

New Horizons Charter School Society Board Meeting

November 15, 2023



AGENDA**Type of Meeting:** Board**Date:** November 15, 2023**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
NOVEMBER 15, 2023
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 | A. Asquini | 7:30 pm |
| 2. | Statement of Territorial Acknowledgment | A. Asquini | 7:32 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. | Adoption of Agenda | A. Asquini | 7:35 pm |
| 4. | Disclosure of Conflict of Interest | A. Asquini | 7:40 pm |
| 5. | Approval of Minutes | A. Asquini | 7:42 pm |
| | 5.1 October 25, 2023 – attachment | | |
| 6. | Administration Reports | | 7:45 pm |
| | 6.1 Principal's Report | L. Vigfusson | |
| | 6.2 Secretary Treasurer's Report | P. Dundas | |
| | 6.3 Superintendent's Report – attachment | T. Moghrabi | |
| 7. | Board Reports | | 8:00 pm |
| | 7.1 Board Chair's Report | A. Asquini | |
| | 7.2 Other Committee Reports | A. Asquini | |
| 8. | New Business | | 8:10 pm |
| | 8.1 2022-23 Audited Financial Statement - attachment | P. Dundas | |
| | 8.2 Fall Budget Update - attachment | P. Dundas | |
| | 8.3 Annual Education Results Report (AERR) 2022-23 | L. Vigfusson | |
| | 8.4 NHS Stakeholder Forum - attachment | T. Moghrabi | |
| | 8.5 School Council Report | E. Macve | |
| 9. | Board Work Plan – attachment | A. Asquini | 8:30 pm |

AGENDA**Type of Meeting:** Board**Date:** November 15, 2023**Page:**2 of 2*"TOWARDS NEW HORIZONS"**Is it in the best interest of our students?**Does it support excellence?*

- | | | | |
|-----|--|------------|---------|
| 10. | The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools | A. Asquini | 8:33 pm |
| 11. | Receipt of Reports | A. Asquini | 8:40 pm |
| 12. | Correspondence Sent | A. Asquini | 8:42 pm |
| | 12.1 Schedule MLA Visit with Honourable Nate Glubish | | |
| | 12.2 Schedule MLA Visit with MLA Kyle Kasawski | | |
| 13. | Correspondence Received | A. Asquini | 8:43 pm |
| | 13.1 | | |
| 14. | In Camera | A. Asquini | 8:45 pm |
| 15. | Adjournment | A. Asquini | 9:00 pm |

Next Board Meeting – Wednesday, December 20, 2023

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
MINUTES

Type of Meeting: Board

Date: October, 25, 2023

Initials: Chair _____

Approved: DRAFT

Recorded By: A. DeJong

Secretary _____

October 26, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present at Call to Order:

Adam Asquini
CHAIR

Vincent Tong
BOARD SECRETARY AND
TREASURER

Dan Hanson
DIRECTOR

Adam Koziak
DIRECTOR

Trevor Panas
DIRECTOR

Board Members Joining During the Meeting:

Kristie Derkson
VICE CHAIR

Administration Present at Call to Order:

Terry Moghrabi
SUPERINTENDENT

Patti Dundas
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Lori Vigfusson
PRINCIPAL

Members in Attendance:

1. Call to Order

Chair Asquini called the meeting to order at 7:01 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.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
MINUTES

Type of Meeting: Board

Date: October, 25, 2023

Initials: **Chair** _____

Approved: DRAFT

Recorded By: A. DeJong

Secretary _____

3. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 2023-10-25-01 Moved that the agenda for the Board Meeting of October 25, 2023 be adopted as presented.

Moved: Director Hanson

Seconded: Board Secretary and Treasurer Tong

Carried

4. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

Chair Asquini indicated that he is unable to participate in the personnel committee due to a conflict of interest. He will not participate in that committee and Vice Chair Derkson will act as Chair.

5. Approval of Minutes

5.1 Minutes of October 4, 2023

Motion 2023-10-25-02 Moved that the Board Meeting minutes of October 4, 2023 be approved as presented.

Moved: Director Koziak

Seconded: Director Hanson

Carried

6. Administration Reports

6.1 Principal's Report

Principal Vigfusson summarized her report, including speech-language pathologist and occupational therapist, National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Team, technology use, pre-service teachers, Saffron presentations and parent-teacher interviews, as included in the agenda package. Discussion followed.

Vice Chair Derkson joined the meeting during the Principal's report at 7:08 p.m.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
MINUTES

Type of Meeting: Board

Date: October, 25, 2023

Initials: Chair _____

Approved: DRAFT

Recorded By: A. DeJong

Secretary _____

6.2 Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Secretary-Treasurer Dundas confirmed that the finance auditors will be presenting the 2022-23 audit results to the Audit Committee on November 2, 2023, and to the members at the AGM on November 15, 2023. Discussion followed.

6.3 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Moghrabi summarized his written report, including the Special General Meeting, digital streaming for Board meetings, High School Planning, Charter School Conference, Charter Review, School Council, FANHS and TAAPCS Director meetings, and Program Unit Funding (PUF) Grants Review, as included in the agenda package. He further provided verbal updates relating to the following:

- Digital Streaming for Board Meetings: information is still being gathered; there are currently three potential avenues. The first is to improve existing technology within the school by incorporating additional microphones and cables. The second is to further investigate and likely expand existing audio-visual equipment installed during the modernization, assuming that it is still viable and not obsolete. The third is to acquire *Meeting Owl* technology. Discussion followed. General consensus is to pursue Meeting Owl and proceed to acquire that technology.
- A meeting with Alberta Infrastructure was held on October 19, 2023 regarding space for high school expansion. Alberta Purchasing Connection (APC) is the next step in which an individual will be hired to develop a Value Scope to assist in determining options for both short-term temporary and long-term permanent space solutions. An opportunity to partner with Suzuki Charter School may exist as they are also working to acquire a Value Scope using APC to hire someone. The scope of work and a request for proposal will be developed and submitted to APC as part of the hiring process. Commercial property partnership may be a viable option.
- Superintendent Moghrabi and Secretary-Treasurer Dundas had opportunity to tour the STEM Collegiate Hub school in Calgary. Currently, one charter school is housed within the Hub, with a second potentially acquiring space in 2024-25.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
MINUTES

Type of Meeting: Board

Date: October, 25, 2023

Initials: **Chair** _____

Approved: DRAFT

Recorded By: A. DeJong

Secretary _____

7. Board Reports

7.1 Board Chair's Report

Chair Asquini indicated that he attended the TAAPCS AGM; additional discussion later in the agenda.

7.2 Committee Reports

Finance and Audit Committee

The committee will be meeting on November 2, 2023 to review the audit results.

Policy Guidelines and Bylaws Committee

No report.

Survey Committee

No report.

Public Relations Committee

A meeting will be scheduled in November.

Personnel Committee

No report.

High School Ad Hoc Committee

No report.

8. New Business

8.1 Standing Committee Membership

Superintendent Moghrabi spoke to the partially completed membership for Board Standing Committees and indicated the need to fill vacant positions within the committees, as included in the agenda package. Vacant positions were filled as follows; all committees include the Board Chair (or designate, as needed) and the Superintendent as ex-officio members:

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
MINUTES

Type of Meeting: Board

Date: October, 25, 2023

Initials: **Chair** _____

Approved: DRAFT

Recorded By: A. DeJong

Secretary _____

Audit Committee:

The following Board and Society Members were appointed to serve as the Audit Committee:

- Vincent Tong, Committee Chair
- Trevor Panas
- Patti Dundas
- Niharika Sreekumar
- Michelle Smith

Policies, Guidelines, Bylaws Committee:

The following Board and Society Members were appointed to serve as the Policies, Guidelines, Bylaws Committee:

- Jason Clarke, Committee Chair
- Dan Hanson

Personnel Committee:

The following Board Members were appointed to serve as the Personnel Committee:

- Kristie Derkson, Committee Chair
- Vincent Tong
- Dan Hanson
- Adam Koziak
- Patti Dundas

Survey Committee:

The following Board Members were appointed to serve as the Survey Committee:

- Trevor Panas
- Lori Vigfusson

Public Relations Committee:

The following Board and Society Members be appointed to serve as the Public Relations Committee.

