

New Horizons Charter School Society Board Meeting

December 18, 2024



NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING DECEMBER 18, 2024 AGENDA

Online streaming available via Zoom, [click here to join](#).

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|----|--|---|-------------|
| 1. | Call to Order | A. Asquini | 7:00 pm |
| 2. | Statement of Territorial Acknowledgment | A. Asquini | 7:01 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 | 7:02 pm |
| 4. | Disclosure of Conflict of Interest | A. Asquini | 7:03 pm |
| 5. | Approval of Minutes
5.1 November 27, 2024 - attachment | A. Asquini | 7:05 pm |
| 6. | Administration Reports
6.1 Principal's Report - attachment
6.2 Secretary Treasurer's Report
6.3 Superintendent's Report - attachment |
L. Vigfusson
P. Dundas
T. Moghrabi |
7:10 pm |
| 7. | Board Reports
7.1 Board Chair's Report
7.2 Other Committee Reports
7.2.1 Finance and Audit Committee
7.2.2 Policy Guidelines and Bylaws Committee
7.2.3 Survey Committee
7.2.4 Public Relations Committee
7.2.5 Personnel Committee
7.2.6 High School Ad Hoc Committee
7.2.7 Board Activities |
A. Asquini
A. Asquini
T. Panas
A. Koziak
T. Panas / P. Kakkan
A. Asquini
K. Derkson
A. Asquini |
7:25 pm |

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|------|---|--------------------------|---------|
| 8. | New Business | | 7:45 pm |
| 8.1 | NAGC Conference Presentation | L. Vigfusson / A. Watson | |
| 8.2 | Stakeholder Forum Agenda - attachment | T. Moghrabi | |
| 8.3 | Set Date for March Planning Retreat | T. Moghrabi | |
| 8.4 | Counsellor's Report - attachment | L. Vigfusson | |
| 8.5 | Review Charter Revisions | T. Moghrabi | |
| 9. | Board Work Plan | A. Asquini | 8:30pm |
| 10. | The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools | A. Koziak | 8:35pm |
| 11. | Receipt of Reports | A. Asquini | 8:45 pm |
| 12. | Correspondence Sent | A. Asquini | 8:45 pm |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holiday Greetings from NHS (digital card) | | |
| 13. | Correspondence Received | A. Asquini | 8:45 pm |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDC Minister Holiday Greetings EDC Minister Holiday Greetings to Parents EDC Deputy Minister Happy Holidays | | |
| 14. | In Camera | A. Asquini | 8:45 pm |
| 14.1 | Motion to Move In Camera | | |
| 14.2 | Motion to Move Out of Camera | | |
| 14.3 | Business Arising from In Camera | | |
| 15. | Adjournment | A. Asquini | 8:55 pm |

Next Board Meeting – Wednesday, January 22, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
MINUTES

Type of Meeting: Board	Date: November 27, 2024	Initials: Chair	
Approved: DRAFT	Recorded By: A. DeJong	Secretary	

November 27, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present at Call to Order:

Adam Asquini CHAIR	Trevor Panas TREASURER	Adam Koziak SECRETARY
Praveen Kakkan DIRECTOR	Andrea Andrews DIRECTOR	Paul Jackson DIRECTOR

Board Members Joining During the Meeting:

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Board Members Absent:

Kristie Derkson VICE CHAIR		
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Administration Present at Call to Order:

Terry Moghrabi SUPERINTENDENT	Patti Dundas SECRETARY-TREASURER	Lori Vigfusson PRINCIPAL
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1. Call to Order

Chair Asquini called the 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.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
MINUTES

Type of Meeting: Board	Date: November 27, 2024	Initials: Chair	
Approved: DRAFT	Recorded By: A. DeJong	Secretary	

3. Adoption of Agenda

There was one addition to new business:

9.6 - TAAPCS Invitation to Parents

<i>Motion 2024-11-27-01</i>	<i>Moved that the agenda for the Board Meeting of November 27, 2024 be adopted as amended.</i> <i>Moved: Board Treasurer Panas</i> <i>Seconded: Director Kakkan</i> <i>Carried</i>
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4. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

Chair Asquini and Board Treasurer Panas have spouses at the school; based on the agenda, no conflict is anticipated. No other conflicts of interest were cited.

