

Charter Board Highlights Oct. 2012

Welcome everyone to another year at Valhalla Community School, northern Alberta's first rural Charter School! As you know, our Charter Board has been given the mandate to deliver an innovative program grounded in whole-group direct instruction, incorporating mandatory second language and student leadership development. The responsibility for providing your children with this unique education is one we take seriously; we are working hard to do our best in this endeavor.

With that in mind, I would like to thank our entire staff for their hard work and dedication to our school. Each person who works here is contributing to our vision, as they carry out their individual responsibilities. As a new member of our team, welcome to Don Morton, who has taken on the custodial work, we are pleased to have him on board. In addition, in honour of bus safety week, I would like to make a special note regarding our transportation staff. We are unique among the province's charter schools, in that we run our own transportation system, rather than contracting out this service. There is a whole organization of people and processes working hard to transport your children safely to and from school each day; we are truly grateful to all these dedicated and conscientious people for their terrific work.

On the board front, there have been a few changes to note. After steadfastly serving our charter school since its very early days, Secretary-Treasurer, Mary Ann Westad has decided to move on from the position, in order to take more time for personal activities. We are very grateful to her for her years of devoted service, at a time when everything was new and all of our systems needed to be created from scratch. We wish Mary Ann a wonderful time of rest and relaxation. We are also indebted to Leslie Loberg, who stepped in to the position of Interim Secretary-Treasurer, logging many hours of dedicated work to keep the important financial and paperwork requirements covered during the intervening time-period. Finally, after a thorough search, we would like to welcome our new Secretary-Treasurer, Linda Appleby. She brings to us a vast background in knowledge and experience; we look forward to a long and productive working relationship.

As well, director, Trone Arnet, one of the founding members of our charter school, has submitted his resignation in order to focus his attention on other pursuits. If you were not here at our beginning, you may not be aware of the many events that took place during the summer when we applied for our charter, including the significant, personal risks taken by some of our members, such as the Arnets. The board will miss his contributions and we wish him all the best. Please note, the board has chosen to temporarily fill this vacancy according to Article 2: Section 9 of our bylaws. To see the specific details, the bylaws can be viewed on our website. Also, please feel free to call me for more information.

Our next board meeting will be Nov. 20; interested individuals are welcome to attend. Meetings are open, although occasionally there are items of a nature that require us to move *in camera*. At such a time, guests would be asked to leave for the duration of the discussion and then welcomed back when that subject is finished. Minutes of the meetings are posted on our website <http://www.valhallacommunityschool.ca/>. The board generally meets once per month. This year the meeting schedule will vary, so please watch the monthly school calendar for dates. Typically, meetings run from 9 a.m. until noon in the Valhalla Room; however, in response to a recent request, we will be considering evening meetings in the new year.

Finally, thank you for choosing our school. We appreciate your support and look forward to another excellent year partnering with you in the education of your children. Go Vikings!
Jolene Kochendorfer

Charter Board: Jolene Kochendorfer (Chair), Brenda Kjemhus (Vice-Chair), Diane Nordhagen, John Moutray,
Andre Harpe, Tara Fehr Please call the school for director contact information: 780 356 2370