



# **New Horizons Charter School Society Board Meeting**

**December 13, 2022**

**AGENDA****Type of Meeting:** Board**Date:** December 13, 2022**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 13, 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.*

- |    |  |              |         |
|----|--|--------------|---------|
| 1. | <b>Call to Order</b>   | D. Hanson    | 7:00 pm |
| 2. | <b>Statement of Territorial Acknowledgment</b>   | D. Hanson    | 7:02 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, a 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. | <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>Approval of Minutes</b>   | D. Hanson    | 7:10 pm |
|    | 5.1 November 23, 2022 – attachment   |              |         |
| 6. | <b>Administration Reports</b>  |              | 7:15 pm |
|    | 6.1 Principal's Report   | L. Vigfusson |         |
|    | 6.2 Secretary Treasurer's Report   | P. Dundas    |         |
|    | 6.3 Superintendent's Report - attachment   | D. Lindquist |         |
| 7. | <b>Board Reports</b>   |              | 7:30 pm |
|    | 7.1 Board Chair's Report   | D. Hanson    |         |
|    | 7.2 Other Committee Reports  | D. Hanson    |         |
| 8. | <b>New Business</b>  |              | 7:40 pm |
|    | 8.1 Set Date for March Board Planning Retreat - attachment   | D. Lindquist |         |
|    | 8.2 Counsellor's Report #1   | L. Vigfusson |         |
|    | 8.3 Stakeholder Forum - attachment   | D. Lindquist |         |
|    | 8.4 Proposed 2023-24 School Calendar Update - attachment   | D. Lindquist |         |
| 9. | <b>Board Work Plan – attachment</b>  | D. Hanson    | 7:50 pm |

**AGENDA****Type of Meeting:** Board**Date:** December 13, 2022**Page:**2 of 2*"TOWARDS NEW HORIZONS"**Is it in the best interest of our students?**Does it support excellence?*

- |     |   |           |         |
|-----|---|-----------|---------|
| 10. | <b>The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools</b>                        | D. Hanson | 7:55 pm |
| 11. | <b>Receipt of Reports</b>   | D. Hanson | 7:57 pm |
| 12. | <b>Correspondence Sent</b>  | D. Hanson | 8:00 pm |
| 13. | <b>Correspondence Received</b>  | D. Hanson | 8:05 pm |
|     | 13.1 Minister of Education – Letter to Parents                                  |           |         |
|     | 13.2 Ministerial Order – Charter Schools Amendment Regulation                   |           |         |
|     | 13.3 Alberta Education - In-Person Learning and Masking – Questions and Answers |           |         |
| 14. | <b>In Camera</b>  | D. Hanson | 8:10 pm |
| 15. | <b>Adjournment</b>  | D. Hanson | 8:15 pm |

**Next Board Meeting – Wednesday, January 18, 2023**

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY  
MINUTES

Type of Meeting: Board

Date: November 23, 2022

Initials: Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: DRAFT

Recorded By: A. DeJong

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

**November 23, 2022, 7:30 p.m.**

Board Members Present at Call to Order:

Dan Hanson  
CHAIR

Jason Clarke  
VICE CHAIR

Vincent Tong  
BOARD SECRETARY AND  
TREASURER

Shaun Guthrie  
DIRECTOR

Administration Present at Call to Order:

Dean Lindquist  
SUPERINTENDENT

Patti Dundas  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Lori Vigfusson  
PRINCIPAL

Members in Attendance:

Kandace Graham

Raena Schindel

Ellen Hanna

Carol Chang

Praveen Kakkan

Sarah-Jane Lovgren

Elizabeth Macve

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Hanson called the virtual meeting to order at 7:30 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**

*Motion 2022-11-23-01*

*Moved that the agenda for the Board Meeting of November 23, 2022 be adopted as presented.*

*Moved: Director Guthrie*

*Seconded: Vice Chair Clarke*

*Carried*

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY  
MINUTES

Type of Meeting: Board

Date: November 23, 2022

Initials: Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: DRAFT

Recorded By: A. DeJong

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**

None.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

**5.1 Minutes of October 26, 2022**

*Motion 2022-11-23-02      Moved that the Board Meeting minutes of October 26, 2022 be approved as presented.*

*Moved: Vice Chair Clarke*

*Seconded: Board Secretary and Treasurer Tong*

*Carried*

**6. Administration Reports**

**6.1 Principal's Report**

Principal Vigfusson provided a verbal report and indicated that staff and students enjoyed Fall Break. Report cards will be distributed on December 2, 2022; division one will include a definition page to address the new outcomes relating to the new curriculum. Parent-teacher interviews were held in person in late October and School Council hosted a Halloween Family Dance which was very well received. Buddy activities amongst the grades continues on a weekly basis. Lastly, the recently hired snow removal company has been very diligent with excellent results. Discussion followed. A health and safety reminder was emailed to parents to summarize current health and illness expectations and to revisit the traffic management plan and rules surrounding student drop off.

**6.2 Secretary-Treasurer's Report**

No report, additional information will be shared under New Business.

**6.3 Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Lindquist summarized his written report including the June 2022 Provincial Achievement Tests, the Annual General Meeting, absenteeism rates and AHS Outbreak Guidance from Alberta Education, as included in the agenda package. Discussion followed.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY  
MINUTES

Type of Meeting: Board

Date: November 23, 2022

Initials: Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: DRAFT

Recorded By: A. DeJong

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Board Reports

### 7.1 Board Chair's Report

Chair Hanson indicated that the Minister of Education has received a mandate letter from Premier Smith with highlights including a request to develop a plan(s) to increase the number of educational assistants in schools, the building of new schools in growing communities and direction to continue supporting parental choice in education. The letter is included in the agenda package under *Correspondence Received*.

### 7.2 Committee Reports

#### Finance and Audit Committee

The committee met with a representative from Yaremchuk & Annicchiarico to review the August 31, 2022 audit report, as presented at the Annual General Meeting. The committee has welcomed two new parents and is looking forward to their participation.

#### Policy Guidelines and Bylaws Committee

No report.

#### Survey Committee

No report.

#### Public Relations Committee

No report.

#### Personnel Committee

The committee will be meeting soon regarding upcoming collective agreement negotiations.

#### High School Ad Hoc Committee

No report.

## 8. New Business

### 8.1 2021-22 Audited Financial Statement

Secretary Treasurer Dundas provided an update and overview of the 2021-22 Financial Audit Report, as presented at the Annual General Meeting. Discussion followed.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY  
MINUTES

Type of Meeting: Board

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Initials: Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: DRAFT

Recorded By: A. DeJong

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

*Motion 2022-11-23-03 Moved that the Board approve the August 31, 2022 audit report prepared by Yaremchuk & Annicchiarico, as presented at the Annual General Meeting.*

*Moved: Board Secretary and Treasurer Tong*

*Seconded: Director Guthrie*

*Carried*

**8.2 Fall Budget Update**

Secretary-Treasurer Dundas provided an overview of the 2022-23 Budget, highlighting some minor adjustments and changes. Discussion followed.

*Motion 2022-11-23-04 Moved that the Board approve Fall Budget Update as presented.*

*Moved: Director Guthrie*

*Seconded: Board Secretary and Treasurer Tong*

*Carried*

**8.3 Annual Education Results Report**

Principal Vigfusson provided a summary of the Annual Education Results Report (AERR) that has been prepared for submission but without the PAT results as they remain embargoed by Alberta Education at this time. Discussion followed including focus on territorial acknowledgement and how to personalize the statement to make it more meaningful. Consensus is to pursue a presentation to the Board on this topic at a future meeting.

**8.4 NHS Stakeholder Forum**

Superintendent Lindquist provided background and suggested possible discussion topics for the upcoming stakeholder forum, as included in the agenda package. Discussion followed. Consensus is to hold the stakeholder forum on Monday, January 23, 2023 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Discussion topics will include:

- *Civil Discourse and discussions in the classroom*
- *Supporting diverse student needs in the school*

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY  
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Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

**8.5 Research Proposal Approval**

Superintendent Lindquist indicated that a research proposal regarding anxiety in classroom assessments has been received for consideration, as included in the agenda package. Discussion followed.

*Motion 2022-11-23-05*

*Moved that the Board approve participation in the Investigating Anxiety in Classroom Assessments research proposal, as presented.*

*Moved: Director Guthrie*

*Seconded: Vice Chair Clarke*

*Carried*

**8.6 School Council Report**

School Council Chair Elizabeth Macve provided a summary of activities and initiatives that School Council has participated in during the 2022-23 school year to date. Meetings are being held in person with a virtual participation option available to members and attendance has increased over the previous year. Parents are invited to participate and become involved. Discussion followed.

**9. Board Work Plan**

The Board reviewed the Work Plan for 2022-23, as included in the agenda package.

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

No report.

**11. Receipt of Reports**

*Motion 2022-11-23-06*

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

*Moved: Director Guthrie*

*Seconded: Vice Chair Clarke*

*Carried*

**12. Correspondence Sent**



NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY  
MINUTES

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Initials: Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: DRAFT

Recorded By: A. DeJong

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

**13. Correspondence Received**

- 13.1 EDC Deputy Minister – Education Services Agreement Standards Town Hall
- 13.2 Alberta Infrastructure – Statement of Final Costs
- 13.3 Premier of Alberta to Minister of Education

Chair Hanson invited public guests to address the Board.

**14. Motion to Move In Camera**

*Motion 2022-11-23-07 Moved that the meeting move in camera at 9:05 p.m.*

*Moved: Board Secretary and Treasurer Tong*

*Seconded: Vice Chair Clarke*

*Carried*

**Motion to Move Out of Camera:**

*Motion 2022-11-23-08 Moved that the meeting move out of camera at 9:40 p.m.*

*Moved: Director Guthrie*

*Seconded: Board Secretary and Treasurer Tong*

*Carried*

**15. New Business (con't)**

**15.1 Matters Arising from In Camera Meeting**

*Motion 2022-11-23-09 Moved that the Board approve the Annual Education Results Report as presented, however, the document will not be shared publicly until the Alberta Education PAT Results Embargo has been lifted.*

*Moved: Director Guthrie*

*Seconded: Board Secretary and Treasurer Tong*

*Carried*

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY  
MINUTES

**Type of Meeting:** Board

**Date:** November 23, 2022

**Initials:** **Chair** \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved:** DRAFT

**Recorded By:** A. DeJong

**Secretary** \_\_\_\_\_

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*Motion 2022-11-23-10      Moved that the Board approve the Leave With Pay Request, less the cost of a substitute teacher, for Employee #0298.*

*Moved:      Vice Chair Clarke*

*Seconded: Director Guthrie*

*Carried*

**15.      Adjournment**

Chair Hanson adjourned the meeting at 9:43 p.m.

*Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 13, 2022*



**Dean Lindquist**

Superintendent

Phone: 780-416-2353

Email: [dlindquist@newhorizons.ca](mailto:dlindquist@newhorizons.ca)

**MEMORANDUM**

December 13, 2022

To: Board of Directors

From: Dean Lindquist - Superintendent

Re: Superintendent's Report

**Absenteeism Rates**

We are continuing to monitor absence rates due to illness. For the past week we have averaged approximately 7 - 8%. Reporting to Alberta Health Services is required when absence rates are at 10%..