- Adam Asquini, Committee Chair
- Jason Clarke
- Dan Hanson
- Rebecca Koziak
- Ellen Hanna

There will also be an addition of School Council and FANHS representatives as well as community members.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
MINUTES

Type of Meeting: Board

Date: October, 25, 2023

Initials: Chair _____

Approved: DRAFT

Recorded By: A. DeJong

Secretary _____

High School Ad Hoc Committee:

The following Board Members were appointed to serve as the High School Ad Hoc Committee:

- Adam Asquini
- Jason Clarke
- Kristie Derkson
- Dan Hanson
- Adam Koziak
- Trevor Panas
- Vincent Tong

TAAPCS

The following Board Members were appointed to serve as the TAAPCS Representative:

- Kristie Derkson
- Adam Koziak

8.2 Enrolment Report for September 30, 2023

Principal Vigfusson indicated that there were 444 students officially registered at NHS on September 30, 2023. This is the largest student population to date within NHS. Discussion followed.

8.3 Accountability Pillar Results (Alberta Education Assurance Measures)

There is a new name and acronym for Accountability Pillar Results. Principal Vigfusson indicated that the complete report will be shared with Board members at the November meeting as part of the Alberta Education Results Report (AERR).

8.4 Receive Report on PAT Results

Principal Vigfusson indicated that PAT results were received on October 24, 2023. Principal Vigfusson will provide an overview of the PAT results from the 2022-23 school year at the next Board meeting as part of the AERR report.

9. Board Work Plan

The Board reviewed the Work Plan for 2023-24, as included in the agenda package.

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

Chair Asquini indicated that the TAAPCS AGM was held on October 21, 2023, and was attended by Chair Asquini, Superintendent Moghrabi and Secretary-Treasurer Dundas. The Priorities Committee has been renamed as the Development Committee and met on October 19. The Board of Directors met prior to the AGM regarding membership fees

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
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Approved: DRAFT

Recorded By: A. DeJong

Secretary _____

without reaching consensus, and the topic was deferred at the AGM and will be discussed at the SGM in spring 2024. Chair Asquini provided a brief overview of the meetings. Director Koziak and Vice-Chair Derkson both agreed to act as TAAPCS representatives moving forward. Discussion followed.

11. Receipt of Reports

Motion 2023-10-25-03

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

Moved: Director Hanson

Seconded: Director Panas

Carried

12. Correspondence Sent

13. Correspondence Received

14. In Camera

No in-camera meeting.

15. Adjournment

Chair Asquini adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: November 15, 2023

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 15, 2023

To: Board of Directors

From: Lori Vigfusson, Principal

Re: Principal's Report-November 2023

Information and Highlights:

Report Cards:

Report Cards will go out December 1, 2023. Report cards will go home December 1st. These will reflect the new curriculum for science in Kindergarten to Grade 3 and L.A., Math and Science in Grades 4-6.

Leadership Pool:

Lynn Paradis from Suzuki Charter School has created a Leadership Pool and asked for nominations from Edmonton Charter Schools. Vice Principal Watson and myself have joined as well as Ms. Sweetman and Ms. Stephens. Meetings will take place a number of times throughout the year to discuss leadership topics.

School Counselling Support:

We will have a new counsellor join our team at NHS. Liam McFarlane will be coming in to meet staff and students this week and will transition into the counsellor role after the break. He will be providing service one day a week with Ms. Shandra providing the other day. We will share an introduction from him once we have one.

Halloween Dance:

The Halloween Dance took place on October 28 with around 100 families in attendance. Thank you to FANHS, School Council and all the volunteers and sponsors that made our Halloween Dance a great event!

Lori Vigfusson

MEM ORANDUM

Date: November 15 2023

To: Board of Directors

From: Terry Moghrabi- Superintendent

Re: Superintendent Memorandum

Information and Highlights:

1. Infrastructure update: Since our last conversation, we met with consultants to discuss a strategy to complete the request for proposal for the province for both a temporary and long-term solution. Specifically, these consultants worked closely with Patti and Superintendent Lindquist to navigate the urgent response to the school flood. Portable classroom request applications are due November 15th to the province to address enrollment and programming considerations.
2. Draft Sample letters to the MLA offices were shared with the board chair—letters inviting members to tour the facility and possibly participate in classroom activities.
3. The school will not renew the contract with Edsembli, which ends in August 2024. Edsembli support to school office staff has dwindled over recent years, and day-to-day functions have become more frustrating. This program does not have a user-friendly parent portal, as they promised. Many of the promises they agreed to are not occurring.

