

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
MINUTES

Type of Meeting: Board

Date: March 15, 2023

Initials: Chair _____

Approved: FINAL

Recorded By: A. DeJong

Secretary _____

March 15, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present at Call to Order:

Dan Hanson
CHAIR

Jason Clarke
VICE-CHAIR

Michelle Smith
DIRECTOR

Shaun Guthrie
DIRECTOR

Kristie Derkson
DIRECTOR

Board Members Joining During the Meeting:

Vincent Tong
BOARD SECRETARY AND
TREASURER

Ijeoma Ukiwe
DIRECTOR

Administration Present at Call to Order:

Dean Lindquist
SUPERINTENDENT

Patti Dundas
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Lori Vigfusson
PRINCIPAL

Members in Attendance:

Shannon Kurie

Kristi Gignac

Rebecca Koziak

Anita Sanderson

Sarah-Jane Lovgren

Amanda Bullion

Erin Thomas

1. Call to Order

Chair Hanson called the virtual meeting to order at 7:02 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 2023-03-15-01 Moved that the agenda for the Board Meeting of March 15, 2023 be adopted as presented.

*Moved: Director Guthrie
Seconded: Director Smith
Carried*

4. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

None.

5. Approval of Minutes

5.1 Minutes of February 15, 2023

Motion 2023-03-15-02 Moved that the Board Meeting minutes February 15, 2023 be approved as presented.

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

6. Administration Reports

Board Secretary and Treasurer Tong joined the meeting at this point. 7:05 p.m.

6.1 Principal's Report

Principal Vigfusson provided a verbal report and indicated that a large number of applications were received for intake day on March 3. It is anticipated that kindergarten will be full with 38 students and many applications in elementary and junior high. Report cards will be issued on March 17 and student-led conferences, including junior high, will be held March 21-March 22. The Independent Studies program has been revamped and is underway. The new program is called Wonder Learning in Division 1, Discovery Learning in Division 2, and Investigations in Division 3. Cross-grade buddy activities continue to occur with focuses on Black History Month, Kindness Week and International Women's Day. Administration is working to prepare a volunteer orientation and information session for parent volunteers to help educate individuals on the unique needs

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and approaches to working with our students. There were two near misses during student arrival earlier today with vehicles and the crosswalk. Parents have been contacted, the AMA Student Patrollers met to discuss protocols and Bylaw Services has also been contacted and will increase their presence in the area over the coming days. There is interest from administration and Board members to pursue a tour of the new STEM Charter School that is opening. Discussion followed.

Director Ukiwe joined the meeting at this point. 7:16 p.m.

6.2 Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Secretary-Treasurer Dundas provided a flood update and indicated that reconstruction has begun. The project is on track for completion by the end of March. Temporary flooring may be installed this month and replaced with permanent flooring over the summer, dependent upon possible floor joist repairs. Discussion followed.

6.3 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Lindquist summarized his written report including an update of his attendance at the March 3 CASS meeting and the Alberta Public Charter Schools' Journal of Educational Research and Innovation. The CASS meeting included relevant discussions regarding curriculum, substitute teacher shortage and transportation. Charter schools are invited to assist in the creation of an educational and research journal, as included in the agenda package. Superintendent Lindquist had opportunity to tour the STEM junior high school in Red Deer and found it very interesting and informative. Discussion followed.

7. Board Reports

7.1 Board Chair's Report

No report.

7.2 Committee Reports

Finance and Audit Committee

No report. The committee will be meeting in April to review second quarter financials.

Policy Guidelines and Bylaws Committee

No report.

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Survey Committee

No report.

Public Relations Committee

The committee met on February 22 and is having a follow-up meeting on April 3.

Personnel Committee

The committee met on March 8 to prepare for collective agreement negotiations and will be meeting again in the near future.

High School Ad Hoc Committee

No report.

8. New Business

8.1 Approve Three Year Capital Plan for 2023-24 to 2025-26

Superintendent Lindquist provided an overview of the draft Capital Plan for 2024/25 to 2026/27, as included in the agenda package. Discussion followed including adding a second goal to the plan that would focus on pursuing ownership of the current NHS site.

Motion 2023-03-15-03 Moved that the Board approve the draft Capital Plan for 2024/25 to 2026/27 as presented.

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

8.2 Approve Revised AERR 2021-22

Superintendent Lindquist indicated that a meeting with Alberta Education highlighted a need to include a whistleblower comment in the previously approved AERR. Discussion followed.

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Motion 2023-03-15-04 Moved that the Board approve the revised AERR as presented with the inclusion of the whistleblower comment that we have not had any disclosures in 2021-22 school year.

Moved: Director Guthrie

Seconded: Director Smith

Carried

8.3 Approve Revised 2023-24 School Calendar

Superintendent Lindquist provided information on the revised 2023-24 School Calendar, previously approved at the February Board meeting. Through discussion since that meeting, Board members have agreed to amend the calendar to move the November 13 PD day to become October 6 IPP Writing Day, bringing the calendar in line with EIPS transportation services. An amendment to the original resolution is required. Discussion followed.

Motion 2023-03-15-05 Moved that the Board amend resolution 2023-02-15-04 to include moving the November 13 PD Day to become October 6 IPP Writing Day.

Moved: Director Guthrie

Seconded: Vice Chair Clarke

Carried

8.4 2023-24 Budget Update

Secretary-Treasurer Dundas provided a verbal report on the recently released budget for 2023-24 and highlighted the following:

- The base grant for enrollment has been increased by 6%.
- Student Learning Support has been increased.
- The Complexity Grant has been added.
- Operations and Maintenance received a 5% increase.
- Transportation changes may result in decreased bussing costs; parent provided transportation grant also increased.
- Many expenses have increased; funding increases will help to offset those costs.

Discussion followed.

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8.5 March Board Retreat

Superintendent Lindquist provided an overview of the draft agenda for the March Board Retreat. Discussion followed.

9. Board Work Plan

The Board reviewed the Work Plan for 2022-23, as included in the agenda package. The Board developed Stakeholder Survey was deferred to April.

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

No report.

11. Receipt of Reports

Motion 2023-03-15-06 Moved that all reports be received as presented during the meeting.

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

12. Correspondence Sent

None.

13. Correspondence Received

- EDC System Assurance – 2023 Alberta Education Assurance Survey – *deadline extension*
- EDC Minister – Budget 2023
- EDC Deputy Minister – Budget 2023
- EDC Minister – Letter to Parents
- EDC Deputy Minister – School Capital Project Planning Process
- Additional Funding for Literacy and Numeracy for Grade 1 Students
- Alberta Public Charter Schools' Journal of Educational Research and Innovation

Chair Hanson invited public guests to address the Board.

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14. Motion to Move In Camera

Motion 2023-03-15-07 Moved that the meeting move in camera at 8:24 p.m.

Moved: Director Smith

Seconded: Director Derkson

Carried

Motion to Move Out of Camera:

Motion 2023-03-15-08 Moved that the meeting move out of camera at 8:27 p.m.

Moved: Director Ukiwe

Seconded: Vice Chair Clarke

Carried

15. New Business

15.1 Matters Arising from In Camera Meeting

Motion 2023-03-15-09 Moved that the Board ratify the substitute teacher employment contract for the following:

- *Employee #0341*

Moved: Director Derkson

Seconded: Director Guthrie

Carried

Motion 2023-03-15-09 Moved that the Board ratify the temporary full-time employment contract for the following:

- *Employee #0287*

Moved: Director Ukiwe

Seconded: Vice Chair Clarke

Carried

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16. Adjournment

Chair Hanson adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., in-person at the school.