**PAT Data Remains Embargoed**

At the last Board of Directors Meeting, the AERR was approved but will not be posted until the provincial exam results embargo is lifted. As of December 6, 2022, the Provincial Achievement Test embargo is lifted. Explanation about the embargo and PAT breach is provided in the attached email from the Alberta Education Deputy Minister.

**In Person Learning**

The Minister of Education communicated to boards that if there are instances when a board may need to move some groups or grade levels to at home learning due to high illness rates, in person learning at the school must remain an option for parents.

Included in the Correspondence Received is a copy of the Ministerial Order requiring the option for in person learning at the school. Also included is a Q&A explaining new requirements and a letter sent to parents from Minister LaGrange explaining the government's position on in person learning and family choices about wearing a mask at school.

Sincerely,

Dean Lindquist



Dean Lindquist &lt;dlindquist@newhorizons.ca&gt;

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## Release of the 2021/2022 PAT and Diploma Exam Results / Publication des résultats aux tests de rendement provinciaux et aux examens en vue de l'obtention du diplôme 2021-2022

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EDC Deputy Minister &lt;EducationDeputyMinister@gov.ab.ca&gt;

Tue, Dec 6, 2022 at 9:50 AM

**To: Superintendents of Public, Separate, Francophone and Charter School Boards**

**Provincially Accredited Independent (Private) School Authorities**

**First Nations Education Directors**

**Executive Directors of Stakeholder Associations**

AISCA (Association of Independent Schools and Colleges of Alberta)

ASBA (Alberta School Boards Association)

ASCA (Alberta School Councils' Association)

ATA (Alberta Teachers' Association)

CASS (College of Alberta School Superintendents)

FPFA (Fédération des parents francophones de l'Alberta)

*Le texte français suit le texte anglais. / French text follows English text.*

**Subject: Release of the 2021/2022 PAT and Diploma Exam Results**

Dear colleagues:

Provincial achievement tests and diploma exams were managed differently during 2019/20 and 2020/21 school years to help students and teachers cope with learning loss and well-being issues, which means Alberta Education was not able to collect reportable data for these provincial assessments. After two years of disruptions, Alberta Education is transitioning back to annual reporting of PAT results and diploma exam results to help parents, teachers, and school authorities measure student achievement. The [Provincial Achievement Test \(PAT\)](#) and [Diploma Exam](#) results from the 2021/22 school year have now been posted publicly on [Alberta.ca](#).

Results at the provincial level are posted in multiple formats: table, graph and Excel. Excel files that summarize results at the school and school authority levels are also posted. Due to the disruptions of the last two years, the PAT and diploma exam results for 2021/22 were not evaluated against the previous three-year performance as has been the practice in the past. A footnote to this effect has been added to the multiyear reports. Evaluating student performance against past results will resume once there is sufficient amount of reliable data to draw comparisons and conclusions or observe trends.

Regarding the 2021/22 Grade 9 PAT results, many of our partners in education are aware that students obtained answer keys and test questions for English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies this past June. The answers were posted on social media, meaning students who had not yet taken the tests were able to see the answers, which impacted their results. When analysing the Grade 9 PAT results for 2021/22, it is recommended to keep the following factors in mind:

- The analysis of these security breaches indicated that student results were most impacted over the last three days of the test administration window:
  - Social Studies over the last three days;
  - English Language Arts and Math over the last two days; and
  - Science on the last day.
- To minimize the impact of these security breaches on provincial reporting, the results of many students that wrote over the last few days of the administration window have been removed from the provincial cohort. The provincial results however are still representative of the Alberta student population. The number of students reported for each school authority and each school was not adjusted.
- Test questions posted on social media and for which there were anomalous response patterns were removed from the school, school authority, and provincial reporting.
- Caution should be exercised when interpreting school and school authority results if these PATs were written over the last three days of the test administration window.

Note that regular reports were produced for Grade 6 PATs, Grade 9 Knowledge and Employability and Grade 9 Français/French Language Arts.

PAT and Diploma Exam results help to assure the public that students are meeting provincial standards. These results will also inform the Alberta Education Assurance Measures (AEAMS) reports to be released later this year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Cheryl Przybilla, Executive Director of Provincial Assessment, at 780-422-3282 (toll-free by first dialling 310-0000) or [cheryl.przybilla@gov.ab.ca](mailto:cheryl.przybilla@gov.ab.ca).

I appreciate your continued support and commitment to delivering excellence in education in Alberta.

Sincerely,

Andre Tremblay

Deputy Minister of Education

cc: Communications Contacts at School Divisions

**Destinataires :** **Directions générales des autorités scolaires publiques, séparées, francophones et à charte**

**Autorités scolaires privées agréées par la province**

**Directions de l'éducation des Premières Nations**

**Directions exécutives des associations des parties prenantes**

AISCA (Association of Independent Schools and Colleges of Alberta)

ASBA (Alberta School Boards Association)

ASCA (Alberta School Councils' Association)

ATA (Alberta Teachers' Association)

CASS (College of Alberta School Superintendents)

FPFA (Fédération des parents francophones de l'Alberta)

*Le texte français suit le texte anglais. French text follows English text.*

**Objet : Publication des résultats aux tests de rendement provinciaux et aux examens en vue de l'obtention du diplôme 2021-2022**

Chers et chères collègues,

Les tests de rendement provinciaux et les examens en vue de l'obtention du diplôme de 12<sup>e</sup> année étaient gérés différemment au cours des années scolaires 2019-2020 et 2020-2021, avec pour objectif d'aider les élèves et les enseignants à faire face aux difficultés occasionnées par les perturbations d'apprentissage et du bien-être. Ce qui signifie qu'Alberta Education n'était pas en mesure de recueillir des données mesurables concernant ces tests d'évaluation provinciaux. Après deux ans de perturbations, Alberta Education retourne à l'établissement de rapports annuels des résultats des tests de rendement provinciaux et des examens en vue de l'obtention du diplôme de 12<sup>e</sup> année. Le but étant d'aider les parents, les enseignants et les autorités scolaires à mesurer le rendement des élèves. Les résultats [des tests de rendement provinciaux](#) et [des examens en vue de l'obtention du diplôme de 12<sup>e</sup> année](#) de l'année scolaire 2021-2022 sont maintenant publiés sur [Alberta.ca](#).

