

New Horizons Charter School Society Board Meeting

March 17, 2025



**NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
MARCH 17, 2025
AGENDA**

Online streaming available, [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 | A. Asquini | 7:05 pm |
| | 5.1 February 19, 2025 - attachment | | |
| 6. | Administration Reports | | 7:20 pm |
| | 6.1 Principal's Report - attachment | L. Vigfusson | |
| | 6.2 Secretary Treasurer's Report - attachment | P. Dundas | |
| | 6.3 Superintendent's Report - attachment | T. Moghrabi | |
| 7. | Board Reports | | 7:50 pm |
| | 7.1 Board Chair's Report | A. Asquini | |
| | 7.2 Other Committee Reports | A. Asquini | |
| | 7.2.1 Finance and Audit Committee | T. Panas | |
| | 7.2.2 Policy Guidelines and Bylaws Committee | A. Koziak | |
| | 7.2.3 Survey Committee | T. Panas / P. Kakkan | |
| | 7.2.4 Public Relations Committee | A. Asquini | |
| | 7.2.5 Personnel Committee | K. Derkson | |
| | 7.2.6 High School Ad Hoc Committee | A. Asquini | |
| | 7.2.7 Board Activities | | |

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|-----|---|-------------|---------|
| 8. | New Business | | 8:15 pm |
| | 8.1 Three Year Capital Plan for 2026-27 to 2028-29
- attachment, motion required | T. Moghrabi | |
| | 8.2 Board Retreat Agenda - attachment | T. Moghrabi | |
| | 8.3 Plan to Protect | T. Moghrabi | |
| 9. | Board Work Plan | A. Asquini | 8:45pm |
| 10. | The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools | A. Asquini | 8:48pm |
| 11. | Receipt of Reports | A. Asquini | 8:55 pm |
| 12. | Correspondence Sent | A. Asquini | 8:55 pm |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None | | |
| 13. | Correspondence Received | A. Asquini | 8:55 pm |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EDC Deputy Minister - Budget 2025 ● Canada – Alberta National School Food Program Agreement – 2024 to 2027 | | |
| 14. | In Camera | A. Asquini | 9:00 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 | 9:15 pm |

Next Board Meeting – Wednesday, March 19, 2024

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
MINUTES

Type of Meeting:	Board	Date:	February 19, 2025	Initials:	Chair	
Approved:	DRAFT	Recorded By:	L. Vigfusson		Secretary	

February 19, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present at Call to Order:

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

Board Members Joining During the Meeting:

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Board Members Absent:

Kristie Derkson VICE CHAIR	Andrea Andrews DIRECTOR	
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Administration Present at Call to Order:

Terry Moghrabi SUPERINTENDENT	Lori Vigfusson PRINCIPAL	
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Virtual Attendee:

1. Call to Order

Chair Asquini called the meeting to order at 7:11 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:	February 19, 2025	Initials:	Chair	
Approved:	DRAFT	Recorded By:	L. Vigfusson		Secretary	

3. Adoption of Agenda

<i>Motion 2025-02-19-01</i>	<p><i>Moved that the agenda for the Board Meeting of February 19, 2025 be adopted as amended.</i></p> <p><i>Moved: Director Kakkan</i> <i>Seconded: Director Jackson</i> <i>Carried</i></p>
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4. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

Chair Asquini and Board Treasurer Panas have spouses at the school, other directors have spouses in parent groups within 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 January 22, 2025

<i>Motion 2025-02-19-02</i>	<p><i>Moved that the Board Meeting minutes of January 22, 2025 be approved as presented.</i></p> <p><i>Moved: Director Koziak</i> <i>Seconded: Director Kakkan</i> <i>Carried</i></p>
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6. Netsmart Presentation

Jameel Sarangi, Vice-President, from Netsmart attended virtually and provided an overview of their work to date, as well as changes and additional technology hardware and support that have been implemented during the school year. Report included. Discussion followed; the Board expressed appreciation for the depth and detail of information shared.

150 chromebooks were inventoried, 25 found usable. Cisco system was used but not functional for the iPads and Macs. All of our iPads and Macs have been transferred to a Microsoft platform at no additional cost. New teacher portal to Go Guardian for flexibility has been purchased and is working well for the teachers.

End of life for Windows 10 is coming so we are ensuring all tech will work with this. New smart screens will be set up once they arrive. Discussion around the Powerschool breach occurred.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
MINUTES

Type of Meeting:	Board	Date:	February 19, 2025	Initials:	Chair	
Approved:	DRAFT	Recorded By:	L. Vigfusson		Secretary	

7. Administration Reports

7.1 Principal's Report

Principal Vigfusson provided a summary of her written report, which included admissions, Teachers' Convention, Alberta Assurance Surveys, and Tech Update, as included in the meeting package. Discussion followed.