5. Approval of Minutes

5.1 Minutes of October 30, 2024

<i>Motion 2024-11-27-02</i>	<i>Moved that the Board Meeting minutes of October 30, 2024 be approved as presented.</i> <i>Moved: Secretary Koziak</i> <i>Seconded: Director Jackson</i> <i>Carried</i>
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6. School Council Report

School Council Chair Elizabeth Macve virtually provided a summary of activities and initiatives that School Council has participated in during the 2024-25 school year to date. Meetings are being held in person with a virtual participation option available to members and content interactions have increased by 290% over the previous year, thanks to increased social media presence. Parents are invited to participate and become involved. Discussion followed.

7. Administration Reports

7.1 Principal's Report

Principal Vigfusson provided a summary of her written report, which included report cards, NAGC Conference, Remembrance Day ceremony and Artist in Resident, as included in the meeting package. Discussion followed.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
MINUTES

Type of Meeting: Board	Date: November 27, 2024	Initials: Chair	
Approved: DRAFT	Recorded By: A. DeJong	Secretary	

7.2 Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Secretary-Treasurer Dundas summarized her written report, which included the technology, software, maintenance, Capital Planning meeting, transportation/calendar revisions, financial audit and Bill 13, as included in the agenda package. Discussion followed.

7.3 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Moghrabi summarized his written report, which included the Capital Planning Workshop, CASS, correspondence and document updates, TAAPCS Annual General Meeting, and Alberta Education legislative recommendations, as included in the meeting package. Discussion followed.

8. Board Reports

8.1 Board Chair's Report

Chair Asquini indicated that a letter was sent Minister Glubish following his visit and that follow-up information is being shared with his office regarding expansion plans. A meeting has been scheduled with Elk Island Catholic Schools regarding transfer of ownership of the school. A letter of support for FANHS' music grant application has been written.

8.2 Committee Reports

8.2.1 Finance and Audit Committee

Director Panas indicated that the committee met on November 20, 2024 to review the financial audit and to review the fall budget update. One Society member has been added to the finance and audit committee since the last Board meeting.

8.2.2 Policy Guidelines and Bylaws Committee

No report. A committee meeting will be held in the near future.

8.2.3 Survey Committee

No report.

8.2.4 Public Relations Committee

No report.

8.2.5 Personnel Committee

No report.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
MINUTES

Type of Meeting: Board	Date: November 27, 2024	Initials: Chair	
Approved: DRAFT	Recorded By: A. DeJong	Secretary	

8.2.6 High School Ad Hoc Committee

Chair Asquini indicated that the committee will meet soon to further discuss expansion plans.

8.2.7 Board Activities

No report.

9. New Business

9.1 2023-24 Audited Financial Statement

Secretary-Treasurer Dundas provided an update and overview of the 2023-24 Financial Audit Report, as presented at the Annual General Meeting. Discussion followed.

<i>Motion 2024-11-27-03</i>	<i>Moved that the Board approve the August 31, 2024 audit report prepared by Yaremchuk & Annicchiarico, as presented at the Annual General Meeting.</i> <i>Moved: Board Treasurer Panas</i> <i>Seconded: Director Koziak</i> <i>Carried</i>
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9.2 Fall Budget Update

Secretary-Treasurer Dundas provided an overview of the 2024-25 Fall Budget, highlighting some minor adjustments and changes that have occurred since May. Discussion followed.

<i>Motion 2024-11-27-04</i>	<i>Moved that the Board approve the Fall Budget Update as presented.</i> <i>Moved: Board Treasurer Panas</i> <i>Seconded: Director Jackson</i> <i>Carried</i>
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Action Item: Superintendent Moghrabi will share the Netsmart presentation with new board members.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
MINUTES

Type of Meeting: Board	Date: November 27, 2024	Initials: Chair	
Approved: DRAFT	Recorded By: A. DeJong	Secretary	

9.3 Annual Education Results Report (AERR) 2023-24

Principal Vigfusson provided a summary of the Annual Education Results Report (AERR) that has been prepared for submission. Discussion followed.