Les résultats à l'échelle provinciale sont publiés sous forme de tableau, de graphique et de fichier Excel. Les fichiers Excel qui résument les résultats selon les écoles et les autorités scolaires sont également affichés. En raison des perturbations d'apprentissage au cours des deux dernières années, les résultats des tests de rendement provinciaux et des examens en vue de l'obtention du diplôme de 12<sup>e</sup> année pour l'année scolaire 2021-2022 n'ont pas été comparés au rendement des trois années précédentes comme on le faisait dans le passé. Une note de bas de page à cet effet a été ajoutée aux rapports pluriannuels. L'évaluation du rendement des élèves en fonction de celui des années antérieures reprendra lorsqu'il y aura suffisamment de données fiables permettant d'établir des comparaisons et des conclusions, ou d'observer des tendances.

En ce qui concerne les résultats des tests de rendement provinciaux de 9<sup>e</sup> année pour l'année scolaire 2021-2022, bon nombre de nos partenaires en éducation sont conscients que des élèves ont obtenu des clés de réponses et des

questions de tests en English Language Arts, Mathématiques, Sciences et Études sociales en juin dernier. Les réponses ont été affichées dans les médias sociaux, ce qui veut dire que les élèves qui n'avaient pas encore passé les tests ont pu voir les réponses, ce qui a eu un effet sur leurs résultats. Lorsqu'on analyse les résultats des tests de rendement provinciaux de 9<sup>e</sup> année pour l'année scolaire 2021-2022, on recommande de garder en tête les facteurs suivants :

- L'analyse de ces infractions à la sécurité a révélé qu'elles ont eu le plus d'effet sur les résultats des élèves au cours des trois dernières journées de la période de tests :
  - Études sociales : pendant les trois dernières journées;
  - English Language Arts et Mathématiques : pendant les deux dernières journées; et
  - Sciences : pendant la dernière journée.
- Pour minimiser l'impact de ces infractions à la sécurité sur les rapports provinciaux, les résultats de nombreux élèves qui ont passé les tests pendant les dernières journées de la période des tests ont été retirés de la cohorte provinciale. Toutefois, les résultats provinciaux demeurent représentatifs de la population des élèves en Alberta. Le nombre d'élèves déclarés pour chaque autorité scolaire et chaque école n'a pas été rajusté.
- Les questions de tests qui ont été publiées dans les médias sociaux et qui présentent des anomalies dans les réponses ont été retirées des rapports à l'échelle des écoles, des autorités scolaires et de la province.
- Il faut interpréter les résultats des écoles et des autorités scolaires avec prudence si les élèves ont passé les tests de rendement provinciaux au cours des trois derniers jours de la période des tests.

Veuillez noter que les rapports réguliers ont été produits pour les tests de rendement provinciaux de 6<sup>e</sup> année, les tests de rendement de 9<sup>e</sup> année en Connaissance et employabilité et les tests de Français/French Language Arts de 9<sup>e</sup> année.

Les résultats des tests de rendement provinciaux et des examens en vue de l'obtention du diplôme de 12<sup>e</sup> année permettent de rassurer le public que le rendement des élèves est conforme aux normes provinciales. Ces résultats permettent également d'orienter les rapports des Mesures de l'assurance de la qualité d'Alberta Education (MAQAE) qui seront publiés plus tard cette année.

Si vous avez des questions ou des préoccupations, veuillez contacter Cheryl Przybilla, Executive Director of Provincial Assessment, à 780-422-3282 (sans frais en composant d'abord 310-0000) ou [cheryl.przybilla@gov.ab.ca](mailto:cheryl.przybilla@gov.ab.ca).

J'apprécie votre soutien et votre engagement constants à assurer l'excellence en éducation en Alberta.

Cordialement,

Andre Tremblay

Sous-ministre de l'Éducation







**Dean Lindquist**  
Superintendent  
Phone: 780-416-2353  
Email: dlindquist@newhorizons.ca

## **MEMORANDUM**

Date: December 13, 2022

To: Board of Directors

From: Dean Lindquist - Superintendent

Re: March 2023 Board Retreat Date

### **Background:**

The Board, in their Annual Work Plan, schedule two retreats annually. These are held in the spring (March) and summer (August).

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 or in person); and
3. Agenda items for the Retreat.

Our last Board Retreat was held at the school on August 20, 2022. The March 2022 Board Retreat was held on March 12, 2022.

When setting the date for the Retreat, it is important to take into consideration that Spring Break begins on March 24 and ends March 31, 2023. It is suggested that the Board consider either Saturday, March 11 or March 18 for the date of the March 2023 Board Retreat.

The agenda will be created over the next few months. However, the Board may wish to identify topics for the March 2023 retreat. At the summer retreat it was discussed that a potential topic would be to re-visit the board's vision, mission, and values. The purpose would be to re-confirm them or to begin a process for renewing each of them. A future high school is also a very relevant topic.

### **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", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Dean Lindquist



**Dean Lindquist, Ed.D.**

Superintendent

Phone: 780-416-2353

Email: [dlindquist@newhorizons.ca](mailto:dlindquist@newhorizons.ca)

## **MEMORANDUM**

December 13, 2022

To: Board of Directors

From: Dean Lindquist – Superintendent

Subject: Stakeholder Forum 2023

Background:

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

The questions or discussion topics arose from the August 2022 Summer Board Retreat. These two questions or topics were agreed upon at the November 23 Board of Directors Meeting.

At the November board meeting, the directors supported January 23 as the date for the forum. Administration has met and are recommending that the Stakeholder Forum be held on January 23 at the school. It was felt that an in-person Stakeholder Forum may provide for more robust discussion and conversation. By the board agreeing to this, there can be provision to move to a Zoom Meeting if there are significant increases in absenteeism due to COVID-19 or other illnesses at the school.

As noted at the last meeting, Stakeholder Forum Opening and Closing Remarks will be made by Board Chair Dan Hanson. The facilitators of the Stakeholder Forum questions will be Principal Vigfusson and Vice-Principal Watson. Vice Chair Clarke has agreed to introduce the discussion about civil discourse.

The two questions, as discussed at the November Board Meeting are:

1. Civil Discourse – It is particularly important for our learners to engage in civil discourse in our classrooms. This forum question will ask you to consider opportunities and challenges to facilitating civil discourse discussion in the classroom. What are the boundaries for topics and discussions? How do teachers support individual students and the varying values that students and families may possess that can make student participation and teacher facilitation difficult?
2. Recognizing Diverse Student Needs – How do we ensure that the board and staff support the diverse needs of students attending the school? What are we doing well, where do we need to improve and what are the next steps and or supports that the board must consider to ensure that our students are successful?



**Dean Lindquist, Ed.D.**

Superintendent

Phone: 780-416-2353

Email: [dlindquist@newhorizons.ca](mailto:dlindquist@newhorizons.ca)

The facilitators will determine the process for data collection and sharing.

Recommendation:

This report is information only for the Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

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 23, 2023**

**AGENDA**

Welcome & Opening Remarks	Board Chair Hanson
Process & Housekeeping Items	Principal Vigfusson / Vice Principal Watson

**Question #1** – Civil Discourse - discussion with groups about the opportunities and challenges to facilitating civil discourse discussion in the classroom. What are the boundaries for topics and discussions? How do teachers support individual students and the varying values that students and families may possess that can make student participation and teacher facilitation difficult?

Background	Vice Chair Clarke/ Principal Vigfusson
Small Group Discussion	Table Groups
Small Group Prioritization	Table Groups
Collection of Suggestions	Principal Vigfusson / Vice Principal Watson
Questions for Clarification	All
Poll #1 - Large Group	Principal Vigfusson / Vice Principal Watson

1. **Question #2** – How do we ensure that the board and staff support the diverse needs of students attending the school? What are we doing well, where do we need to improve and what are the next steps and or supports that the board must consider to ensure that our students are successful?

Background	Principal Vigfusson / Vice Principal Watson
Small Group Discussion	Table Groups
Small Group Prioritization	Table Groups
Collection of Suggestions	Principal Vigfusson / Vice Principal Watson
Questions for Clarification	All
Poll #2 - Large Group	Principal Vigfusson / Vice Principal Watson

#### **Wrap-up and Closing Comments**

How Input Will Be Used	Principal Vigfusson
Final Poll	Principal Vigfusson
Closing Comments	Board Chair Hanson
Adjournment	



Dean Lindquist, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Phone: 780-416-2353

Email: [dlindquist@newhorizons.ca](mailto:dlindquist@newhorizons.ca)

## Invitation to attend the NHS January 2023 Stakeholder Forum

December 13, 2022

Dear Students, Staff, Parents and NHS Society Members

Re: Stakeholder Forum 2023

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to invite you to participate in our school's seventh annual Stakeholder Forum, to be held at 6:30 p.m. on **Monday, January 23, 2023**. The forum will be held at the school. However, if there is a significant increase in school absences due to COVID-19 or other illnesses, the forum could be switched over to a virtual forum using 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. It is also 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:

1. Civil Discourse – It is particularly important for our learners to engage in civil discourse in our classrooms. This forum question will ask you to consider opportunities and challenges to facilitating civil discourse discussion in the classroom. What are the boundaries for topics and discussions? How do teachers support individual students and the varying values that students and families may possess that can make student participation and teacher facilitation difficult?
2. Recognizing Diverse Student Needs – How do we ensure that the board and staff support the diverse needs of students attending the school? What are we doing well, where do we need to improve and what are the next steps and or supports that the board must consider to ensure that our students are successful?

Both questions will culminate with group breakout group discussions and individuals prioritizing the top picks. This information will then be used to support school planning and reporting



**Dean Lindquist, Ed.D.**

Superintendent

Phone: 780-416-2353

Email: [dlindquist@newhorizons.ca](mailto:dlindquist@newhorizons.ca)

To register to attend the Stakeholder Forum, please register using this link.

Registration is open to all parents and grades 5 – 9 students 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".

Dean Lindquist, Ed.D.  
Superintendent



**Dean Lindquist**

Superintendent

Phone: 780-416-2353

Email: [dlindquist@newhorizons.ca](mailto:dlindquist@newhorizons.ca)

**MEMORANDUM**

December 13, 2022

To: Board of Directors

From: Dean Lindquist – Superintendent

Subject: 2023/24 School Year Calendar

Background:

The school year calendar will be presented at the January 2023 Board of Directors for approval in principle. The calendar is being brought to the board for discussion and feedback as we are adding two additional professional development days to the 2023/24 calendar.

In discussion with Principal Vigfusson, we were looking to increase professional development days by one, however, given the unique circumstances of the school year, we needed to look at alternatives for May 16 and 17, 2024 as the EIPS calendar notes these dates as school closure days. As such we identified May 16 as a professional development day and May 17 as a day in lieu for parent teacher conferences.

Bussing is available on all instructional days identified in the proposed 2023/24 calendar.

Your feedback on the proposed 2023/24 calendar will assist administration to present a calendar that aligns with the board's position and reduces the need for parent transportation requirements.