7.2 Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Superintendent Moghrabi summarized Secretary-Treasurer Dundas' written report, which included County of Strathcona letter, County of Strathcona meeting, modulars, provincial budget, and technology, as included in the meeting package. Discussion followed.

7.3 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Moghrabi summarized his written report, which included pilot curriculum, Bill 20 Criminal Record Check, Alberta Education engagement session, high school ad hoc and Stakeholder Forum, Alberta Education Field Service Rep meeting, staff appreciation lunch, and Strathcona County meeting, as included in the meeting package. Discussion followed.

8. Board Reports

8.1 Board Chair's Report

Chair Asquini provided a verbal report including Stakeholder Forum and High School Ad Hoc committee, staff lunch, and Board Networking activity hosted by Suzuki Charter School on March 13. Discussion followed.

Action Item: Superintendent Moghrabi will send an email to the Board to determine attendance at the Board Networking Activity at Suzuki Charter School.

8.2 Committee Reports

8.2.1 Finance and Audit Committee

No report.

8.2.2 Policy Guidelines and Bylaws Committee

No report.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
MINUTES

Type of Meeting:	Board	Date:	February 19, 2025	Initials:	Chair	
Approved:	DRAFT	Recorded By:	L. Vigfusson		Secretary	

8.2.3 Survey Committee

Director Panas discussed development of questions around high school planning to include on the Board Survey. These will be discussed at the Ad Hoc Committee meeting.

8.2.4 Public Relations Committee

No report.

8.2.5 Personnel Committee

No report.

8.2.6 High School Ad Hoc Committee

Chair Asquini discussed the upcoming meeting and engaging Minister Glubish in discussions.

8.2.7 Board Activities

No report.

9. New Business

9.1 2025-26 School Calendar

Superintendent Moghrabi provided a draft calendar along with feedback received from staff, parents and School Council, as included in the meeting package. Superintendent Moghrabi provided a summary of the calendar development process and method of sharing information to collect Board and parent feedback as compared to previous years. The Board indicated that this was the preferred process. Discussion followed.

<i>Motion 2025-02-19-03</i>	<p><i>Moved that the 2025-56 School Calendar be approved as presented.</i></p> <p><i>Moved: Director Kakkan</i> <i>Seconded: Director Jackson</i> <i>Carried</i></p>
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NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
MINUTES

Type of Meeting:	Board	Date:	February 19, 2025	Initials:	Chair	
Approved:	DRAFT	Recorded By:	L. Vigfusson		Secretary	

9.2 Three Year Education Plan Mid-Year Progress Report

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

- Increased PD for Student engagement
- Increased PD on Neurodiverse students and the Neuroscience model
- Implementing the CASEL model for Social Emotional Learning with activities and lessons aligned with Program of Studies
- Student Council was formed with elections to provide voice and leadership opportunities for students
- Additional Student-led groups have been formed to increase engagement and leadership opportunities.

9.3 Project Proposal Submission

Superintendent Moghrabi confirmed that the project proposal was submitted to Alberta Education, and the Board received access to the accompanying documents within the Alberta Education proposal for their confidential review.

9.4 March Meeting Date Change

As discussed at the January Board meeting, there is a conflict with the March 19, 2025 Board meeting date due to the CASS conference and parent-teacher interviews. It was suggested that the Board meeting date be adjusted.

<i>Motion 2025-02-19-04</i>	<p><i>Moved that the Board move the March Board meeting date to Monday, March 17, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.</i></p> <p><i>Moved: Director Jackson</i> <i>Seconded: Director Kakkan</i> <i>Carried</i></p>
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10. Board Work Plan

The Board reviewed the Work Plan for 2024-25, as included in the meeting package. Move the surveys to later March (after Assurance Survey)

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

Director Koziak indicated that March 8th will be the SGM and regular meeting at Stem Collegiate.

NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
MINUTES

Type of Meeting:	Board	Date:	February 19, 2025	Initials:	Chair	
Approved:	DRAFT	Recorded By:	L. Vigfusson		Secretary	

12. Receipt of Reports

<i>Motion 2025-02-19-05</i>	<p><i>Moved that all reports be received as presented during the meeting.</i></p> <p><i>Moved: Director Panas</i> <i>Seconded: Director Koziak</i> <i>Carried</i></p>
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13. Correspondence Sent

- None.

14. Correspondence Received

- Invitation to Suzuki Board Networking activity.