<i>Motion 2024-11-27-05</i>	<i>Moved that the Board approve the Annual Education Results Report as presented.</i> <i>Moved: Director Kakkan</i> <i>Seconded: Board Treasurer Panas</i> <i>Carried</i>
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9.4 NHS Stakeholder Forum

Superintendent Moghrabi provided background and suggested possible discussion topics for the upcoming stakeholder forum, as included in the meeting package. Discussion followed. Consensus is to hold the stakeholder forum on Monday, February 3, 2025 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

9.5 Bill 20, Article 21.1

Superintendent Moghrabi summarized the legislative changes relating to Bill 20, Article 21.1, as included in the meeting package. Discussion followed.

Action Item: The Policy Committee will discuss bylaw revisions to address the requirement of criminal record checks for members of the Board of Directors.

9.6 TAAPCS Invitation to Parents

This discussion item was included in item #11, TAAPCS Report.

10. Board Work Plan

The Board reviewed the Work Plan for 2024-25, as included in the meeting package.

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

Director Koziak indicated that he and Superintendent Moghrabi attended the TAAPCS AGM on November 2, 2024 in Calgary. The school tours were very enlightening and informative. Secretary Koziak has been elected as Vice President for TAAPCS.

Charter school parents are invited to attend a virtual Q&A session with the Minister of Education. An invitation has been shared that charter schools can share with their parents. Consensus to share the invitation with NHS parents by email as soon as possible.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
MINUTES

Type of Meeting: Board	Date: November 27, 2024	Initials: Chair	
Approved: DRAFT	Recorded By: A. DeJong	Secretary	

12. Receipt of Reports

<i>Motion 2024-11-27-07</i>	<i>Moved that all reports be received as presented during the meeting.</i> <i>Moved: Director Kakkan</i> <i>Seconded: Director Jackson</i> <i>Carried</i>
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12. Correspondence Sent

- None.

13. Correspondence Received

- None.

14. In Camera

14.1 Motion to Move In Camera

<i>Motion 2024-11-27-08</i>	<i>Moved that the meeting move in camera at 9:33 p.m.</i> <i>Moved: Director Andrews</i> <i>Seconded: Director Jackson</i> <i>Carried</i>
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14.2 Motion to Move Out of Camera:

<i>Motion 2024-11-27-09</i>	<i>Moved that the meeting move out of camera at 9:34 p.m.</i> <i>Moved: Director Jackson</i> <i>Seconded: Director Kakkan</i> <i>Carried</i>
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14.3 Matters Arising from In Camera Meeting

None.

15. Adjournment

Chair Asquini adjourned the meeting at 9:34 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 18, 2024

To: Board of Directors

From: Lori Vigfusson, Principal

Re: Principal's Report-December 2024

Information and Highlights:

NAGC Conference:

Vice Principal Watson and I attended the National Association of Gifted Conference in Seattle from November 21-24. This was an excellent opportunity to network with and learn from experts in the field of gifted education. We appreciate the support from the Board to attend and look forward to sharing some highlights at the end of this report.

Report Cards:

The Parent Portal was opened for parents and caregivers to look at first term progress reports. An Instruction email was sent home to explain to parents about how to access these results. We have been working with MBA Report Creator to build a more comprehensive report card and those will be distributed to parents once the process is complete.

Admissions:

Admissions will open for the 2025-2026 school year on December 16th. They will close on February 18, 2025 with our intake day on March 7. The previous handbook has been left available for parents to review prior to applying.

Computer Science Education Week:

December 9-13 was Computer Science Education Week. Students had speakers and presentations on computer science all week including free coding sessions from Code Ninjas. Thanks to our parent presenters and Ms. Joly for organizing the presentations and thanks to Ms. Joly for organizing.

Lori Vigfusson



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

MEMORANDUM

December 18, 2024

To: Board of Directors
From: Patti Dundas – Secretary-Treasurer
Subject: Update

Modulars

Last Spring, Alberta Education awarded us two modulars to provide utilization relief – to be installed after May, 2025. Even with the possibility of being approved for a renovation/addition, the Board decided last year that we will be moving ahead with the installation later in the school year.

I have asked Chris Woolard to provide a pre-submission tender for January so we can provide Alberta Education with timelines, permits, etc. Once the submission has been sent in an RFP will be created and put on the Alberta Purchasing Connection site for tenders.