The PowerSchool program is a student information system for the majority of the province. It is undoubtedly the preferred program for all high school schools in Alberta, so information is shared more seamlessly. There is an annual cost increase to Power School. Still, the modules within are more conducive to providing a cloud-based solution that integrates modules and reports more practically and functionally. PowerSchool will better serve students, staff, and parents. The instant communication about student achievement to students to parents and to the province through Pasi is proven.

Recommendations and Governance Implications:

- Once a value scope process begins, there will be opportunities to engage with municipalities and elected officials who may be inquiring about our plans. Keeping the board abreast of the actions and discussions will better equip directors with information about New Horizons High School planning. If a tour is coordinated, there will be opportunities to discuss multiple items that the board will want prepared ahead of time.



Terry Moghrabi



Patti Dundas
Secretary Treasurer
Phone: 780-416-2353

Email:
pdundas@newhorizons.ca

MEMORANDUM

November 15, 2023

To: Board of Directors

From: Patti Dundas – Secretary Treasurer

Subject: Secretary Treasurer Report - Audit

The Audit Committee met on November 2, 2023 with the auditors to review the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended August 31, 2023 as prepared by Yaremchuk and Annicchiarico Accountants.

The auditor also presented the audit to the society members at the Annual General Meeting.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board approve the August 31, 2023 audit report prepared by Yaremchuk and Annichario.

Patti Dundas – Secretary Treasurer



Patti Dundas
Secretary Treasurer
Phone: 780-416-2353
Email:
pdundas@newhorizons.ca

MEMORANDUM

November 15, 2023

To: Board of Directors

From: Patti Dundas – Secretary Treasurer

Subject: Secretary Treasurer Report – Fall Budget Update

The annual budget is prepared in the spring and then requires adjustment as new revenues and/or expenses become applicable; a summary of the changes for the 2023-24 fiscal year is provided.

There have been revenue and expenditure changes as well as housekeeping revisions. I will provide a verbal update of changes at the Board meeting.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board approve the Budget Update as presented.

Patti Dundas – Secretary Treasurer



Terry Moghrabi

Superintendent

Phone: 780-212-1158

Email: Tmoghrabi@newhorizons.ca

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 15, 2023

To: Board of Directors

From: Terry Moghrabi- Superintendent

Re: Stakeholder Forum

Background:

Historically, the Board has hosted a Stakeholder Forum session early in the new year. Director T. Panas forms the Survey Committee and will work with Principal Vigfusson in establishing the topics and questions for discussion. The board may wish to provide their topic ideas to the Survey Committee at this board meeting, as the final recommendation for the topics will come at the December board meeting.

Information and Highlights:

Possible Suggestions

1. Communication is a vital component of school engagement.
Many changes have occurred over the last couple of years to increase and improve communication with caregivers and families.
What are our strengths, what are areas of growth, and what are the following steps to improve communication around:
 - A. Student Achievement/progress and engagement
 - B. School/Classroom Events
2. Visioning for High School Programming:
Gifted Students are the artists, scientists, thinkers, innovators, and leaders of the future. They will be tasked with solving today's problems while imagining and creating a new tomorrow. What qualities do graduates from New Horizons Charter School want to possess upon completing their high school program?
3. Other topics and suggestions
 -
 -
 -

To prepare for hosting this important event, the Board should finalize the priorities/topics and the date of the Stakeholder Forum. Last year, the Forum was held on the evening of Monday, January 23, 2023, and the board will need to determine the date for the Forum for January or early February. Please note the regular board meeting is scheduled for January 24th. The information night is scheduled for January 18th. The forum

has been held on Monday evenings for the past few years; two possible dates for the forum are Thursday, February 1st, or Tuesday, February 6th.

The stakeholder forums have been facilitated through Principal Vigfusson and Vice-Principal Watson, who act as facilitators. I will support their facilitation where I can be of assistance. As usual, it is recommended that Board Chair Asquini makes opening remarks.