15. Motion to Move In Camera

<i>Motion 2025-02-19-06</i>	<p><i>Moved that the meeting move in camera at 8:58 p.m.</i></p> <p><i>Moved: Director Jackson</i> <i>Seconded: Director Koziak</i> <i>Carried</i></p>
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Motion to Move Out of Camera:

<i>Motion 2025-02-19-07</i>	<p><i>Moved that the meeting move out of camera at 9:05 p.m.</i></p> <p><i>Moved: Director Jackson</i> <i>Seconded: Director Panas</i> <i>Carried</i></p>
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16. New Business

16.1 Matters Arising from In Camera Meeting

None.

17. Adjournment

Chair Asquini adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.
Next Board Meeting: Monday, March 17, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 19, 2025

To: Board of Directors

From: Lori Vigfusson, Principal

Re: Principal's Report-March 2025

Information and Highlights:

Surveys:

Alberta Assurance Surveys were sent out to parents and administered to students and teachers at school. The Board Surveys will be sent out before Spring Break to be completed by the beginning of April.

Admissions:

We completed intake day on March 7. We had 175 complete applications with 72 in Kindergarten and the rest in a variety of grades. The admissions committee will meet after the break to review applications and inform families of the decision. If we do not have enough students that meet criteria, we may need to re-open applications in grades where space is available.

Celebration of Learning and Report Cards:

We are hosting our Celebration of Learning on March 18 and 19th to provide an opportunity for students to showcase their work to their parents. Term 2 report cards were emailed home to parents on March 14th using MBA report creator and Powerschool. There have been issues with the app version of the Parent Portal for Powerschool but the desktop version is working appropriately. We have notified Powerschool of the issue and they are working on a solution.

Amiskwaciy Dancers and Drummers:

Students were so fortunate to have Dancers and Drummers from Amiskwaciy Academy in on March 5 to share their traditional knowledge with all students. We welcomed four dancers and seven drummers who performed. Thank you to Jenel Hrenyk for organizing and to Amiskwaciy Academy for offering this as a thank-you to our school.

Lori Vigfusson



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

MEMORANDUM

March 17, 2025

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

RFQ

The RFQ for our modular install has been posted on Alberta Purchasing Connection. The closing date was March 12 and we are currently reviewing the bids with the architect.

Budget 2025

Budget 2025 provides an operating expense budget of \$9.9 billion in 2025-26, a 4.5% increase from the 2024-25 third quarter forecast.

- Additional enrolment growth - \$54 million in 2025-26, along with \$348 million more over the following 2 years.
- Funding formula adjustment - an increase of \$55 million in 2025-26, and another \$94 million in each of the following 2 years, to provide increased sustainable funding for growth within the funding model.
- New teachers and classroom support staff - almost \$1.1 billion in total over the next 3 years for 4,000 new teachers and classroom support staff.
- More than \$1.6 billion in 2025-26 will support students with specialized learning needs or groups of students who need additional help.
- An investment of \$55 million in 2025-26, a 20% increase from last year, to allow school authorities to add staff and supports to complex classrooms so students receive the focus and attention they need.
- \$389 million over 3 years will provide increases to funding rates to cover the rising costs of maintaining educational facilities, unavoidable expenses like insurance and utilities, and providing programs and services to students.
- \$2.6 billion over 3 years for educational (K-12) infrastructure, an increase of \$505 million or 23.9% from Budget 2024. This funding will support the construction of more than 200,000 new and modernized student spaces over the next 7 years (almost 90,000 within the next 4 years).

What this means for us based on our current enrolment:

The following grants will receive a 2.32% increase in 2025/26:

- Specialized Learning Support Grant (SLS) - \$13,359
- English as an Additional Language (EAL) - \$484
- First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Education (FNMI) - \$772
- Socio-Economic Status - \$573
- Geographic - \$539

The following grant will receive a 20% increase in 2025/26:

- Classroom Complexity - \$13,543

The following grant will receive a 3% increase in 2025/26

- Operations and Maintenance grant - \$10,640

This is approximately an increase of \$39,910.

NEW FUNDING MODEL

Three Year Weighted Moving Average

- Year 1 (Actual) – 20%
- Year 2 (Estimate) – 30%
- Year 3 (Projection) – 50%

Average Adjusted Enrollment – Two Years

- Year 1 Current School Enrolment – 30%
- Year 2 Upcoming Year Projections – 70%

This shift will increase the amount of funding provided to growing school authorities while still shielding those with declining enrolment.