Value Scope

The County of Strathcona asked that we resolve several of their concerns with regard to parking bylaws and traffic issues. I met with Carolyn Sherstone from MSP and Chris Woolard to discuss these concerns. After our meeting, a revised Traffic Impact Assessment was sent to the County of Strathcona. We are waiting to hear from the county as to whether or not they will now provide a letter of support or if they wish to have another meeting.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board accept this report as information.

P Dundas

Patti Dundas – Secretary-Treasurer

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 18, 2024

To: Board of Directors

From: Terry Moghrabi- Superintendent

Re: Superintendent Report

Holiday Concert

I want to thank the admin staff and special thanks to the music teacher, Ms Zelada, for the collective efforts to coordinate four great performances. Parent attendance was commendable throughout the day and evening. Student achievement in the fine arts was apparent and celebrated with each performance. Additionally, I commend the collaboration with FANHS/School Council and for the support in coordinating parent volunteers to decorate the holiday theme. Further acknowledgment goes to the FANHS president for collaborating with professional artist Mallory Chipman and her creative guidance and performances throughout the event. The Artist in Residence program has impacted student success and school culture in a significantly positive way.

CASS ZONE Meeting

Minister Guthrie, during the final reading of the Real Property Governance Act on page 1395 of the Hansard Report, explained the following points about the Act's intent, its impact on school boards, and why concerns should be alleviated:

1. **The intent of the Act:** The Act aims to centralize government property management, creating a unified inventory of land owned by the government. This centralization is intended to enhance transparency and streamline processes for handling surplus properties.

It introduces a system where surplus properties are first offered to the Ministry of Infrastructure to assess government needs before being made available for other purposes.

2. **Impact on School Boards:** The Act does not change school boards' decision-making authority regarding their properties. School boards will continue to decide on the programming use of their properties.

The Act ensures that surplus properties are evaluated for potential use in priority government projects before any disposal or transfer.

3. **Reasons for Reassurance:** The Act does not legislate the removal of property ownership from public school boards or alter the existing requirement for Education Ministry approval on land sales. By incorporating a single assessment for repurposing and disposal, redundancies are reduced, improving efficiency.

The Act seeks to modernize governance by focusing on leasing properties to consolidated entities rather than transferring ownership, which is seen as a cost-saving and strategic management approach.

Now that the Bill has become the Real Property Governance Act, Key Provisions Affecting School Authorities are as follows:

1. **Centralized Inventory:** School jurisdictions are required to include their properties in a consolidated inventory system managed by the government. This system enhances transparency and informs decisions regarding capital investments and property disposals.
2. **Offer to Transfer Surplus Property:** When a school authority deems a property surplus to its needs, it must offer the property to the Minister of Infrastructure at its net book value before proceeding with any sale, transfer, or disposal to other parties. This process ensures that surplus properties are assessed for potential repurposing to meet other government priorities.
3. **Exemptions and Exceptions:** Certain properties may be exempt from the Offer to Transfer process, such as land without a Certificate of Title under the Land Titles Act or land currently used for program purposes. Regulations are being developed to consider additional exemptions, including land held in land trusts.
4. **Disposition of Property Regulation:** School boards must adhere to the Disposition of Property Regulation, which outlines the criteria and processes for declaring property surplus and the subsequent sale or transfer. This regulation ensures that disposals are conducted transparently and in alignment with government policies.

CASS: Through a discussion among Superintendents at the Zone 2/3 Committee Meeting concerns were shared regarding the Transfer of Surplus Property and the Exemptions and Exceptions provisions. It was shared at this time that having to list a property at its “net book value” as opposed to “market value” impacts a long-held strategy that Boards have used, which is to own land as an investment for future needs and benefit from the financial benefits that a resale of the property brings.

Elk Island Catholic School Board Meeting Updates

The Board Chair will share more details with the Board. I will confirm that we had a very positive meeting with the Superintendent and Board Chair of Elk Island Catholic Schools regarding the letter of support for our capital plan submission. A brief verbal summary will be shared of the past efforts to acquire the current building title.

Elk Island Public School Board Meeting

There are implications for the transportation agreement from the calendar decision. There will be no further updates until after the Elk Island Public School Board meeting later this week.

TAAPCS Learning Conference

Next week, Charter Superintendents will meet to discuss the TAAPCS Learning Conference. Multiple challenges will be discussed, including the event cost, hosting facility for 700-800 participants and presenters, travel, accommodation and meal costs, and organization and scheduling. With several authorities separating themselves from TAAPCS and other nonpaying authorities, we will need to discuss how to plan the Learning Conference for next year on a reduced budget.

The conference will have calendar implications, as professional development days are embedded into the collective agreement. At the meeting, I will suggest a possible Hybrid Solution to the other superintendents.

Minister Glubish Follow-up on Reciprocal Use Agreement

From his visit to New Horizons, Minister Glubish requested that we share information regarding the reciprocal use agreement with the County of Strathcona. He received the email with that information, and I also expressed regret that I could not attend the open house, although I believe Director Koziak may have more to share. We sent a digital Christmas Card and holiday greetings to his office and other MLAs.

High School Ad Hoc Meeting

I attended the High School Adhoc meeting to review the Terms of Reference and shared the proposed stakeholder forum questions and meeting format and process.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

I wish the Board, School Council, FANHS, Admin, and Staff (system and school) a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday. Our students may never understand the level of contribution and commitment these groups have to their success, but I thank you on their behalf. I hope you have a wonderful break.



Terry Moghrabi

Re: Invitation to attend New Horizons School 2024 Stakeholder Forum

Date: December 18 , 2024

Dear Students, Staff, Parents and NHS Society Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I invite you to participate in our school's annual Stakeholder Forum, held **at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 3, 2025**. The forum will be held at the school. The Stakeholder Forum is an essential opportunity for you to share your views on how our school can continue to grow, develop, and improve. In addition, you will have the opportunity to hear and discuss ideas brought forward by other parents, students, and school staff members. It is an essential element in our school's planning process as it contributes significantly to developing our Education Plan, which establishes our school's direction and priorities.

This year's Stakeholder Forum will focus on High School Planning for the future. The discussion will focus on four key areas: creating an engaging and rigorous academic curriculum that challenges and supports diverse learners; exploring enrichment opportunities that foster creativity, leadership, and real-world connections; designing learning environments that promote focus, flexibility, and well-being; and identifying essential support structures that address the social, emotional, and executive functioning needs of gifted and twice-exceptional students. The following topics and points of consideration will be analyzed further to gather stakeholder input.

Academic Programs :

- Acceleration and compacted curricula.
- Interdisciplinary and project-based learning.
- Dual credit - [Advanced Placement \(AP\) and International Baccalaureate \(IB\)](#) opportunities.
- Socio-emotional support is embedded in the curriculum.

Options and Enrichment Programs :

- Extracurricular activities and clubs.
- Internships and mentorships.
- Arts, music, and creative outlets.
- Support services for executive functioning, social skills, and anxiety management.

Learning Environment :

- Flexibility in scheduling.
- Small class sizes and personalized learning plans.
- Quiet spaces for focus and self-regulation.
- Technology integration.

Support Structures:

- Counselling and mental health resources.
- Professional development for teachers in 2e strategies.
- Parent engagement and community partnerships.

Our questions will drive the breakout group discussions through board facilitators. This information will then be used to support school planning and reporting. Please [click here](#) to RSVP.

We look forward to your attendance and participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry Moghrabi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Terry Moghrabi



ECSS

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

#101, 10155 – 114 STREET EDMONTON, AB T5K 1R8 P: 780-482-3277 F: 780-482-1761 ECSS@ECSS.ORG

New Horizon's School Board of Directors
Report on ECSS Psychological Services
Counsellor: Liam McFarlane

Reporting Period: September 5, 2024 – December 9, 2024

Introduction

This report outlines the psychological services provided by Liam McFarlane at New Horizon's School during the reporting period. Key changes this year include adopting a Solutions Focused Brief Therapeutic Approach (SFBT) and balancing counselling access across grades more effectively.

Background Therapeutic Modalities

Liam McFarlane employs the following psychotherapeutic techniques tailored to students' needs:

- Solutions Focused Brief Therapy (SFBT): Emphasizing efficient, goal-oriented sessions with minimal academic disruption.
- Narrative/Play Therapy
- Adlerian Mutual Storytelling
- Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT)

These approaches integrate humanistic principles to foster trust, motivation, and change.

