

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
MINUTES

Type of Meeting: Board

Date: February 18.2023

Initials: Chair _____

Approved: FINAL

Recorded By: A. DeJong

Secretary _____

February 15, 2023, 7:00 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

Kristie Derkson
DIRECTOR

Michelle Smith
DIRECTOR

Board Members Joining During the Meeting:

Administration Present at Call to Order:

Dean Lindquist
SUPERINTENDENT

Patti Dundas
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Lori Vigfusson
PRINCIPAL

Members in Attendance:

Sarah Fairfull

Kim Fehr

Anika Kooger

Rebecca Koziak

Shannon Kurie

Chelsee Ladouceur

Sarah-Jane Lovgren

Elizabeth Macve

Anita Sanderson

Michelle Stephens

Erin Thomas

1. Call to Order

Chair Hanson called the virtual meeting to order at 7:04 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.

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3. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 2023-02-15-01 Moved that the agenda for the Board Meeting of February 15, 2023 be adopted as presented.

Moved: Director Guthrie

*Seconded: Board Secretary and Treasurer Tong
Carried*

4. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

None.

5. Approval of Minutes

5.1 Minutes of January 18, 2023

Motion 2023-02-15-02 Moved that the Board Meeting minutes January 18, 2023 be approved as presented.

Moved: Director Smith

*Seconded: Director Guthrie
Carried*

6. Administration Reports

6.1 Principal's Report

Principal Vigfusson provided a verbal report and indicated that the Stakeholder Forum was held on January 23, 2023. It was well attended and constructive feedback was received from attendees. Discussion among parents at the February 1 School Council meeting raised questions about the Charter and admissions process; these may be discussed further at a future Board meeting or retreat. Approximately 140 applications have been received for 2023-24 registrations which is higher than in past years. Alberta Assurance Surveys have been distributed and will be completed over the next few days. Discussion followed.

6.2 Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Secretary-Treasurer Dundas provided an update on the recent flood and indicated that the floor drying process has been completed and was successful

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and that rebuilding will begin soon. Air tests have been completed and approved. Occupancy is anticipated for late March. Discussion followed.

6.3 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Lindquist summarized his written report including an update of the February 1, 2023 School Council meeting, as included in the agenda package. There is opportunity for discussion and information sharing on giftedness and the broad array of traits among gifted students. He also expressed hope that parents complete the Alberta Education Assurance (AEA) Survey as the feedback is valuable for planning purposes. The completion date for AEA surveys has been extended to March 17, 2023. Discussion followed.

7. Board Reports

7.1 Board Chair's Report

Chair Hanson indicated that the Stakeholder Forum was successful and well attended. The Superintendent search is in progress. Advertising will begin on February 22 with a closing date of March 15, 2023. Chair Hanson attended a virtual facility planning meeting regarding facility needs for charter schools and will be meeting with representatives of the Minister's office for information sharing purposes.

7.2 Committee Reports

Finance and Audit Committee

No report.

Policy Guidelines and Bylaws Committee

No report.

Survey Committee

Director Guthrie indicated that the survey is complete and will be shared with parents soon.

Public Relations Committee

The committee is expected to meet in early March.

Personnel Committee

The committee will be meeting in early March regarding upcoming collective agreement negotiations.

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High School Ad Hoc Committee

No report.

8. New Business

8.1 Approve 2023-24 School Calendar

Superintendent Lindquist summarized the proposed 2023-24 school calendar previously approved in principle and provided an overview of feedback received from School Council regarding the calendar. Discussion followed.

Motion 2023-02-15-03 Moved that the Board approve the 2023-24 School Calendar as amended to reflect changing the November 13 PD day to an instructional day for students. The remainder of the calendar remains as proposed.

*Moved: Director Guthrie
Seconded: Vice Chair Clarke
1 in favor, 5 against.
Motion defeated*

Motion 2023-02-15-04 Moved that the Board approve the 2023-24 School Calendar as presented.

*Moved: Vice Chair Clarke
Seconded: Director Guthrie
Carried*

8.2 Mid-Year Progress Report on Three Year Education Plan

Principal Vigfusson provided a verbal mid-year progress report on the Three Year Education Plan and highlighted the following:

- The new curriculum has rolled out and staff are collaborating during the implementation process. Overall, the new curriculum has been well received.
- There has been focus on visible thinking routines in classrooms at all levels and across curriculum areas.
- House activities have been increased with cross-grade groupings and activities.
- Chess club has been implemented for elementary and junior high levels.

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- Community Helpers has students participating in community support activities as well as mentorship opportunities within the school.
 - Independent Studies approaches are being reviewed and adapted to make the projects more relevant and engaging for individual students.
 - Creation of both the MakerSpace and Outdoor Classroom is underway. Furniture and technology for both spaces has been ordered and is starting to arrive.
 - The counselling pilot program with ECSS has been very successful and is well utilized in both individual and group settings.
 - CTF for Grades 5/6 is underway with students alternating between robotics and cooking each week.

Discussion followed.

8.3 Superintendent Recruitment

Chair Hanson provided an update on the recruitment process for the superintendent position. Discussion followed.

Motion 2023-02-15-05 Moved that the Board authorizes the Board Chair to act as the lead board contact for working with the search consultant and delegates board authority to the Board Chair for any necessary decisions leading up to the board's selection of candidates and interviews.

Moved: Director Guthrie

Seconded: Board Secretary and Treasurer Tong

Carried

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)

The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2023.

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11. Receipt of Reports

Motion 2023-02-15-06 Moved that all reports be received as presented during the meeting.

Moved: Director Smith

Seconded: Vice Chair Clarke

Carried

12. Correspondence Sent

None.

13. Correspondence Received

- Government of Alberta - *Pink Shirt Day is on February 22*

Chair Hanson invited public guests to address the Board. Discussion followed.

14. Motion to Move In Camera

Motion 2023-02-15-07 Moved that the meeting move in camera at 9:08 p.m.

Moved: Director Guthrie

Seconded: Director Smith

Carried

Motion to Move Out of Camera:

Motion 2023-02-15-08 Moved that the meeting move out of camera at 9:26 p.m.

Moved: Director Derkson

Seconded: Vice Chair Clarke

Carried

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15. New Business

15.1 Matters Arising from In Camera Meeting

Motion 2023-02-15-09 *Moved that the Board approve the compensation for the Secretary-Treasurer as recommended by the Superintendent:*

- *Employee #0305*

Moved: Board Secretary and Treasurer Tong

Seconded: Director Derkson

Carried

Motion 2023-02-15-10 *Moved that the Board approve substitute educational assistant employment for the following:*

- *Employee #0340*

Moved: Director Derkson

Seconded: Director Guthrie

Carried

16. Adjournment

Chair Hanson adjourned the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom