



**Calgary Arts Academy Society  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
September 15, 2020 Meeting Agenda**

In Attendance: Ken McNeill, John McWilliams, Jim McLeod, Doug Frenette, Susan Wright, Neil Tichkowsky, Court Ellingson

Administration: Michelle Stonehouse, Janice Nigh, Cole Jordan, Dale Erickson,

With Regrets: Linda Fox-Mellway, Todd Hirsch, Katherine Taylor, Josh Dalledonne,

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

1. Call to order – 6:06 pm
2. Approval of the Agenda – Considered Approved
3. Approval of June 16, 2020 minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors – Considered Approved
4. Audit Committee – Neil – The committee met last week to review the year end financials. Our overall deficit on the year was less than originally budgeted which is important with the unknown additional costs that may be associated with COVID for this upcoming school year. For example, additional substitute teachers or using additional space with Stampede. We are currently working with them to find additional space so that we can reclaim the gymnasium for the winter at the Education Centre. Bussing is another additional cost to be aware of, there will be more of a deficit this year due to a reduced ridership, and reduced fees collected. We are receiving \$195,000 from the federal government which has been designated for COVID relief. Our enrollment is lower than last year currently. Lastly, the committee continues to search for additional members, specifically the 2 non-board members.
5. Superintendent Report – Dale – We have successfully completed the majority of the CMR funding project (\$300,000). We painted the portibles, washrooms, ceilings, walls, regraded and paved the parking lot, installed new basketball hoops, a new gym floor,

with new electrical in the gym. Our previous relationships with Stampede and other companies really helped in accomplishing everything so fast.

CAA was the first school to start their school year in the province. It wasn't stress free, but we believe it to be successful. Some success is a result of connecting with staff and ensuring they are feeling comfortable throughout the process. We provided 5 days at the start of the year focusing on mental health and resiliancey, while focusing on Covid measures. We staggered our entry and hosted Zoom meetings with family to help alleviate some of the stress for families. We also relocated 2 4/5 classes to the KH to provide more space. With some of the federal money we are looking at some additional staffing changes. We are looking at hiring a math interventionist as well as another early reading interventionist. We are also looking at options for hiring a full time substitute teacher with the fear of a sub shortage being a possibility.

TAAPCS feels as though they have made a lot of progress with the Minister; they continue to meet monthly.

The Year 10s are very engaged right now. One project was empowering the students to make decisions when it came to purchasing technology for the year. They were invited to create a business plan including what technology they required and why, with a budget of \$15,000. The students came together with a fantastic business plan and so we went forward with purchasing that technology for them.

## 6. Advocacy

- Government Relations Committee – Ken – Dale has been in touch weekly with the Minister, in the last 5 weeks with other Presidents of educational partner umbrella groups (CASS, TAAPCS, SBA, ATA, ASCA, ASBOA). The minister provides updates and information, asks for info on the re-entry of schools, and clarifies any misunderstandings. The last 2 meetings Dr. Hinshaw has responded directly to any concerns as well. It helps CAA move in the right direction, and it has been great to have that kind of relationship with the ministry.

- Capital Plan/Infrastructure Committee – Jim – No further update.
    1. KH Upgrades – see above.
  - Community Engagement Committee – Doug met with Calgary Reads, and their focus is on young kids engaging with reading. They are going to meet with the school to discuss how the programs can work together. Calgary Reads has been on our radar in the past, we just haven't been able to connect with all the changes.
7. Governance Committee – John –
- Superintendent Succession Planning - Last meeting we engaged a consultant to capture who Dale is and what he means to the school in order to work on a succession plan if Dale retires. Questions have been developed to ask potential candidates. Overall it really captured our values and gave us a great roadmap. It was fantastic value for money. This document will be posted on Board Documents. It was extraordinary to have that much clarity on our values. We all knew them, but it was great to see it articulated so well.

We are putting together a nomination sub-committee to make more formal our process for adding directors. Susan and Jim will be part of a subcommittee. One of the focuses will be diversity on the board.

8. Legal Report – Neil – No further update at this time.
9. Social Media Update – Joshua – No further update at this time.
10. School Council – Michelle – The council is functioning very well with the next meeting next Tuesday. The council has always built strong community through events like the pancake breakfast and the Fall harvest. With Covid, these events have become more of a challenge. The council is looking at contributing more behind-the-scenes by helping financially. They also want to continue to support our staff with lunches delivered for PD. Ken, Doug Christy Ford and Michelle continue to meet monthly. These meetings give us a chance to discuss some board specific items to give us a sense of parent reactions.
11. Meeting Adjournment – 7:29pm - Nice to see everyone back, it would be great to meet in person. Thanks to Dale for all his communication with the board, and for Kevin

sharing with the board parent comments and pictures. Communication helps so much. Cudos to the team for all they have done. People can't believe the level of parent engagement.

**INFORMATION ITEMS - \*\* Upcoming School Events:**

- October 20, 2020 – Meeting of the Board of Directors
- November 17, 2020 – Annual General Meeting