Services Provided

Table 1. Service Overview

Service*	Hours	Percentage
Counselling	121.75	61%
Administration	38.75	19%
Consultation	35.5	18%
Class / Student Observation	4.25	2%
Total NHS:	200.25	100%

Counselling includes direct sessions, escorting students, and session documentation.

Administrative tasks encompass preparation, parent/staff communication, and note-taking.

Consultation involves discussions and recommendations with staff and parents.

Class Observation informs effective counselling strategies.

Table 2. School Counselling for NHS

Category	
Average Time Counselling (Minutes)	56.22
Number of Clients	44
Number of Sessions	132
Average Sessions/Student	3
Session Range (min-max)	1 - 8

Table 3. Breakdown by Grade

Grade	Number of Students	Number of Sessions	Total Hours
1	3	13	10.75
2	3	10	9
3	8	27	25.25
4	6	17	14
5	6	15	14.75
6	7	16	14.75
7	7	23	21
8	1	1	1
9	3	10	11.25
Total:	44	132	121.75

Table 4. Scheduling

<u>Reoccurring Interval</u>	<u>Number of Students</u>
Weekly	3
Bi-weekly	7
Every 3 Weeks	12
Every 4 Weeks	11
By Request	11

Common Areas of Support

- Interpersonal Relationships (Social Skills/Friendships)
- Executive Functioning/Impulse Control
- Crisis Intervention
- Rigidity/Lack of Flexibility
- Emotional Regulation

Goals for the New Year

Plans include introducing group counselling for emotional regulation and skills development in interpersonal communication and self-advocacy.



Liam McFarlane, M.Sc.,
School Counsellor

Board of Directors – Work Plan for 2024-25

September

- ☒ Adopt Board Work Plan for 2024-25
- ☒ Set date for October Board meeting
- ☒ Receive report on provincial achievement test results (closed meeting), deferred to October
- ☒ Technology Update

October

- ☒ Complete Board Organizational Actions
 - ☒ - Conduct Special General Meeting; hold Board elections
 - ☒ - Elect Board executive officers (must be within one week of SGM)
 - ☒ - Select members for Board standing committees
 - ☒ - Set dates for Board meetings (motion required)
 - ☒ - Notify Service Alberta of change in executive officers
 - ☒ - Identify Board signing authorities
 - ☒ - Sign Board Member Code of Conduct – Policy #101
- ☒ Receive Alberta Education Assurance Measures (AEAMS) Report
- ☒ Attend TAAPCS Annual General Meeting
- ☒ Receive enrolment report for September 30, 2024
- ☒ Conduct initial orientation session for new Board members
- ☒ Set date for NHCS Society Annual General Meeting
- ☒ Receive report on provincial achievement test results (closed meeting), deferred from September, deferred to November

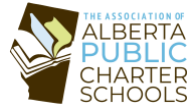
November

- ☒ Conduct AGM of NHCS Society
- ☒ Approve revised budget for 2024-25
- ☒ Approve Annual Education Results Report 2023-24
- ☒ Approve audited financial statement year ending Aug 31, 2024
- ☒ Receive Report #1 from School Council
- ☒ Determine priorities, possible date for Stakeholder Forum
- ☒ Receive report on provincial achievement test results (closed meeting), deferred from September

December

- ☐ Set date for March Board Planning Retreat
- ☐ Receive Counsellor's Report #1
- ☐ Review Draft Stakeholder Forum Agenda
- ☐ Review Charter Revisions

January	<input type="checkbox"/> Receive Quarterly Financial Report for Sep - Nov 2024 <input type="checkbox"/> Review Policy 210 and associated Student Code of Conduct <input type="checkbox"/> Approve school calendar for 2025-26 in principle <input type="checkbox"/> Host Stakeholder Forum, gather input on possible Education Plan priorities <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare breakfast for school staff
February	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide final approval of school calendar for 2025-26 <input type="checkbox"/> Receive mid-year progress report on Three-Year Education Plan 2025-28 <input type="checkbox"/> Technology Update
March	<input type="checkbox"/> Host Board Retreat – Identify priorities for upcoming Education Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Approve Three-Year Capital Plan for 2026-27 to 2028-29 <input type="checkbox"/> Administer Board-developed Stakeholder Survey
April	<input type="checkbox"/> Receive Quarterly Financial Report for Dec 2024 – Feb 2025 <input type="checkbox"/> Review school fees for 2025-26 <input type="checkbox"/> Superintendent Evaluation
May	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide approval to Education Plan 2024-25 to 2025-26 <input type="checkbox"/> Attend TAAPCS Spring General Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Approve budget for 2025-26, May 31 submission deadline <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"/> Superintendent Evaluation Approval <input type="checkbox"/> Confirm Policy Alignment with Administrative Procedures (from superintendent)
June	<input type="checkbox"/> Assess Board Work Plan progress for 2024-25 <input type="checkbox"/> Receive Quarterly Financial Report for March – May 2025 <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule SGM of NHCS Society (requires 21 days' notice; must be on or before Oct 10) <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule September 2025 Board meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Set date for summer Board 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - County Council - MLAs



