted and replaced with the following:
6.1.7.7 Each Director present has one (1) vote. The chair will declare how votes will be called and recorded at the beginning of a meeting. That methodology will be used for the duration of the meeting. The voting methodology declared by the chair must be inclusive and accessible to all present Members, transparent, and verifiable.

The Board recognizes that the Government of Alberta Board Procedures Regulations authorizes the use of holding meetings by electronic means. The purpose of the above New Horizons Charter School Society bylaw change is to provide direction as to how the Society and Board will hold meetings when electronic means are used.

A copy of the amended by-laws is attached.

The Society is also sending a letter to Service Alberta for authority to proceed with the above changes as required in the Societies Act.

Sincerely,



Dan Hanson, Board Chair
 New Horizons Charter School Society



Friends, this is a call to action.

If you wish to protect FFCA and the education it provides to your children, I would ask you to read this message in its entirety and consider how you can help.

Simply put, our school is under attack. Charter schools, like FFCA, are widely misunderstood. Even amongst our own community, there are many who do not fully understand the uniqueness of charter schools; outside of FFCA, the problem is significantly amplified.

I'm sure many of you may have likely experienced this misunderstanding personally, having faced questions such as:

- Is FFCA a private school?
- How much do you have to pay?
- Can anyone go there?
- How did you get in?

FFCA has worked to arm parents with answers, however, we recognize that may not be enough.

Recent Developments

An advocacy group, called Support Our Students (or SOS), is gaining significant attention by tracking COVID cases at schools across the province. They are often quoted in the media as a “grassroots public school advocacy group”, and have been receiving increasing media attention. They have been touring the province using misinformation to drum up support among parents, educators, and politicians to put an end to charter schools.

On September 28, 2020 the Public School Board Association of Alberta (PSBAA) released a paper, *Privatizing Public Choice: the past, present and future of charter schools in Alberta* and called for the Auditor General to “conduct a full review of the educational, administrative and financial benefits of” public charter schools. In support of these actions, the President of PSBAA, Cathy Hogg, published a piece on their website that is full of inaccuracies and mischaracterizations of public charter schools while calling for the end of charters.

On October 17, 2020 the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) held their Regular General Meeting and decided that they will no longer include charter schools in their advocacy, and will now advocate to fold them back into mainstream public boards because they no longer consider charter schools to be a part of public education. Many of your

School Councils sent representatives to that meeting and tried to correct the misinformation and talk them out of the decision, but they were overwhelmed by a majority of the representatives sent by other schools.

The misinformation being circulated is readily taken as fact, and more and more parents, educators, and politicians are spreading the misinformation without being corrected, causing a shift in public opinion. Alberta's public charter schools are not well-understood, and blanket comparisons to the charter system in the United States serves as sufficient evidence for many to advocate for their demise.

It's time to push back.

How Can You Help?

First and foremost, arm yourself with knowledge on how charter schools are funded, how we enrol students, and how we are governed. Much information can be found on The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools (TAAPCS) website (<http://taapcs.ca>). If you are on Twitter, follow the #ableg hashtag and offer your educated opinion on matters relating to school choice when fallacies and misinformation about charter schools are posted.

For anyone who is able to give an hour or two a month to defend FFCA from these persistent attacks, your School Councils have joined forces to create an Advocacy Committee that could use your experience, passion, help and support.

The committee has reached out to other schools and there are currently community members from seven other charter schools working together, dividing the efforts into smaller groups focused on areas such as social media and communications, data analysis, myth busting, research, and more.

To learn more about the Advocacy Committee, and how you can support this important project, please reach out to the School Council at your campus. Your School Council represents you, and they cannot do it without your help.

Jeff Wilson
Board Chair, FFCA

FFCA School Council Chairs

FFCA High School Campuses – YogeshPatel@outlook.com
 South Middle Campus – Keri Campbell keri-lee@shaw.ca
 North Middle Campus – Terri Sartori 'Terri S' terrisphone@gmail.com
 Southeast Elementary – Meghan Miglierina ffcaseecouncil@gmail.com
 Southwest Elementary – Tanya Borthwick ffcaswe.council@gmail.com
 Northeast Elementary – Tracey Wishlow tracey.wishlow@hotmail.ca
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