



# Special Board Meeting

## Agenda Package

February 10, 2022

☞ *New Horizons Charter School Society* ☞

**AGENDA****Type of Meeting:** Board**Date:** February 10, 2022**Page:**1 of 1*"TOWARDS NEW HORIZONS"**Is it in the best interest of our students?**Does it support excellence?*

**NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' SPECIAL MEETING  
February 10, 2022**

**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.*

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|---|-----------|---------|
| 1. <b>Call to Order</b>                           | D. Hanson | 7:00 pm |
| 2. <b>Statement of Territorial Acknowledgment</b> | D. Hanson | 7:01 pm |

*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*

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|--|--------------|---------|
| 3. <b>Adoption of Agenda</b>   | D. Hanson    | 7:05 pm |
| 4. <b>Disclosure of Conflict of Interest</b>   | D. Hanson    | 7:08 pm |
| 5. <b>New Business</b>   |              | 7:10 pm |
| 5.1 Government of Alberta Announcement of Changes to Provincially Required School Health and Safety Measures (1 Attachment and 1 link: <a href="https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=8185996876395-A336-5B57-A82D6FEE916E1060#jumplinks-0">https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=8185996876395-A336-5B57-A82D6FEE916E1060#jumplinks-0</a> ) |              |         |
| 5.2 School COVID-19 Re-entry Plan Required Changes (Attachment: Superintendent Report)   | D. Lindquist |         |
| 6. <b>Adjournment</b>  | D. Hanson    | 8:15 pm |

**Next Board Meeting – February 16, 2022**



**Dean Lindquist**  
Superintendent  
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**MEMORANDUM**

February 16, 2022

To: Board of Directors

From: Dean Lindquist - Superintendent

Re: Superintendent's Report

**Background:**

**NHS Re-entry Plan**

Data trends:

	<b>January 31</b>	<b>February 3</b>	<b>February 6</b>
<b>Current COVID-19 cases (Alberta)</b>	35,322	32,711	30,094
<b>Current hospitalizations (Alberta)</b>	1585	1584	1542
<b>Current ICU (Alberta)</b>	109	118	118
<b>12+ populations with at least one vaccine dose</b>	89.8%	89.9%	89.9%
<b>12+ population fully vaccinated</b>	86.1%	86.2%	86.2%
<b>Aged 5 – 11 provincial vaccination rates (at least one dose)</b>	45.4%	45.7%	46.1%
<b>Aged 5 – 11 provincial vaccination rates (at least two doses)</b>	13.9%	15.5%	17.8%
<b>Sherwood Park schools on alert list</b>	Not tracked	Not tracked	Not tracked
<b>Current active cases aged 5 – 9 (Alberta)</b>	1786	1613	1429
<b>Current active cases – aged 10 – 19 (Alberta)</b>	3097	2786	2490

With the changes to provincial health and safety measures that were announced on Tuesday, February 8 by Premier Kenney, we require changes to be made to the NHS COVID-19 Re-entry Plan.

Attached to this board package is government announcement outlining the three planned stages for removing health and safety measures currently in place to mitigate risks of acquiring COVID-19.

As noted in the attachment there are three key steps to the transition away from health and safety measures.

Step 1 – The pertinent part of this stage for schools is:

**Effective at 11:59 p.m. on Feb. 13:**

- Masks will no longer be required for all children and youth in schools.
- Masks will no longer be required in any setting for children aged 12 and under.

In meetings with the Deputy Minister and the College of Alberta School Superintendents, the key issue is that schools and school authorities will no longer be able to mandate mask wearing in schools for kindergarten through grade 12 students. Mask wearing may be made optional for students, but cannot be mandated as all students require equitable access to education if a board.

Staff and adults entering the school building will be required to wear masks.

The isolation requirements will remain in effect as specified by Alberta Health. We would maintain 10 days isolation (from school) for students contracting COVID-19 as we cannot effectively operationalize students returning after five days and wearing a mask full time.