NEW Funding Model					
	FTE	Percentage			
2024-25	423	0.3	\$126.90		
2025-26	430	0.7	\$301.00		
		Total	\$427.90 FTE		
OLD Funding Model					
2023-24	431	0.2	\$86.20		
2024-25	423	0.3	\$126.90		
2025-26	430	0.5	\$215.00		
		Total	\$428.10 FTE		
Example					
O & M					Difference
427.9	x	\$831.77	\$339,861.22	NEW	Less \$16,219.52
428.1	x	\$831.77	\$356,080.74	OLD	
SLS					Difference
427.9	x	\$1,343.00	\$574,669.70	NEW	Less \$268.60
428.1	x	\$1,343.00	\$574,938.30	OLD	

The reason we have reduced funding is that we had more students in 23-24 and less in 24-25. So this was essentially a declining enrolment.

There will be \$60,000 less due to enrolment adjustments next year.

Grid creep is approximately \$60,000 a year.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that this report be received as information.

Patti Dundas – Secretary-Treasurer

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 17, 2025
To: Board of Directors
From: Terry Moghrabi- Superintendent
Re: Superintendent Memo

Information and Highlights:

1. **Bill 27**

I updated the policy committee regarding Bill 27 timelines and implementation concerns. On March 3rd, charter superintendents met to discuss the implications of Bill 27 and The Education Amendments Act. There was uncertainty around implementation dates so the consensus was to generate questions to report to the minister's office for further clarification. The first and last bullets below are expected to be implemented this March, while the others are expected in the fall. However, most charter superintendents met with many questions about the lack of information on these guidelines to create policies.

The decision was to continue creating individual policies for each authority until we seek clarity from the department on these recommendations. Similarly, the CASS zone superintendents meet on March 14th with Alberta Education to review the policy recommendations. My thoughts are to pause the meeting to develop these policies until we hear back from the province.

- **Parent Notification and consent for health procedures:** Students under the age of 16 are required to obtain parental consent for any health procedures or health-related requirements that apply to the child during an emergency.
- **Parental Notification & Consent:** Schools must notify parents before using a student's preferred name/pronouns (under 16 requires parental consent).
- **Sensitive Instructional Content:** Parents must opt-in for lessons related to gender identity, sexual orientation, or human sexuality.
- **Approved Resources Only:** Ministerial approval is required for any related teaching materials or external presenters.
- **Learning Continuity & Emergency Response:** Parental consent required for health measures during emergencies, and schools must ensure in-person learning options.

2. **TAAPCS and Superintendents**

I had a March 8th meeting with the superintendents to discuss the implementation of Bill 27 and any follow-up from the ministers' announcement regarding the capital plan approvals. None of the charter school representatives had been notified of a capital project approval, so there is more to the question of which charters were approved. Some speculation around the announcement to include Collegiate Schools could be grouped into the Charter expansion announcement.

On March 13 Superintendents and Secretary-Treasurers met virtually and more information will be available in person.

The March 13 Board training session at Suzuki was postponed due to low enrollment.

3. Board Survey and Retreat

After the previous High School Ad Hoc meeting, the survey committee shared topics of questions and one-page summaries from the stakeholder engagement sessions. Summary questions were selected to be added to the board survey. The administration and superintendent met to reconsider the format of the question to match the style of the remaining questions. Principal Vigfusson reformatted the questions, and the survey will be shared and opened after the assurance surveys are closed. We will have two weeks to collect survey data. Further discussion around the board retreat and format will be shared under New Business.

4. Budget 2025 - February 27

Chair Asquini, Secretary-Treasurer Dundas and I attended the EDC session on budget manual review and capital announcement information to address enrolment pressures with a new funding formula that exceeds 10 billion dollars. Several main items in the minister's announcement included adjustments to the rolling three-year weighted average to a two-year average adjustment. This will better address enrolment hikes and drops by striking a better balance with growth shifts. \$8.6 billion is committed to building new schools to address the population surge. Some rural school projects were announced in the release below while other announcements will be shared through the accelerator program in April. The 2025 capital plan allocates \$75 million over the next three years for the planning and design of 41 school projects already announced and \$2.3 billion to update a new project list.

<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=9292270FA7AFD-9E4E-AE36-863038DDD1BD64FF>

Sincerely,



Terry Moghrabi



March, 2025

Three-Year Capital Plan 2026/27 to 2029/30

Priority:

New Horizons Charter School Society requests that the Ministry approve the addition to and renovation of the current New Horizons Charter School facility to accommodate the first gifted 'high school' educational program in the greater Edmonton region. The former Minister of Education provided a one-time grant of \$50,000 to support a facility solution and enhancement to address enrollment growth. New Horizons School used this grant to fund a Value Scope to determine the viability of multiple renovation/expansion options. High School programming is dependent on facility enhancements. Growth and expansion will also be limited for K-9 as we have reached capacity.

