

Alpenglow Community Education Society (ACES)
Annual General Meeting
May 22, 2019
6:00 – 7:30 pm
CCHS Library

Meeting

1. Welcome and Acknowledgments – Lexi McKinnon, President

MOTION – Lexi motions to open meeting; seconded by Lisa.

MOTION – Chandy motions to approve agenda; seconded by Jill.

MOTION – Lexi motions to approve minutes from 2018 AGM; seconded by Nick.

1.1 Annual Overview

- First year of full day kindergarten.
 - Next year we will have full day kindy with Forest Play in the afternoon – 20 kids registered for next year; 18 of which are in the full day program; CRPS investing \$40K in Kindy program; registration is still open.
- Raised over \$100K for playground this year.
- Starting playground design with aim to have play structure in place in the fall.
- Simplifying volunteer system in response to feedback from parent body through last year’s survey (more on this below).
- Updated bylaws to be a better reflection of how we operate (more on this below).
- One of our priorities was to be fiscally responsible. We have a balanced budget and a strong cashflow. We created new policies related to arrears and established a reserve fund.
- Invested in waldorf training for teachers and classroom materials.
- Established a strong governance structure on ACES.
- Invested in a nature immersion specialist.
- Invested in the library.
- Attempted to improve communication – website updates, social media updates, minutes and agendas from ACES meetings, monthly newsletters.
- Re-established a speaker series.
- Increased financial supports to ensure that finances are less of a barrier for families wanting to attend Alpenglow.
- Our strategic priorities:
 - Community development
 - Master agreement
 - Communication
 - Playground
 - Fiscal responsibility

- Festivals:
 - Thanks to parents and families for making the festivals happen.
- We recognize that parents are busy and we heard in the parent survey that parents want a more simplified volunteer system.
 - Going forward the proposal is to not track volunteer hours. Instead, we are asking that all families take one shift at Winterfest. In addition, we will present 6 options (e.g. coordinator role, festivals, maintenance, crafting, etc.) for getting involved and have people sign up for at least 3 of the options. We are asking for families to help in classrooms when and how they can.
 - Need to think about how to continue to motivate people to be in the classrooms and on field trips.
 - Think about bridging strategies to engage new families in roles that are not intimidating.
 - We will discuss the volunteer system further at the June ACES meeting.

1.2 Outgoing Society Members

- Thanks to Ronna for her contribution as a Director at Large

2. **Bylaws Changes** – Lexi McKinnon, President

2.1 Review proposed changes

2.2 Additional change to ensure that both the president and vice president roles cannot expire in the same year. Section 6.2.4 amended accordingly.

MOTION: Motion by Lisa to pass bylaw changes as presented and amended, seconded by Kim, all in favour, none opposed. Bylaw changes passed by consensus.

3. **Board of Directors** – Lexi McKinnon, President

4.1 Nominations for Society Positions – Vice President (Lindsey), Secretary (Amy), Director at Large (vacant)

4.2 Any nominations from the floor for vice president? None. Lindsey stands as vice president.

4.3 Any nominations from the floor for secretary? None. Amy stands as secretary.

4.4 Any nominations from the floor for Director at Large? None. Kim and Lindsey will think about it and contact Maureen if either decides to pursue this. Others can do the same. We can vote in Directors at Large at a later meeting.

4. **Report back on last years parent survey**

- 79% of respondents were very or extremely satisfied with the school
- 73% of respondents were very or extremely satisfied with the nature approach
- 77% of respondents were very or extremely satisfied with community minded

- 58% of respondents were very or extremely satisfied with academic excellence
- 91% of respondents were very or extremely satisfied with the artistic expression
- 56% of respondents were very or extremely satisfied with waldorf inspired
- 100% of respondents would recommend the school
- Respondents appreciate:
 - Hands on
 - Holistic approach
 - Nature
 - Waldorf inspired
 - Emotional connection
 - Learning materials
 - Block learning
 - Project based
 - Field trips
 - Teachers
 - Pace
 - Classrooms
- The festivals that people attend:
 - Winterfest
 - Springfest
 - Lantern walk
- Events people don't attend:
 - Welcome and year end potluck
 - Solstice spiral
- Fundraisers that people like:
 - Grocery cards
 - Raffle
 - Flowers
- Items from survey to follow up on:
 - Respondents would like more communication from CRPS
 - Request for admin support within CRPS
 - Request for more waldorf pedagogy and that all teachers are applying the pedagogy
- Themes for areas of improvements (ACES is already investing in some of these items; others will inform focus for next year):
 - Handwork
 - Teacher training (all teachers have had waldorf training, we have a waldorf mentor)
 - Waldorf inspired (waldorf training and mentor)
 - Communication (speaker series, newsletters, social media, minutes and reports from ACES meeting)
 - Parent involvement

5. Financials – Nick Beuglet, Treasurer

5.1 Present 2017-18 Financials

MOTION - Motion to accept Financial Statements for Year End, August 31, 2018, by Nick, seconded by Jill, all in favour, none opposed. Passed by consensus.

5.2 Present 2019-20 Budget

MOTION – Motion to accept the 2019-20 budget by Singe, seconded by Jolene, all in favour, none of opposed. Passed by consensus.

6. Fundraising – Jolene Gunn, Fundraising

6.1 2018-19 Fundraising overview

- We raised \$30K this year through fundraising initiatives.
 - Grocery cards – Shelly
 - Flowers – Jill
 - Dances – Lisa
 - School photos – Jessica
 - Winterfest – Melanie
- We received donations from almost 100 Bow Valley businesses; they are listed on our donors page of our website.
- We are looking for classroom representatives for Kindy and grade 5/6 classrooms for the raffle – the representative is responsible for distributing raffle tickets to families from those classrooms.

6.2 Fundraising update and goals for next year

- Continue to support the fundraising initiatives
- Continue with grant writing
- Casino application

7. General Questions

- Can we make participation in the AGM mandatory?
- Share past participation rate at AGM with parent body. It is possible that people do not know that participation at the AGM is low.
- We are looking for marketing and communication support if there are any parents with appropriate skills.

8. Adjournment

- Thanks to parents, kiddos, teachers, administration, CRPS, playground committee and Steve Green, donors, partners in the community, volunteers, ACES and MAUREEN!!!

MOTION: Motion to adjourn by Jill, seconded by Singe