On December 2nd TAAPCS had the privilege of hosting a Zoom webinar with Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaides. The session began at 6:15 p.m. with a brief introduction from TAAPCS President Dee-Ann Evans who introduced the Minister and Sadiq Valliani of Alberta Classical Academy who hosted the Q&A with the Minister. We had 700 registrations and about 400 people at any time during the event. This is a short summary:

The Minister began by thanking TAAPCS for the hard work, committed to answering as many questions as possible and emphasizing the government's commitment to choice in education generally and specifically to Public Charter Schools.

As part of the Q&A the Minister confirmed there isn't any schedule as to how many of the 12,500 public charter school spaces will be given to new or existing schools. Each application will be judged on its merits. Funding is meant to create new spaces but improving existing spaces is also important.

In response to a question on getting more teachers the Minister outlined actions with school boards and universities to ensure we have more trained teachers throughout the system.

In response to a question on increasing operating dollars the Minister commented on actions to date and committed to continuing to find solutions.

The Minister reassured us that existing school boards need to make available their underused schools where it makes sense to become a charter. In a later answer he spoke to recent legislation that requires public buildings to come back to the province for disposition.

In response to a question on a voucher system the Minister confirmed that in our system dollars do follow students within the public system.

In response to a question on Alberta's per student funding being lower than the rest of Canada the Minister shared that those reports don't include the recent announcements of government.

Regarding a question about why the ATA always refers to us as "private" the Minister stated that this was not his government's view.

Regarding bussing times, the Minister spoke to understanding and continuing to work for solutions.

The Minister praised the efforts for the Calgary Charter Hub and unique approaches to capital. He recognized the dramatic increase in people coming to Alberta and the challenge that presents.

All member schools of TAAPCS were invited to participate in what we hope will be the first of a series of such sessions. We thank all member schools for your efforts to get parents more involved and participate in these initiatives.

The dramatic increase in capital funding by the government for all Alberta students is greatly appreciated.



From: **EDC Minister** <Education.Minister@gov.ab.ca>

Date: Tue, Dec 17, 2024 at 1:29 PM

Subject: Holiday greetings from Minister Nicolaides / Vœux du temps des fêtes de la part du ministre Nicolaides

To: EDC Minister <Education.Minister@gov.ab.ca>

To: **Board Chairs of Public, Separate, Francophone and Charter School Authorities**
First Nations Chiefs
Independent (Private) School Authorities
Early Childhood Services (ECS) Operators
Presidents of Stakeholder Associations
 ACFA (Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta)
 ACSTA (Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association)
 AEFAA (Alberta Educational Facilities Administrators Association)
 AHA (Alberta Homeschooling Association)
 AHEA (Alberta Home Education Association)
 AISCA (Association of Independent Schools & Colleges in Alberta)
 ASBA (Alberta School Boards Association)
 ASBOA (Association of School Business Officials of Alberta)
 ASCA (Alberta School Councils' Association)
 ATA (Alberta Teachers' Association)
 CASS (College of Alberta School Superintendents)
 CCSSA (Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta)
 FPFA (Fédération des parents francophones de l'Alberta)
 FCSFA (Fédération des conseils scolaires francophones de l'Alberta)
 HASAA (Homelearning Advocacy and Support Association of Alberta)
 PSBAA (Public School Boards' Association of Alberta)
 TAAPCS (The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools)

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

Subject: Holiday greetings from Minister Nicolaides

Dear colleagues,

As the first half of this school year winds down and we approach the holiday season, I want to extend my warmest wishes to you and your families for a merry Christmas, happy holiday, and joyful new year.