Currently, New Horizons Charter School has two classrooms per grade for Kindergarten through grade 9 students. The Charter mandate addresses the need for Gifted High School education with specific attention to social and emotional support as well as rigorous academic needs for each student. Gifted education needs are being met in Calgary serving 1500 students while there are no available seats for gifted education in Edmonton for high school students.

Rationale:

Since its establishment in 1995, New Horizons Charter School has diligently adhered to its Charter, encompassing a comprehensive gifted program tailored for gifted individuals. The Charter aims to grow to accommodate the K-12 population of gifted learners. The limitations of our facilities over the years have impeded natural growth to include a high school. After four separate relocations, we reached maximum capacity almost immediately.

New Horizons meets the intention of the Charter up to Grade nine. However, there is yet to be a solution for high school gifted programming in the region, which is the impetus for our plan. Consequently, this limits "choice in education" for families who require specialized programs that New Horizons offers for gifted and talented students. Continuous social and emotional support for our students is essential beyond K-9 and just as crucial to student success in high school.

The Board has garnered substantial support from students, parents, and the local community to extend our educational provision to the high school level. This extension is imperative to cater to gifted high school students' nuanced social, emotional, and academic requirements, ensuring their holistic development and academic excellence. Regrettably, the current infrastructure constraints at New Horizons Charter School impede any further high school expansion efforts. The existing facilities are operating beyond capacity, rendering further growth untenable. While the graph illustrates 20 years of growth, our average annual growth rate has been 11% per year over the last ten years, and we have increased 212% overall.

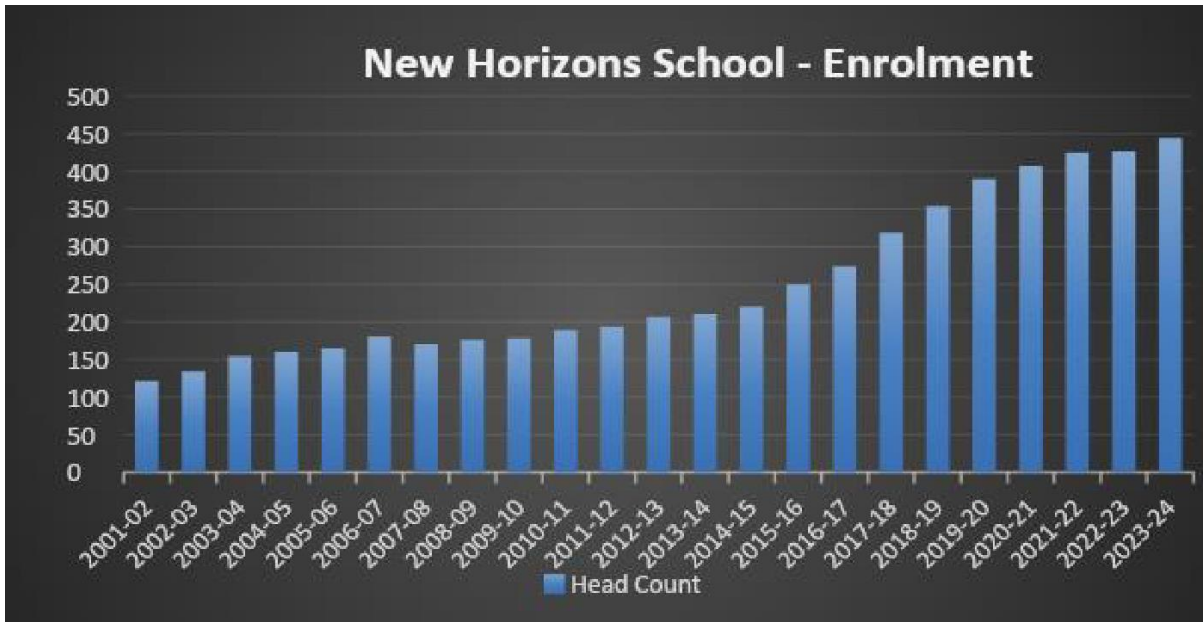


Figure 3 illustrates the projected enrollment of the high school from 2027/28 through 2030/31.

Pending approval for design and construction we would not see high school programming until 2027/28

Class/Grade	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31
Grade 10	45	45	45	50
Grade 11	0	45	45	50
Grade 12	0	0	45	50
Total Head Count	45	90	135	150

High School Organization:

New Horizons Charter School provides gifted education to over 445 kindergarten through grade 9 students. With enrollment projections of 45 students per grade, determining ways to expand our ability to offer a broad range of courses is essential.