Recommendations and Governance Implications:

The Board provides ongoing opportunities for engagement on specific initiatives, policies, and procedures through an online platform identified as Survey Monkey and Mentimeter. This allows stakeholders and staff/students to engage in separate formats. Parents/guardians had the opportunity to share input. Information about all the engagements was shared with the relevant stakeholders after the Board reviewed it. Within the Annual Education Plan, the stakeholder forums were acknowledged by Alberta Education.

It is recommended that the Board of Directors engage in a discussion to identify a date for the Stakeholder Forum and to discuss potential topic ideas for the Survey Committee and Principal Vigfusson to consider. We will recruit Parents, Board representatives, Student Representatives, and Staff. Generally, we are limited to two topics to cover in two hours.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Moghrabi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Terry Moghrabi

APPROVED Board Annual Work Plan 2023-24



Board of Directors – Work Plan for 2023-24

September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopt Board Work Plan for 2023-24<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Set date for October Board meeting<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Receive report on provincial achievement test results (closed meeting)
October	<div>Complete Board Organizational Actions</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Conduct Special General Meeting; hold Board elections<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Elect Board executive officers (must be within one week of SGM)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Select members for Board standing committees<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Set dates for Board meetings (motion required)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Notify Service Alberta of change in executive officers<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Identify Board signing authorities<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Sign Board Member Code of Conduct – Policy #101<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Receive Accountability Pillar Results Report for October 2023<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attend TAAPCS Annual General Meeting<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Receive enrolment report for September 30, 2023<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conduct initial orientation session for new Board members<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Set date for NHCS Society Annual General Meeting<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Receive report on provincial achievement test results (closed meeting), deferred from September
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Conduct AGM of NHCS Society<input type="checkbox"/> Approve revised budget for 2023-24<input type="checkbox"/> Approve Annual Education Results Report (AERR) 2022-23<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receive report on provincial achievement test results (closed meeting), deferred from October• Receive Alberta Education Assurance Measures (formerly Accountability Pillar Results) Report for October 2023, deferred from October<input type="checkbox"/> Approve Audited Financial Statement Year Ending Aug 31, 2023<input type="checkbox"/> Receive Report #1 from School Council<input type="checkbox"/> Determine priorities, possible date for Stakeholder Forum
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Set date for March Board Planning Retreat<input type="checkbox"/> Receive Counsellor's Report #1<input type="checkbox"/> Review Draft Stakeholder Forum Agenda NEW<input type="checkbox"/> Conduct initial orientation session for new Board members, deferred from October

January	<input type="checkbox"/> Receive Quarterly Financial Report for Sep - Nov 2023 <input type="checkbox"/> Review Policy 210 and associated Student Code of Conduct <input type="checkbox"/> Approve school calendar for 2024-25 in principle <input type="checkbox"/> Host Stakeholder Forum, gather input on possible Education Plan priorities <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare breakfast for school staff (January 31, 2024)
February	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide final approval of school calendar for 2024-25 <input type="checkbox"/> Receive mid-year progress report on Three-Year Education Plan 2024-27
March	<input type="checkbox"/> Host Board Retreat – Identify priorities for upcoming Education Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Approve Three-Year Capital Plan for 2024-25 to 2026-27 <input type="checkbox"/> Administer Board-developed Stakeholder Survey
April	<input type="checkbox"/> Receive Quarterly Financial Report for Dec 2023 – Feb 2024 <input type="checkbox"/> Review School Fees for 2024-25 NEW
May	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide approval to Education Plan 2023-24 to 2024-25 <input type="checkbox"/> Attend TAAPCS Spring General Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Approve Budget for 2024-25, May 31 submission deadline <input type="checkbox"/> Approve School Fees for 2024-25 NEW <input type="checkbox"/> Receive Accountability Pillar Results Report for May 2024 <input type="checkbox"/> Receive Board-developed stakeholder survey results <input type="checkbox"/> Consider salary adjustment for support staff, senior administration <input type="checkbox"/> Receive report from FANHS <input type="checkbox"/> Receive Counsellor’s Report #2 <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare breakfast for school staff (May 16, 2024)
June	<input type="checkbox"/> Assess Board Work Plan progress for 2023-24 <input type="checkbox"/> Receive Quarterly Financial Report for Mar – May 2024 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule SGM of NHCS Society (requires 21 days’ notice; must be on or before Oct 10) <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule September 2024 Board meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Set date for Summer Board Housekeeping Retreat <input type="checkbox"/> Receive Report #2 from School Council
Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/> Consider proposals for new or amended Board policies <input type="checkbox"/> Receive recommendations from Board committees
Annually	<input type="checkbox"/> Negotiate collective agreement with ATA (as needed)
As Needed	<input type="checkbox"/> Meet with: <input type="checkbox"/> - County Council <input type="checkbox"/> - MLAs