Sincerely,  
Dean Lindquist



# 2023/24 School Calendar

Approved Date TBD

August 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

January 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

April 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

July 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



School Closed/ Holidays



Day in Lieu of Conferences (school closed for students and staff)



PD / Organizational Day / School closed for students



First and Last Day of School



Early Dismissal – Staff Meeting

Important Dates	
Organizational /PD Days	August 29 & 30
Classes Begin for Students	August 31
Labour Day	September 4
Truth and Reconciliation Day	September 30
IPP Writing Day	October 6
Thanksgiving Day	October 9
Charter School Teachers' Conference	October 20 or 27, TBD
Fall Break	November 6 - 10
Remembrance Day	November 11 Day-in-lieu November 10
Classes Resume	November 14
Days in Lieu of P/T Conferences	November 9
Winter Break	December 23 – January 7 Inclusive
Classes Resume	January 8
Professional Development Day	January 31
Teachers' Convention	February 8 - 9
Family Day	February 19
Intake Day	March 1
Days in Lieu of P/T Conferences	March 22
Spring Break	March 23 – April 1 Inclusive
Good Friday	March 29
Easter Monday	April 1
Classes Resume	April 2
Professional Development Day	May 3
Professional Development Day	May 16
Days in Lieu of P/T Conferences	May 17
Victoria Day	May 20
National Indigenous Peoples Day – No Exams	June 21
Final Day for Students	June 26
Organizational Day	June 27

Operational and Instructional Days		
Month	Days of School Operation	Days of Student Instruction
August	3	1
September	20	20
October	21	19
November	17	16
December	16	16
January	18	17
February	20	18
March	15	14
April	21	21
May	21	19
June	19	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>179</b>

Questions for Board and Lori

PD Days – November 13 (none designated for EIPS), May 3 (EIPS) or 16

May 16 & 17 (School closure days for EIPS)



# EIPS DIVISION CALENDAR 2023-24

Regular School Day

Early Dismissal for Students

First Instructional Day (Semester 1 and 2)

No School – Statutory Holiday

No School for All Students and Staff

No School for Students  
– Professional Learning/Operational Day

## Important Dates

<b>Aug 29</b>	Professional Learning Day
<b>Aug 30</b>	Operational Day
<b>Aug 31</b>	Classes Begin
<b>Sept 4</b>	Labour Day – Statutory Holiday
<b>Sept 30</b>	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
<b>Oct 6</b>	Professional Learning Day
<b>Oct 9</b>	Thanksgiving Day – Statutory Holiday
<b>Nov 6-10</b>	November Break
<b>Nov 10</b>	Day-in-Lieu: Remembrance Day
<b>Nov 11</b>	Remembrance Day – Statutory Holiday
<b>Nov 13</b>	Classes Resume
<b>Dec 25-Jan 5</b>	Christmas Break
<b>Dec 25</b>	Christmas Day – Statutory Holiday
<b>Dec 26</b>	Boxing Day – Statutory Holiday
<b>Jan 1</b>	New Year's Day – Statutory Holiday
<b>Jan 8</b>	Classes Resume
<b>Jan 31</b>	Professional Learning Day
<b>Feb 1</b>	Second Semester Begins
<b>Feb 8-9</b>	North Central Teachers' Convention
<b>Feb 19</b>	Family Day – Statutory Holiday
<b>Mar 1</b>	Professional Learning Day
<b>Mar 22</b>	School Closure Day
<b>Mar 25-29</b>	Spring Break
<b>Mar 29</b>	Good Friday – Statutory Holiday
<b>Apr 1</b>	Easter Monday – Division Closure
<b>Apr 2</b>	Classes Resume
<b>May 3</b>	Professional Learning Day
<b>May 16-17</b>	School Closure Days
<b>May 20</b>	Victoria Day – Statutory Holiday
<b>June 21</b>	National Indigenous Peoples Day – No Exams
<b>June 26</b>	Last Instructional Day
<b>June 27</b>	Last Operational Day

## AUGUST 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## SEPTEMBER 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## OCTOBER 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## NOVEMBER 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## DECEMBER 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## JANUARY 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## FEBRUARY 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

## MARCH 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## APRIL 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## MAY 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## JUNE 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

## JULY 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



## Board of Directors – Work Plan for 2022/23

<b>September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt Board Work Plan for 2022-23 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Set date for October Board meeting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Receive report on provincial achievement test results (closed meeting) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>
<b>October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete Board Organizational Actions                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct Special General Meeting; hold Board elections <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Elect Board executive officers (must be within one week of SGM) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Select members for Board standing committees <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Set dates for Board meetings (motion required) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Notify Service Alberta of change in executive officers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Identify Board signing authorities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Sign Board Member Code of Conduct – Policy #101 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> </ul> </li> <li>Receive Accountability Pillar Results Report for October 2022 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Attend TAAPCS Annual General Meeting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Receive enrolment report for September 30, 2022 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Conduct initial orientation session for new Board members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Set date for NHCS Society Annual General Meeting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>
<b>November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct AGM of NHCS Society <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Approve revised budget for 2022-23 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Approve Annual Education Results Report 2021-22 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Approve Audited Financial Statement Year Ending Aug 31/22 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Receive Report #1 from School Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Determine priorities, possible date for Stakeholder Forum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>
<b>December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set date for March Board Planning Retreat <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Receive Counsellor's Report #1 <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>
<b>January</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receive Quarterly Financial Report for Sep - Nov 2022 <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Review Policy 210 and associated Student Code of Conduct <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Approve school calendar for 2023-24 in principle <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Stakeholder Forum – Gather input on possible Education Plan priorities <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>
<b>February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide final approval of school calendar for 2023-24 <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Prepare breakfast for school staff <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Receive mid-year progress report on Three-Year Education Plan 2022-25 <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>
<b>March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Retreat – Identify priorities for upcoming Education Plan <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Approve Three-Year Capital Plan for 2023-24 to 2025-26 <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>Administer Board-developed Stakeholder Survey <input type="checkbox"/></li> </ul>

