



Calgary Academy Society
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
April 26, 2016

In Attendance:

Directors: Todd Hirsch; Paul Knapp; Ken McNeill; Mary Anne Desmeules; Linda Fox-Mellway; Neil Tichkowsky; Rob Roach; Katherine Taylor; Carolyn Ferraby

Administration: Josh Van Beers; Dale Erickson; Janice Nigh; Jan Jordan

Regrets: Al Wahlstrom

1. **Call to Order:** 6:00 pm

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Todd Hirsch approved the Consideration of Consent of Agenda with amendments as requested

3. **Approval of March 15, 2016 minutes of Regular Meetings of the Board of Directors as presented** – Todd

4. **Approval of March 29, 2016 minutes of Special Meetings of the Board of Directors as presented** – Todd

5. **Ratification of April 13, 2016 Motion 2016/04/13/01 electronic as stated:** “I, Todd Hirsch move that the Board approve the recommendation from the facilities committee (Dale Erickson and Janice Nigh) to award CANA Construction Ltd. As the contractor for the CAA Education Centre on Youth Campus for a contract value of \$9,209,374.00”

Moved: Todd Hirsch

Seconded: Rob Roach

Passed

6. **Bank Line of Credit** – It is the Stampede’s policy to pay all invoices within 30 days of receipt of invoice. As they are managing the project and it is also CAA’s policy, it will be necessary to request a Line of Credit to cover off the period between invoices paid and payments from Alberta Infrastructure. Alberta Infrastructure has informed us that they will not provide any funding without receiving actual invoices. There will be a 10% holdback at the end of the project until the project has been fully completed and inspected.

Motion 2016-04-26-01: Move to support and empower Dale and Jan to make an application with Scotiabank for a line of credit up to \$2,000,000 for interim expenses incurred on the Youth Campus prior to receiving reimbursement from Alberta Infrastructure. Application will be approved by Todd.

Moved: Rob

Seconded: Neil

Passed

7. **Letter to Stampede** – Dale will compose a letter to Calgary Stampede assuming liability for invoices relative to the Youth Campus construction, to be paid within 30 days of receipt.

Motion 2016-04-26-02: Move to write a letter to Calgary Stampede assuming responsibility for approved expenses incurred on the Youth Campus.

Moved: Paul

Seconded: Ken

Passed

8. **Survey of Funding of Private and Charter Schools** –The members had a lengthy discussion as to how negative press should be handled by Charter Schools and its membership. It was agreed that ignoring negative publicity was not a method that CAA would choose. Building positive relationships with political decision makers has always been in place, and will always be, but the public listens and incorrect facts should be challenged. Politicians are under pressure to do the right thing and with enough pressure they begin to question their decisions. The members will wait to see the outcome of the Superintendents meeting at the TAAPCS conference to determine the next possible steps to promote Charter Schools and alleviate misconceptions. The Board will write a letter to Dale with their concerns.

9. **Budget Update** – The finance committee will present a draft budget at the May regular meeting of the Board. Alberta Education’s budget is flat for 2016/17. The finance committee will work to craft a positive budget. Fees will not increase. The spring budget deadline has been deferred to June 30, 2016.

10. **Purpose of Foundation** – A policy needs to be written to clarify the purpose of the Foundation. The Board governs the Foundation, and the purpose is to secure long term financial stability and support unique art related activity with community partnerships and initiatives. The Foundation is different from School Council in that School Council supports operations and learning and reports to the school Principal.

11. **Board Self-Assessment** - The policy committee recommends a renewal of the Board assessment policy. This policy should weave in the charter mandate and include evaluation procedure, Board development, core responsibilities & roles, to validate accountability of Boards.

12. **Policy statement for creating High School Program** – Dale will bring to May meeting.

13. **Youth Campus Update** – Dale distributed a grant agreement that was approved by the Deputy Minister in 2013/14 for furniture and equipment and technology studies for \$372,971. In reviewing the anticipated expenses and the fact that the extras will be more affordable during

construction, the finance committee recommended that an additional \$200,000 be dedicated to Capital Spending for a total of \$500,000.

Motion: 2016-04-26-03 - Move to increase the previously approved capital spending from \$300,000 to \$500,000 by allocating surplus money to dedicated capital funds.

Moved: Ken

Seconded: Paul

Passed

14. Committee Reports

- **Government/Stampede** – Linda – covered in above discussion
- **CAAS Foundation and Community**– Mary Anne – “Evening of Arts and Inspiration”. Update on tickets sold and progress of the function. She has been overwhelmed by the support of classrooms.
- **Legal** – Neil was involved in the tendering process and advised the members that the decision was made in compliance with the agreement regarding the final choice of CANA. CANA has a history of working on similar projects and the committee is happy with the outcome. The members thanked Neil for his valuable expertise and his timely response of his review.
- **New Initiatives** – no report this month
- **Policy Development**– Paul and Rob – ‘On Boarding’ for new members, review terms, superintendent evaluation, Board professional development. Retreat discussion.
- **Finance** – Finance committee met on April 15, 2016 – post budget announcement. Wende Dummer has agreed to join the committee as our ‘independent professional’. Wende will attend finance committee meetings and advise and share her prospective views.
- **CAA Alumni Achievement Research committee** – The committee has met and is keen to share information on student achievement results.
- **TAAPCS** - Next meeting May 5th & 6th, 2016 – The association has requested a proposal from Hill & Norton to present to the Minister. The purpose is to secure the future of Charter Schools and to generate an understanding that Charter Schools are public not private schools.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 pm

**** Important Dates:**

May 13, 2016 - Evening of Arts and Inspiration – Victoria Pavilion – Stampede Park

May 17, 2016 –Regular meeting of the Board of Directors – Knob Hill Campus