Terry Moghrabi <tmoghrabi@newhorizons.ca>

Schedule for MLA Visit - New Horizons Charter School

2 messages

Adam Asquini <a_asquini@newhorizons.ca>
To: Strathcona.sherwoodpark@assembly.ab.ca
Cc: Terry Moghrabi <tmoghrabi@newhorizons.ca>

Wed, Nov 1, 2023 at 8:46 PM

To the Office of the Honourable Nate Glubish ECA,
MLA for Strathcona-Sherwood Park,

As per your response to our invitation for a school tour sent on June 15th, 2023, we would like to confirm a date at your convenience to visit New Horizons Charter School.

New Horizons Charter School is a Kindergarten to Grade 9 institution that prides itself on fostering a nurturing and innovative learning environment for gifted students. The active involvement of our elected representatives in the education of our young learners can be truly inspiring and educational for our students. We would be happy to share our successes and challenges in meeting this unique population's diverse academic, social, and emotional needs.

We also extend an invitation for you to read to any class of your choice. This small gesture would undoubtedly leave a lasting impression on our students, and your presence would be an excellent opportunity to showcase the importance of community and education.

Please feel free to contact me to schedule your visit or discuss any specific requirements you may have during your visit. We are flexible and can arrange the visit to accommodate your busy schedules.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our community and the betterment of education. We look forward to your visit and the opportunity for our students to meet you.

Sincerely,

--
Adam Asquini
Chair, Board of Directors
New Horizons Charter School Society
(780) 984-5139

[CLICK HERE](#) to see a 2-minute video about public charter schools in Alberta

Terry Moghrabi <tmoghrabi@newhorizons.ca>
To: Angela DeJong <adejong@newhorizons.ca>

Thu, Nov 2, 2023 at 9:13 AM

[Quoted text hidden]



Terry Moghrabi <tmoghrabi@newhorizons.ca>

Schedule for MLA Visit - New Horizons Charter School

2 messages

Adam Asquini <a_asquini@newhorizons.ca>

Wed, Nov 1, 2023 at 8:41 PM

To: "sherwood.park@assembly.ab.ca" <sherwood.park@assembly.ab.ca>

Cc: Terry Moghrabi <tmoghrabi@newhorizons.ca>

To the Office of Mr. Kyle Kasawski, MLA for Sherwood Park,

As per your response to our invitation for a school tour sent on June 15th, 2023, we would like to confirm a date at your convenience to visit New Horizons Charter School.

New Horizons Charter School is a Kindergarten to Grade 9 institution that prides itself on fostering a nurturing and innovative learning environment for gifted students. The active involvement of our elected representatives in the education of our young learners can be truly inspiring and educational for our students. We would be happy to share our successes and challenges in meeting this unique population's diverse academic, social, and emotional needs.

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Thank you for your continued dedication to our community and the betterment of education. We look forward to your visit and the opportunity for our students to meet you.

Sincerely,

--

Adam Asquini

Chair, Board of Directors

New Horizons Charter School Society

(780) 984-5139

[CLICK HERE](#) to see a 2-minute video about public charter schools in Alberta

Terry Moghrabi <tmoghrabi@newhorizons.ca>

Thu, Nov 2, 2023 at 9:13 AM

To: Angela DeJong <adejong@newhorizons.ca>

[Quoted text hidden]

Thanks for the opportunity to join you this evening.

This year's Council is comprised of Sarah-Jane Lovgren as Vice Chair, Rebecca Koziak as Secretary, Anita Sanderson as Finance Officer, Ellen Hanna as Communications Officer and myself as Chair. School Council has benefited immeasurably from membership rejuvenation with social media/communications expertise, event planning, and network expansion led by our members.