Addition and renovation plans include two high school classes per grade to accommodate additional gifted students who may need this educational program to accommodate 50 current students per year over the next three years and any new students who will benefit from this specialized program.

A value scope was conducted in March 2024, providing a detailed examination of a complex school capital project involving the jurisdiction and key stakeholders to investigate opportunities and challenges related to school building functionality, space utilization, and physical condition. The intent was to develop criteria for what is essential for the school and community and develop options to best address those items.

The result was a solution representing the best value for addressing functional needs and financial and program implications.

Addition to and Renovation of our Existing School:

The Board of New Horizons Charter School requests approval to add to and renovate our existing facility to accommodate K-12 School to include teaching space for grades 10, 11, and 12, a new gym, and programming space. Our current K-9 occupancy percentage is over 110%, and we require additional space to provide an enhanced educational program tailored to the special education of our gifted learners.

To address the current utilization constraints and accommodate an expanded high school program, adding to and renovating our facility is essential. Based on the current and projected enrolment of 563 students, this could take the form of a 670 student capacity facility for an anticipated utilization of 84% with space for further expansion. The proposed request would involve the removal of the existing modular classroom units, renovating portions of the existing school, and the addition of approximately 3,500m² of instructional space. Reconfiguring the existing drop-off lane and expanding the existing parking lot would also be required. This solution would address the existing neighbourhood traffic challenges.

The current modular structure would impede the opportunity for gifted education and prohibits enrollment growth. As indicated by Alberta Education, the existing modulares could be repurposed and returned to Alberta Education upon completion of the renovation.

This solution allows us to address the current transportation issue, which comprises safety and disrupts the neighborhood. As identified in the value scope from the County of Strathcona and START Architecture representatives, the existing site and footprint are site-ready. The solution supports occupying the recently modernized school. Expanding the current K-9 school to include a high school on the same site would minimize our administration staffing and allow program continuity and the opportunity for collaboration and leadership between high school and elementary students, providing a sense of community. After having moved several times, we have been in this facility since 2015 and would like to maintain our presence in the community.



Terry Moghrabi
Superintendent
Phone: 780-212-1158
Email: Tmoghrabi@newhorizons.ca

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 17, 2025
To: Board of Directors
From: Terry Moghrabi - Superintendent
Re: April Board Retreat

The April Board Retreat Agenda is attached for review and final editing.

Historically, the spring retreat has served as an opportunity to begin preparations for the upcoming school year by addressing a range of critical topics, including:

- **Annual Education Plan** and how it aligns with school priorities;
- **Board Work Plan** and its strategic direction;
- **Stakeholder Forum** insights and feedback;
- **Capital Plan** updates and long-term facility considerations;
- **Provincial Budget Manual** and funding implications;
- **TAAPCS (The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools)** developments;
- **Provincial Grant Allocations** and financial planning;
- **Staffing Considerations** and Resource Planning;

In addition, the retreat has also been a platform for advancing key ideas and exploring potential board initiatives on topics such as **Social Media Guidelines, Classified Staff Updates, Pandemic Protocols, Charter Evaluation**, and other **Ad Hoc Committee Items**. However, one notable gap in previous retreat conversations has been the review and analysis of feedback collected through the Board Survey and the implications of these reports on our overall Education Plan.

The superintendent would like the Board of Directors to consider discussing three essential communication strategies, including the stakeholder forum, the board survey, and the board retreat. The alignment of these key board initiatives will assist in planning for the next year by setting priorities and considering possible funding implications of these priorities.

By integrating these communication strategies, we can create a more cohesive and strategic approach to planning for the next school year. I encourage all Board Members to review the attached agenda and provide any feedback or suggested modifications before our meeting.

Governance implications and recommendations: At the board retreat on April 12th, review the draft of the board of directors' agenda and provide any edits or suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Moghrabi", written in a cursive style.

Terry Moghrabi

**NEW HORIZONS CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY
BOARD RETREAT
APRIL 12, 2025
AGENDA**

**Submit Lunch Orders to Patti*

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-------------|----------|
| 1. | Call to Order | A. Asquini | 9:00 am |
| 2. | Additions to Agenda | A. Asquini | 9:02 am |
| 3. | Board Chair Update | A. Asquini | 9:05 am |
| 4. | 2025-2026 Preliminary Budget | P. Dundas | 9:20 am |
| 5. | Generating Revenue / Alternative Revenue Sources | T. Moghrabi | 10:00 am |
| | 5.1. Classroom Caps | | |
| | 5.2. Provincial - nutrition grant and summer school | | |
| | 5.3. Industry Support | | |
| 6. | NHCSS Charter Review and Possible Revisions | T. Moghrabi | 11:30 am |
| 7. | Lunch (will order in lunch for those interested) | T. Moghrabi | 12:00 pm |
| 8. | Board Survey Results 2024-25 | T. Moghrabi | 12:30 pm |
| 9. | Questions & Matters of Interest to Directors | A. Asquini | 1:45 pm |
| 10. | Adjournment | A. Asquini | 2:00 pm |

