



**Calgary Arts Academy Society  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
March 16, 2021 Meeting Agenda**

In Attendance: Ken McNeill, John McWilliams, Jim McLeod, Doug Frenette, Susan Wright, Josh Dalledonne, Court Ellingson, Neil Tichkowsky, Katherine Taylor, Blythe Butler (Guest), Alli Marshall (Guest)

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

With Regrets: Linda Fox-Mellway, Todd Hirsch

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

1. Call to order – 6:05
2. Approval of the Agenda – Considered Approved
3. Approval of February 9, 2020 minutes of Regular Meetings of the Board of Directors – Considered Approved
4. School Council Advocacy Committee – Blythe Butler – Charter schools are being misunderstood, and public interest groups seem to be working to sway public opinion against charter schools. A group of school councils have joined together to fight against this. At the next ASCA meeting there are 3 motions being submitted. They are meant to clarify our status as public schools.

In order to comply with the new charter handbook, there are a few changes to our current policies that are needed. The school has taken these down in order to rework the policies to match. In terms of inclusive education, there are ongoing discussions with Alberta Education due to the funding not matching the new protocol for accepting students.

5. Strategic Plan – Ali Marshall – Ali was introduced and discussed the upcoming process to develop the strategic plan for CAA. Board Members will receive a survey this week and will meet over 3 additional evening meetings.

6. Audit Committee – Neil – Financial statements are a good news story. We received our 2<sup>nd</sup> installment of the Federal Covid money. The other point of note is that we still maintain a high unrestricted reserve. Cole shared that with the new budget and current year, the school will be held harmless for the decline in enrollment which is a positive. We want to continue to draw down our unrestricted reserve fund as per government guidelines. Kudos to Cole and admin team for getting the critical worker benefit for as many staff as they could.
7. Superintendent Report – Dale – Government wants to add additional reviews for the 15yr charters in order to be more informed. This is also intended to help with the renewal process as well. Continuous charters seem to be off the table at this point in time. We will be asking directors to become more active and to be more political in their approach. There was also a suggestion to hire a company to assist in getting our message out to decision makers.

8/9s have moved from the Arts Barn to Doherty Hall. Originally it was to accommodate fixing some issues at the Arts Barn, but students and teachers had such a huge, positive, change in demeniour that it felt necessary to keep them there. They felt like they had come home. Stampede was very reasonable and accommodating in allowing us to rent the space for the remainder of the year.

We did not receive the new school and are still awating to hear about the modulars.

8. Advocacy
  - Government Relations Committee – Ken – We continue to work but may need to rev-up that work soon.
  - Capital Plan/Infustructure Committee – Jim - Given the current situation with the school, and nothing positive in the budget, we may want to look at a couple alternative plans. Jim will bring these ideas back to the board.
  - Community Engagement Committee – Joshua – Met last week with the main focus being arts placements, and looking to define the future focus of the

committee. There are some additional contacts from people reaching out from the community. We are going to do the little red house reading drive. Theater Calgary has reached out to us, which could be great as well. Carya is creating a new space in the east village with opportunities for involvement. As well as music mile and the 2021 grad. Lots of things happening.

9. Governance Committee – John – moving ahead with the bylaw review, interviews have taken place and Sylvia is moving forward with the next stage. Policies will be the next.
10. Legal Report – Neil - Kasian agreement is all signed and filed.
11. Social Media Update – Joshua – No further update
12. School Council – Michelle – Big thing on school council is the advocacy.
13. Arts Coordinator – Janice – Students are very excited in picking their classes for next year. Grad will be Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup> in the gym and will have the same format as previous years. All will be available to be seen online, no guests in the gym.
14. Meeting Adjournment - 7:43

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

- April 20, 2021 – Meeting of the Board of Directors