



Board Bulletin

October 31, 2016

Published periodically by the Board of Directors of New Horizons Charter School, the Board Bulletin is intended to provide information, enhance communication, and encourage interest in Board-related matters.

Board Membership

Board elections were held on October 5, with four positions being up for election this year. Following the election, the members of this year's Board of Directors are:

- Jill Weiss – Chair (entering 2nd year of a two-year term)
- Nicole Pasemko – Vice Chair (entering 2nd year of a two-year term)
- William Watson – Secretary (entering 2nd year of a two-year term)
- Trevor Panas – Treasurer (entering 1st year of a two-year term)
- Michelle Macdonald – Director (entering 1st year of a two-year term)
- Inna Mackay – Director (entering 1st year of a two-year term)
- Vicky Qualie – Director (entering 1st year of a two-year term)

(Note: Director Qualie has since resigned her position. In keeping with the bylaws of the New Horizons Charter School Society, the Board may appoint a member of the NHS Society to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term. The Board will consider this possibility at an upcoming Board meeting.)

The Board bids farewell to Ryan Bosch, Carole Karbonik and, as mentioned above, Vicky Qualie, all of whom recently completed two-year terms, as well as to Denise Auriat, who was appointed to the Board last year to fill a vacant position. We thank all of these individuals for their service and leadership as Board members and look forward to their continued involvement with our school.

Working Together

The success of our school depends on continuous effort, among board members, school council members, administrators, teachers, parents, students, and government officials, to co-operate, collaborate, and communicate effectively. As a public charter school, we are required to have a volunteer Board of Directors which acts as the governance body of the school. It sets direction, formulates policy, and makes decisions as required in the School Act, the New Horizons School Charter, and the bylaws of the New Horizons Charter School Society.

Implementation of the Board's policies and directions are the responsibility of the superintendent and principal. The school's administrators, teachers, and support staff are responsible for the educational programs in the school and, in partnership with each student and his or her parents, the educational needs of each child.

The **New Horizons School Council** promotes the well-being and effectiveness of the entire school community in order to enhance student learning. Parents have the opportunity through the School Council to advise the principal and the Board on any matter relating to the school.

Parents have the responsibility and right to advocate on all matters of their own child's education. Discussions of parental concerns begin with the classroom teacher. In situations where matters cannot be resolved at the classroom level, parents are invited to raise their concern with the principal and subsequently, if there is still no resolution, with

the superintendent. Where a decision of an employee of the Board significantly affects the education of a student, the parents of the student may appeal the decision to the Board. The Board will only hear an appeal after the concern has been dealt with according to the established process at the classroom and administrative levels

The Work of the Board

Major responsibilities of the Board of Directors include:

- Meeting Alberta Education requirements: Education Plan, Annual Education Results Report, and the school's budget.
- Initiating, monitoring, and reviewing the Board's policies.
- Considering educational matters initiated and recommended to the Board by the administration.
- Engaging parents and staff in meaningful consultations regarding priorities and direction for the school.
- Negotiating a collective agreement with the Alberta Teachers' Association.

Relevant documents and information are generally prepared by the superintendent, secretary-treasurer, principal or the Board's legal counsel and brought to the Board for information, discussion, revision, and approval. The Board will also solicit input from the School Council, Society members, parents, students, and members of the school staff as necessary to keep informed and fulfill its reporting requirements.

The Board of Directors is directly accountable to the New Horizons Charter School Society and, through the *School Act* and the *School Charter*, to the Minister of Education.

Board Meetings

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors are held monthly and are open to the public. Unless otherwise noted, meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held in the Learning Commons at the school. Specific Board meeting dates for the entire year can be found on the

school website. The agenda and supporting documents for each meeting will be posted on the school website about five days before each Board meeting; parents are notified by email when the documents have been posted.

Contacting the Board

More information about the Board of Directors, as well as about the New Horizons Charter School Society, can be found on the "Governance" page of the school website, located at <http://www.newhorizons.ca/governance-new/>. You can also use this page to contact the Board by using the contact form.

Upcoming Board Meetings

- November 9, 2016, at 7:00 pm
 - Presentation by School Modernization Project Team (Alberta Infrastructure, architect, contractor, hazardous materials consultant)
 - Report from School Council
- November 23, 2016, at 7:00 pm
 - Audited Financial Statement
 - Revised 2016-17 Budget
 - Annual Education Results Report for 2015-16
 - Three-Year Education Plan for 2016-17 to 2018-19

Annual General Meeting of the New Horizons Charter School Society

The Annual General Meeting of the New Horizons Charter School Society, originally scheduled for November 23, 2016, will now be held in the Learning Commons at the school on **Wednesday, November 30, at 7:00 pm** (subject to approval of a motion at the November 9 Board meeting). At this time, the Society will give consideration to the audited financial statement for the year ending August 31, 2016. Again, everyone is invited to attend.

The Board of Directors looks forward to a new year of service in providing direction and leadership to New Horizons School, always keeping foremost the vision as stated in our charter: *New Horizons School will enable gifted students to strive for excellence in a positive academic learning environment that fosters social and emotional support for each student.*

Sincerely,



Jill Weiss
Chair – Board of Directors