## Board Annual Work Plan 2022-23 – Approved – 2022-09-21

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

### Potential Additions to Work Plan

- Pilot counselling program
- High school steering committee update
-



ALBERTA  
EDUCATION

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*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Red Deer-North*

November 24, 2022

**Letter to Parents – Ensuring access to education for all students**

Dear Alberta parents and guardians:

We know we have asked a lot of you in the past couple of years. Since March 2020 parents and families have been told with little to no notice that students would be required to move to learning at-home or online. We have heard first-hand from students, parents, and teachers that learning disruptions over the course of the past couple of years have impacted the mental health and wellbeing of students, significantly impacted learning development, and has placed financial burdens and additional stress on working parents and families.

In recent months, parents have approached our office with uncertainty and questions, concerned that their child's education may once again be impacted by transitions to at-home learning. School authorities have sought clarity related to their ability to bring in health measures that may limit access to education, given there are currently no health orders to support these decisions. Today I have announced new regulation, effective November 24, 2022, that will protect student's access to in-person learning. This includes:

- Ensuring access to in-person learning for grades 1 to 12 students despite any instances of operational issues caused by rates of student and/or teacher absenteeism.
- Affirming that a student cannot be denied in-person education by their school authority due to their personal decision to wear or not wear a mask. This applies to all students.

We know that all Alberta families are facing increased costs due to rising inflation affecting mortgages, fuel costs, electricity, heating and food. These changes will ensure parents can continue to work to support their families without the added burden of finding and paying for childcare during the school day.

This will also ensure that all students have access to specialized supports provided in a school environment. We know that isolation in recent years has increased youth mental health issues and that these students need access to supports provided at school.

Our teachers have worked hard to ensure students who may have fallen behind grade level due to the instability in learning environments have the additional supports they need in the classroom. By protecting in-person learning students will be provided with stability.

As has always been the case, the *Public Health Act* provides the overarching direction on all public health matters, and it would continue to prevail over the *Education Act* and associated regulations in a future public health emergency.

We hope that with this new regulatory change comes more predictable and stable circumstances, an increase in the mental wellbeing of our students, and the preservation of in-person quality learning opportunities for students.

Sincerely,

Adriana LaGrange  
Minister of Education



ALBERTA  
EDUCATION

*Office of the Minister*

**GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**MINISTERIAL ORDER (#020/2022)**

I, Adriana LaGrange, Minister of Education, pursuant to Section 28 of the **Education Act**, make the Regulation set out in the attached Appendix, being the *Charter Schools Amendment Regulation*.

DATED at Edmonton, Alberta, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.

**FILED UNDER  
THE REGULATIONS ACT**

**as ALBERTA REGULATION** 227/2022

**ON** November 24 20 22

*Shirley Dhillon*  
**DEPUTY REGISTRAR OF REGULATIONS**

*Adriana LaGrange*  
**MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

## APPENDIX

### Education Act

#### CHARTER SCHOOLS AMENDMENT REGULATION

**1** The *Charter Schools Regulation* (AR 85/2019) is amended by this Regulation.

**2** Section 12 is amended by renumbering it as section 12(1) and by adding the following after subsection (1):

(2) In subsections (3) and (4), “at-home learning” means teacher-directed education programming provided by a charter board to a student on a temporary basis at the student’s residence or a location other than the student’s regularly attended school.

(3) Subject to subsection (6), in fulfilling its responsibility to deliver appropriate education programming, a charter board offering or providing in-person learning for some or all of grades 1 to 12 may offer or provide at-home learning only if the board provides or continues to provide an option for in-person learning for each student at the student’s regularly attended school for all grades for which that board offers or provides at-home learning.

(4) Subject to subsection (6), the option for in-person learning must allow the student to continue with the same courses and education program that the student is enrolled in as of the date at-home learning is offered or provided.

(5) In fulfilling its responsibility to deliver appropriate education programming, a charter board may not deny a student access to in-person learning if the student does not wear a face mask or other face covering for the primary purpose of preventing or limiting the spread of COVID-19 or any other communicable disease, as defined in the *Public Health Act*.

(6) The Minister, by order, may exempt a charter board from the application of subsection (3) or (4), subject to any terms and conditions the Minister considers appropriate.



## What is happening?

- Family choice is being protected by affirming students' and families' right to make decisions on in-person learning and masking.
- Through regulatory changes, students are now able to continue in-person learning, if that is what they want, if a school authority temporarily shifts to at-home learning.
- School authorities will have clarity on expectations related to educational programming and masking in schools.

## Specifically, what regulatory changes were made?

- The changes required several regulatory changes to cover all school authority types, we:
  - created a new Ministerial Regulation under section 51(2) of the *Education Act*;
  - amended the Private Schools Regulation;
  - amended the Charter Schools Regulation; and
  - amended the Early Childhood Services Regulation.

## When do the regulatory changes take effect?

- These changes are effective November 24, 2022.

## Do these changes apply to students in all school authorities?

- Masking changes apply to public, separate and Francophone school authorities, as well as independent (private) schools, public charter schools, and early childhood services operators.
- In-person learning changes apply to grades 1-12 public, separate and Francophone school authorities, as well as independent (private) schools, and public charter schools.
- In-person learning changes do not apply to early childhood services and Kindergarten classes, as these learning environments are not compulsory.
- First Nations schools are not impacted by these changes (masking and in-person).