Given the disbursement of NHS families across the greater Edmonton/Sherwood Park area and in recognition of competing demands on caregiver's time, meetings continue to be held in hybrid format on the first Wednesday of every month starting at 7:00PM. We continue to work with our FANHS colleagues to schedule meetings back to back. Our monthly meetings aim to be a space where diverse perspectives are heard, and where caregivers can openly and honestly voice what's on their mind. In this regard, we've established a standing parent perspective agenda item which often leads to thoughtful conversation.

In the last year, School Council has sought to further connections within the NHS community. Unlike a community school where families are often seen within the neighbourhood, the geographic location of NHS families can create challenges for engagement outside of school hours; therefore, we have to work a little differently to build community and connection opportunities. After a hiatus due to the pandemic, last year was our return to the Halloween Family Dance initiative and we were grateful for the opportunity to work alongside FANHS to plan this year's event.

With the goals of engaging more parents and caregivers, as well as providing greater enhancement opportunities, we have established a number of sub-committee groups including: Grant Writing, Book Club, and Parent Link.

In collaboration with a professional grant writer, we have found ourselves unsuccessful in receiving the AFA Grant for four consecutive years which resulted in the desire to develop a Grant Committee to further explore grant opportunities and limit expenses associated with professional writers. This committee has already submitted a 'S'Cool Life Fund Grant' and is working with Mrs. Zelada on the MusiCounts Band Aid Program Grant in support of our music programming. The committee is in regular consultation with Ms. Vigfusson to communicate potential grant opportunities.

We've established a Book Club geared towards our adult community which had its inaugural meeting on October 23rd with Dr. Jody Carrington who spent a very engaging hour with us discussing her book *Feeling Seen* and parent/teacher perspectives in this space.

Parent Link is in its early stages of development. Conversations are taking place with Ms. Vigfusson to determine the logistics of the endeavour, as well as consultation with teachers for how a classroom parent contact group may be a positive resource and provide additional support to our teachers and families.

School Council has allocated \$22,500 for the 2023-2024 academic year and, as of the November's meeting, have motioned approximately \$7,083 of these allocated funds. In developing our 2023-2024 allocation request, we recognized the significant fundraising efforts driven by FANHS in the 2022-2023 academic year. The funds raised give School Council the opportunity to consult with Administration to enhance the overall learning experience of NHS students. These endeavours seek to enhance student engagement while addressing their social and emotional needs; we are grateful to our FANHS colleagues for their considerable fundraising efforts. Without these funds, School Council could not support the enrichment opportunities we have projected for the year ahead, as well as considerations for future years.

This year, funds have been motioned to cover recurrent annual needs such as support for GSA, forgotten lunches, small student incentives, an annual contribution for recess equipment, junior high events such as Grade 9 Farewell and Jr. High Fun Day, Kinder graduation, the AMA student patrol, staff appreciation meals, and makerspace supplies. This year, our budget will also support a Saffron Centre parent presentation and an artist in residence program with Cass Miller of Studio YEG ART.

During the residency, Cass Miller will work with each grade individually as well as each division to provide students with an opportunity to create art projects using a variety of mediums. At the end of Ms. Miller's residency, the school community will join together to celebrate the young artists and their projects with an art show at Studio YEG ART.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the momentum developed over the course of the last year and the start of this year and have planned dates for a movie night (November 25, 2023) and for the spring carnival (May 25, 2024). In addition, we are already contemplating next year's artist in residence submission.

We sincerely appreciate our relationship with school administration and will continue to work closely with Ms. V to ensure Council's spending is well aligned with school needs and priorities. Our Communications team has been supporting Administration and vice versa. We are grateful to Administration for allowing School Council and FANHS the opportunity to provide the NHS community with a weekly newsletter. This method of communication has allowed us to engage with families more successfully.

In this regard, the importance of accessible communication is flagged by Council. We want to highlight our gratitude to administration for their efforts in looking to understand how best to communicate with the parent body and their efforts in this regard, particularly in working with past feedback.

Council has found that it's possible to interact more casually on our social media platforms to highlight key messages and would be happy to support as needed in terms of Board communication products.

School Council wishes to extend our gratitude to Mr. Moghrabi and to this year's Board for the relationship being developed — we look forward to working together to serve the New Horizons community this year.

We are excited by the opportunity for further engagement with the school community and look forward to supporting the Board and school to the best of our ability.