Next Board Meeting – Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Receive Quarterly Financial Report for Sep - Nov 2024 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review Policy 210 and associated Student Code of Conduct <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve school calendar for 2025-26 in principle <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Host Stakeholder Forum, gather input on possible Education Plan priorities (scheduled for February) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare lunch for school staff
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide final approval of school calendar for 2025-26 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Receive mid-year progress report on Three-Year Education Plan 2025-28 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Technology Update <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Host Stakeholder Forum, gather input on possible Education Plan priorities, deferred from January
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Host Board Retreat – Identify priorities for upcoming Education Plan, deferred to April <input type="checkbox"/> Approve Three-Year Capital Plan for 2026-27 to 2028-29 <input type="checkbox"/> Administer Board-developed Stakeholder Survey
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Receive Quarterly Financial Report for Dec 2024 – Feb 2025 <input type="checkbox"/> Review school fees for 2025-26 <input type="checkbox"/> Host Board Retreat – Identify priorities for upcoming Education Plan, deferred from March <input type="checkbox"/> Superintendent Evaluation
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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

- Consider proposals for new or amended Board policies
- Receive recommendations from Board committees

Annually

- Negotiate collective agreement with ATA (as needed)

As Needed

- Meet with:
 - County Council
 - MLAs

From: **EDC Deputy Minister** <EducationDeputyMinister@gov.ab.ca>
Date: Thu, Feb 27, 2025 at 4:57 PM
Subject: Budget 2025 / Budget 2025
To: EDC Deputy Minister <EducationDeputyMinister@gov.ab.ca>

To: Superintendents of Public, Separate, Francophone and Charter School Authorities

Dear colleagues,

Earlier today, the Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides, Minister of Education, provided an overview of the budget for the 2025/26 fiscal year. I am pleased to provide you with additional information.

Overview of Budget 2025

Budget 2025 will provide a historic three-year investment to stabilize the education system, and improve classroom conditions and student outcomes. Education's operating expense budget will reach an all-time high of \$9.88 billion in 2025/26, an increase of \$426 million, or 4.5 per cent, from the previous year.

Over the next three years, Education's operating expense budget will grow by \$1.25 billion to more than \$10.71 billion by 2027/28.

Enrolment growth

To accommodate growing enrolment, Budget 2025 will provide more than \$1.1 billion over the next three years to address enrolment growth. This funding will support hiring more than 4,000 education staff, including teachers, educational assistants, bus drivers, and school support staff over the next three years.

Average adjusted enrolment method

Starting in the 2025/26 school year, we will increase the amount of funding delivered through the funding model to support enrolment growth every year by calculating enrolment based on an updated two-year average adjusted enrolment method. This method will see 30 per cent of the funding based on the current school year's enrolment and 70 per cent based on upcoming year enrolment projections.

This change will be more responsive to school authorities with high enrolment growth while continuing to shield those school authorities that have declining enrolment.

Funding rate increases

Budget 2025 provides school authorities with \$389 million over the next three years to cover the rising costs of maintaining educational facilities, unavoidable expenses like insurance and utilities, and the growing costs of providing programs and services for students needing additional support.

This funding will provide the following grant rate increases in the 2025/26 school year:

- The following Learning Support grants will receive a 2.32 per cent rate increase.
 - Program Unit Funding (PUF);
 - Specialized Learning Support Grant (SLS);
 - Moderate Language Delay Grant;
 - English as an Additional Language allocation (EAL);
 - First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education (FNMI);
 - Refugee Student Grant;
 - Socio-Economic Status Grant;
 - Geographic Grant; and
 - School Nutrition Grant.
- Student transportation will receive a 2.32 per cent grant rate increase.
- The Classroom Complexity Grant will receive a 20 per cent rate increase. This increase in funding will further support the diverse needs of students by addressing classroom complexity and improving access to educational assistants.
- Operations and Maintenance will receive a 3 per cent grant rate increase for all school authorities.

- A new School Technology Grant will provide funding for both SuperNet services and the cybersecurity needs of school authorities' IT systems.
 - This includes a 20 per cent increase to the per-site funding rate for SuperNet – rising from \$800 to \$960 per site – the first adjustment in decades.
 - A new Technology Component will be added to strengthen school authorities' IT security.
- The Francophone Equivalency Grant will receive a 25 per cent increase in recognition of the increased costs associated with providing equivalent minority language education services.