## In-Person Learning

### What changes have you made to ensure in-person learning?

- With the regulatory changes in place, school authorities are now required to ensure an in-person learning option for students in grades 1 to 12 if a temporary shift to at-home learning occurs.
  - This change would not apply to pre-Kindergarten early childhood services and Kindergarten, as these learning environments are not compulsory.
- If a school authority temporarily shifts a group of classes or a grade to at-home learning, the school authority is required to offer students and families the option of coming into school to attend class in-person.
- School authorities will also continue to offer the full-complement of courses and will maintain the integrity of educational programming for classes that have temporarily shifted to at-home learning.

**What happens if there is a public health emergency at a school?**

- In the case of a public health emergency, and as was the case before the pandemic, the *Public Health Act* remains the overarching direction on all public health matters and it would prevail over the *Education Act*.

**Why make the in-person learning change?**

- Some children did well with at-home learning during the pandemic, but we know many others found it very challenging and if given the choice would have continued with in-person learning.
- In order for students to continue making gains in the areas of learning loss and mental health, we need to create a stable, face-to-face environment where they can do so.
- Through literacy assessments, we learned that about 70,000 at-risk students in grades 1-3 were, on average, 11 months behind grade level at the start of the 2021-2022 school year following a 17-month period of intermittent at-home learning. Assessment results from May to June 2022, after returning to consistent in-person learning and following small-group interventions, showed that the average learning loss dropped to 3.7 months.
- This change will minimize potential learning loss and support mental health for students.

**Can you describe a situation where both learning types would be provided?**

- If a school authority has capacity to offer both in-person or at-home learning they can offer both.
- If a school is temporarily offering at-home learning, the school would need to ensure there are enough staff, including teachers on-site to provide in-person learning to those students who choose that option.
- School authorities are required to offer the full-complement of courses in-person and will maintain the integrity of the educational programming for all in-person classes.
- The school authority would manage the deployment of teachers and staff, based on the number of students opting for in-person learning.

**How small will you allow in-person learning classes to become? For example, if there is only one child in an entire school who wants in-person learning, will that be allowed?**

- There are no limits on how small a class can be.
- Every student should have the opportunity for in-person education.

**Can a school combine classes?**

- Given the unique circumstances in each school, classes/grades can be combined to offer in-person instruction when operationally feasible to do so without diminishing the courses or educational programming for students.

**Are school authorities allowed to bus students to a different location to offer an in-person learning option to students?**

- This option would be considered only if no other options were available.
- School authorities will need to contact the department in order to enact this option.
- Parents need to be informed that the child will attend an alternate site for in-person learning.

## **Are students who attend Outreach Schools/Programs required to pursue their studies only in-person?**

- No, students who attend an Outreach School are able to continue their studies in the same manner whether it be distance education, online, or in-person.
- At-home learning means teacher-directed education programming provided by a board to a student on a temporary basis at the student's residence or at a location other than the student's regularly attended school.

## **How will a school authority know whether a student is learning at-home or in-person?**

- School authorities are responsible for establishing processes to track student attendance whether in-person or at-home.

## **Shifts to at-home learning and exemptions**

### **Can a school authority apply for an exemption to the In-Person Learning Regulation and amended Private Schools Regulation and Charter Schools Regulation for a class(es)/grade(s)?**

- In-person learning is a priority for all schools.
- In the event that in-person and at-home learning is not feasible due to operational constraints, the school authority will need to contact the department to discuss potential options.
- The process to apply for an exemption to the requirement for in-person learning will be similar to the process that was in place for a request to shift a school/school authority to at-home learning and will include data that would support the request.
  - For example, a chronic substitute teacher shortage that prevents a class(es) or grade(s) in a school authority from continuing in-person learning.
- The formal request should be sent by the superintendent's office to [educationsystemsupport@gov.ab.ca](mailto:educationsystemsupport@gov.ab.ca) requesting a temporary exemption.

### **Do school authorities need to seek Minister approval to shift a class(es)/grade(s) to at-home learning?**

- A school authority is required to ensure in-person classes are available for those students or families who wish to attend classes in-person. As long as in-person options that maintain courses and educational programming for students are available, shifting a class would not require Minister approval.

### **Does a school authority need to report temporary shifts to at-home learning to the Department?**

- No, school authorities will not need to report temporary shifts to at-home learning as long as in-person learning is also maintained for students who wish to learn in-person.

## **Masking**

### **What rules are changing for student masking?**

- Regulatory changes will require school authorities to ensure all students are able to access in-person learning regardless of their personal decision to wear or not wear a mask.

### **If a student comes to school sick or becomes sick at school can a school send the student home?**

- Schools can send students home if they are too ill to be at school, similar to what was in place before the pandemic disruptions.

### **Why make the masking change in regulation?**

- The intent of the regulation change is to clarify that masking is a personal choice for students and families that will not impact access to in-person learning.
- It's particularly important that students aren't stigmatized or ostracized for a decision to wear or not wear a mask.
- By making the change, we are also setting a province-wide standard that will bring clarity and consistency for all school authorities.

### **Can school authorities require students to wear masks during certain educational activities?**

- Yes, when masking is required for educational purposes. For example, a CTS Construction/Fabrication class, a chemistry class may require a mask for safety reasons, and other educational activities that may require a mask for safety reasons.

### **In the case of a health emergency, can the Chief Medical Officer mandate masks?**

- As was the case before the pandemic, the *Public Health Act* would remain the overarching authority on public health.
- If the Chief Medical Officer of Health were to mandate at-home learning, then that decision would supersede the in-person and masking regulatory changes made by Education.

### **Could these changes put students and school staff at risk, particularly vulnerable children?**

- The health, safety and well-being of students and staff are of the utmost importance.
- As was the case before the pandemic, all Albertans are encouraged to follow general public health best practices such as staying home when sick, washing hands, etc.
- All Albertans should review their own situation and make a decision to mask or not mask based on their own risk factors.
- Should a student choose to mask or not, this personal decision must be respected.