I believe the greatest gift we can give our children is that of a world-class education. As we celebrate this time of year, I want to thank you for everything you have done to help get this school year off to a great start.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Alberta's extraordinary teachers, teacher leaders, educational assistants, and school support staff, our education system is empowering students to reach their full potential and helping them build the skills and abilities they need to step into life after school with confidence.

Together, since the beginning of the school year, we have introduced many initiatives that will set students up for success:

- New rules will limit the use of mobile devices in classrooms so students can focus more on learning and less on social media and texting.
- More screening for our youngest learners will help teachers identify students who need additional support in building foundational literacy and numeracy skills during their critical early years of education.
- Kindergarten to Grade 6 students are now learning from updated curriculum in nearly all subjects, while the new draft Kindergarten to Grade 6 Social Studies curriculum is being piloted in more than 420 schools.

Our shared efforts also mean Alberta students have access to more career education opportunities than ever before. This year, Alberta's government is funding 55 new dual credit programs and 22 enhanced programs. This is in addition to the

\$21.5 million for new and expanded collegiate school programs, offering students hands-on experience in diverse fields, from skilled trades to aviation.

It is no secret Alberta is growing fast, which is why we are building new and modernized schools to tackle rising enrolment head-on. Our generational investment of \$8.6 billion will build up to 90 new schools, modernize or replace another 24 of them, and roll out more modular classrooms to create more than 200,000 new and modernized student spaces within the next seven years. Combined with dedicated funding for school enrolment growth, I am confident our efforts will help to significantly alleviate enrolment pressures in our school system.

Thank you again for your dedication to Alberta's students and for all that you do every day to provide them with a world-class education. On behalf of my family, my colleagues in the Alberta government, and the entire Alberta Education team, merry Christmas, happy holidays, and happy new year.

I kindly ask that you forward the attached correspondence to parents on my behalf.

Best,

Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD
Minister of Education

Attachment: Minister's holiday greeting

cc: Superintendents of Public, Separate, Francophone and Charter School Authorities
Secretary-Treasurers of Public, Separate, Francophone and Charter School Authorities
First Nations Education Directors
Communications Contacts at School Divisions



ALBERTA
EDUCATION

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary - Bow*

December 17, 2024

Dear parents,

As the first half of the school year winds down and Christmas approaches, I want to take a moment to wish you and your families a safe and joyful holiday season. I would also like to take this opportunity to update you on some exciting new developments in education.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Alberta's extraordinary teachers, educational assistants, school support staff, administrators, and teacher leaders, the 2024-25 school year has gotten off to a great start.

- We implemented new rules to limit the use of mobile devices in classrooms so students can focus more on learning and less on social media and texting.
- We introduced more screening for our youngest learners to help teachers identify students who need additional support in building foundational literacy and numeracy skills during their critical early years of education.
- We have more career education options for students in junior and senior high than ever before, with Alberta's government providing funding for dual credit and collegiate programs to prepare students to move from the classroom into rewarding careers.
- Our Kindergarten to Grade 6 students are now learning from updated curriculum in nearly all subjects, while our new draft Kindergarten to Grade 6 Social Studies curriculum is being piloted in more than 420 schools.


It is no secret Alberta is growing fast, so we are tackling rising enrolment head-on by building new and modernized schools. Our generational investment of \$8.6 billion will build up to 90 new schools, modernize or replace another 24 of them, and roll out more modular classrooms to create more than 200,000 new and modernized student spaces within the next seven years. Our efforts to build new and modernize schools will expand school choice for students and parents by offering a variety of public, separate, francophone, charter, and independent school options.

.../2

Alberta's government recognizes the vital role of parents in children's education. You know best what your children need to be happy, fulfilled, and successful. That is why we took steps during the fall legislative session to strengthen communication between schools and parents and reaffirm their involvement in important decisions affecting their children.

It has been a productive and rewarding start to the school year, and we are looking forward to more good things to come. From my family to yours, and on behalf of all staff in the department of education, merry Christmas and happy holidays.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Demetrios Nicolaides". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Demetrios" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Nicolaides".

Demetrios Nicolaides ECA PhD
Minister of Education, Alberta