Career education

Over the next three years, \$102.4 million in operating funding is allocated to provide sustainable, predictable career education funding, including funding for collegiate schools, in support of increased access to career education.

Budget 2025 will continue to support dual credit programming and new collegiate schools with \$22 million over 3 years in start-up operating funding and \$43 million to support the capital costs of new collegiate schools opening in the 2025/26 and 2026/27 school year. Work is underway to explore further enhancements to support career education. These enhancements will provide funding increases in the 2026/27 and 2027/28 fiscal years.

Transportation – distance changes for Grades 1 to 6

We have revised the distance eligibility criteria for students in Grades 1 to 6 from the previously announced distance of 1 kilometre to 1.6 kilometres effective September 1, 2025. This change will address some of the challenges and concerns we heard from school authorities regarding limited capacity to provide service at 1 kilometre. The distance criteria for students in Grades 7 to 12 will be 2 kilometres.

One-year transition funding will be provided for the 2025/26 school year for school authorities that continue to transport students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 that reside between 1 and 1.6 kilometres from their attending school.

Capital

Last fall, we announced a program to accelerate school construction and build new classroom spaces now, which will provide \$8.6 billion to target Alberta's school space deficit by creating new and updated spaces.

We are following up on that commitment with 41 school projects: 30 new schools, five replacement schools, three modernization projects, and three public charter school projects. I will provide more information on capital projects in the coming days.

Including these 41 school projects in 2025, there will soon be 132 active school projects moving forward in communities across the province. Budget 2025 provides \$3.3 billion in capital investment allocated over three years to maintain, enhance, plan and build new schools and construct modular classrooms.

2025/26 funding profiles and Funding Manual

The 2025/26 *Funding Manual for School Authorities* will be available by early April and each school jurisdiction's preliminary funding profile for the 2025/26 school year will be available by mid-March.

2025-28 Business Plan

Along with Budget 2025, Alberta Education has released its 2025-28 Business Plan, which is available [online](#). The business plan plays an important role in improving the performance of the education system, as it outlines the high-level direction for both Alberta Education and school authorities in meeting the needs of students.

I look forward to continuing our collaborative work together for Alberta's students.

Sincerely,

Lora Pillipow
Deputy Minister of Education

cc: Secretary-Treasurers of Public, Separate, Francophone and Charter School Authorities
Communications Contacts at School Divisions

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

Date: Mon, Mar 10, 2025 at 3:28 PM

Subject: Ratification of the Canada – Alberta National School Food Program Agreement – 2024 to 2027 / Ratification de l'Accord Canada-Alberta sur le programme national d'alimentation scolaire 2024-2027

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

**To: Board Chairs of Public, Separate, Francophone and Charter School Authorities
Presidents of Stakeholder Associations**

ACFA (Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta)

ACSTA (Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association)

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)

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: Ratification of the Canada – Alberta National School Food Program Agreement – 2024 to 2027

Dear colleagues,

Alberta's government recognizes that good nutrition positively impacts student learning, and that proper nutrition is essential for student success. Alberta's School Nutrition Program currently provides annual funding of \$20 million to eligible school authorities and helps more than 58,000 students across the province receive a daily nutritious meal that follows the [Alberta Nutrition Guidelines for Children and Youth](#).

On March 7, 2025, the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada ratified the Canada - Alberta National School Food Program Agreement, which will expand Alberta's School Nutrition Program through a federal investment of \$42.2 million over three years (2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27).

This funding will help provide more students with daily nutritious meals to ensure students can operate at their best.

Due to the timing of ratification in the current fiscal year, federal funding allocated for the 2024-25 fiscal year will be carried forward to 2025-26 to be spent on the program during the 2025-26 school year.

School jurisdictions will continue to have the flexibility to make local decisions about how to allocate funding and determine which schools participate in the expansion of Alberta's School Nutrition Program.

School jurisdictions will also be engaged prior to the development of the year two and three action plan, which is required as part of the Agreement. Engagement will consider school jurisdiction perspectives in alignment with program needs and support accurate and consistent data collection required by the federal government. More details on the agreement and engagement will be shared by my department soon.

I look forward to the positive impact this investment will have on Alberta students.

Best,

Demetrios Nicolaidis ECA PhD
Minister of Education

cc: Superintendents of Public, Separate, Francophone and Charter School Authorities
Executive Directors at Stakeholder Organization
Secretary-Treasurers of Public, Separate, Francophone and Charter School Authorities