Step two - Effective March 1 (based on hospitalization rates continuing to trend downwards):

- Any remaining provincial school requirements (including cohorting) will be removed.
- Screening prior to youth activities will no longer be required.
- Capacity limits will be lifted for all venues.
- Limits on social gatherings will be removed.
- Provincial mask mandate will be removed.
- Mandatory work from home removed.

Step three - The key feature that affects NHS is that isolation for individuals contracting COVID-19 moves from mandated to recommended.

### **Recommendations**

The following recommendations are made to the board:

#### Recommendation 1

February 14, 2022 – Masks become optional for students. Staff must continue to wear masks unless physically distanced. Desk shields and plexi-glass barriers would remain in place until step 2 is implemented

#### Recommendation 2

Recommend that partially vaccinated or non-vaccinated staff test at home with a rapid antigen test and provide an email to the principal identifying time and date of negative or positive test. This would be an interim step, as government is currently considering their request to boards for this policy or administrative procedure.



**Dean Lindquist**

Superintendent

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Recommendation 3

When step 2 is implemented, it will have a significant impact at the school level as students and staff have adjusted to significant health and safety measures over the past two years. Therefore, it is recommended that on March 1 (or alternate date as announced by government), cohort of students by grade level would be removed. Parents would be encouraged to continue to use the daily checklist (AHS). Desk shields and plexi-glass barriers would be removed.

As part of step 2, it is recommended that we maintain physical distancing practices and use of hand sanitizers at entrances to the school and in classrooms.

Recommendation 4

Remove Administrative Procedure 201 Workplace Health and Safety: Covid-19 Hazard Control Vaccination Status Administrative Procedure upon written direction by government. This AP was developed in response to the Minister's of Health and Education, and should be removed upon receiving direction from government. Challenges pertaining to this AP will be provided at the board meeting.

Recommendation 5

When step 3 is implemented by government, all health and safety measures contained in the NHS Re-Entry Plan will be removed.

Recommendation 6

The Board consider further work from administration on seeking out ways to increase air exchange in all classrooms and or methods to provide further filtering. Secretary Treasurer Dundas has completed some research in this area and she will provide the board with this information at this or a future meeting.

The Board is asked to consider each of these recommendations and or create different recommendations for administration in order to address government changes to health and safety measures.

Sincerely,

Dean Lindquist



*Office of the Minister*

February 8, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

Under the very challenging circumstances during the pandemic, I am so grateful to parents, students, teachers, and education partners for their flexibility. We have used additional layers of protections in schools including masking, cohorting, enhanced cleaning and sanitization, and for those that choose to, vaccination, to ensure our schools remained safe. As announced by Premier today, we are taking steps to begin relaxing COVID-19 protocols, including in our schools.

When it comes to our children, there are many important factors to consider when they attend school, including seeing the facial expressions of teachers and classmates, having the ability to be animated and joyful, and considering the mental health impacts that come along with public health measures such as masking. I have been encouraged to see a downward trend in the number of Alberta schools shifted to at home learning over the last few weeks. At the peak of the fifth wave there were 29 schools that were shifted to at home learning, and today only 7 of the over 2,500+ schools in our province remain learning at home. Effective Monday, February 14, 2022 the masking requirements in CMOH 22-2021 will be removed and as such there will be no masking requirements for any students in schools or on school buses. At this time, masking will still be required for adults including teachers, administrators and other school staff including school bus drivers.

As I shared in November, I must reiterate that every child in Alberta is entitled to have access to an education program as per Section 3(1) of the *Education Act*; this provision also existed in Section 8 of the previous *School Act*. To be clear, as of February 14, 2022 school boards will not be empowered by provincial health order or recommendations from the CMOH to require ECS - grade 12 students to be masked to attend school in person or to ride a school bus. At this time, prevention measures including cohorting, as well as enhanced cleaning and sanitization, will remain in school environments.

As Minister of Education, I take very seriously the responsibility of providing access to education for all students in our province. School authorities cannot deny their students access to in person education due to their personal decision to wear or not to wear a mask in schools. Individual family choices need to be respected and students should not be stigmatized for their choice related to masking going forward, similarly to their personal vaccination status.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support in keeping students safe and learning throughout the pandemic.

Adriana LaGrange  
Minister of Education