

ACES Meeting Minutes March 21, 2017 CCHS

y, Lana, Shannon F, Denyne, Chandi, Hans, Shelly, Erin, Mary, Chris, Lindsey, Andrea, Lorna, John, Maureen, Ronna
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	Discussion /Action	Follow Up By Who/ When
ler	<p>Call to Order - Denyne, Seconded by Nicole</p> <p>Approve Agenda - Nicole, Seconded by Denyne</p>	
	<p>Approve minutes from February 28, 2017</p>	
Update		
	<p>Waldorf Mentor Update – Debora has let us know that she is no longer able to support the school. Hans has left her a message to see if there are lessons to learn from our experience with her, from her perspective. We need to establish a more sustainable mentorship model. Hans has had a conversation with Cathy Foot, to explore options for Alpenglow teachers here to connect with teachers at the Calgary Waldorf school. Conversations around this option are in the exploratory stage. This model may provide for more on-going support for Alpenglow teachers. And the ability to get a better understanding of how the classrooms work in Calgary at a more micro-level. Other potential models can also be explored. The teachers are looking for grade-specific modelling in the mentoring program.</p> <p>Ronna – also need to work in an evaluation component into the program so that the teachers themselves are evaluated in their classroom.</p> <p>Mary – PD dollars for teachers should/could be targeted towards the specific needs of the teachers. Some of the PD budget may need to go towards the mentorship program (pool resources rather than teacher specific allotments).</p> <p>Denyne – online resources could also be considered. Waldorf Alliance (Waldorf teachers of teachers) could also be considered.</p>	
	<p>Literacy Program Update – Sara, Noer and Maureen spent two days together, identifying strengths and gaps across the K to G3 classrooms with the objective of ensuring they are supporting all of the parts of literacy. Focus is on learning to read in these grades (as opposed to reading to learn). The five pillars of literacy and writing were considered. Five literacy pillars were considered. Strengths of Waldorf approach related to listening and expressive skills and writing. Gaps were identified related to word work, reading skills and home reading strategies. The objective in undertaking this is to establish a plan for meeting literacy needs and to then identify the resources needed to support it. Part of this is establishing a system for discerning how students are progressing. Reading assessments will be done on students 2-3 times per year. The division uses Fountas and Pinnell (F and P) for assessment and for levelled readers. The resources will be used so that the school can identify if kids are doing okay, whether they need to be monitored, or if given the resources at the school, other options should be considered. A request for reading resources has been sent to the board office.</p> <p>Lana – does use of reading resources at a Waldorf inspired school put the school in a conundrum? Hans – no, from an assessment perspective, the things that we are talking about for Alpenglow are on the same scale as what is happening at Calgary Waldorf. The students there are assessed 3 times per year. Identified as okay, need to be monitored, or perhaps Waldorf is not best model. For those that are monitored, there are interventions to help support them to improve. They</p>	

	<p>have a literacy person (3 days per week) for one on one or small group work. This is in addition to private tutoring and work at home.</p> <p>F and P – Parents will be provided with an assessment of where their child is at and what the strategies are that can be used to support their kids as well as what will be done at school. For students that are identified as needing monitoring or intervention, teachers can provide guidance to parents about what interventions will take place at school and what can be done at home. Part of the literacy program is to provide more direction for home reading and strategies which have been developed in the document created by the teachers for their use. Teachers will communicate these strategies when the home reading program is presented to parents.</p> <p>Lana - This is currently not happening for some families. There is lack of direction from teachers on the appropriate literacy strategies at school and at home.</p> <p>Mary – the answer isn’t always to move a student. There are multiple considerations. Literacy, emotional, mental wellness. It is complicated.</p> <p>Shelly – can we leverage our investments in EAs to get more literacy support for students?</p> <p>Lindsey – what resources is the Waldorf school using? Bergance is one; there is another. Erin thinks the other is F and P.</p>	
	<p>Social and Emotional Learning – purchased Dovetail learning toolkit. Hans and Adrienne will be training teachers, EAs. Two training sessions – one at onset and one later. There will also be information sharing with parents. Input from ACES and parents on how to engage parents is welcome.</p>	
	<p>Registration Update – Applications and notices for returning students were due on March 15th. Hans and Chris are working through the process of configuring classes. The K numbers are still low. Aim is 23-25. Currently sitting at 20. This is consistent with trend across the valley. Notifications will go to the new applicants early next week to confirm enrollment. Previous years we have started at 30-32 to end up at 20. This year is the first year that we have had limited requests for transfers (only 1); the rest of the new applicants are from outside this board. Still don’t know what teachers will teach which classes. Jackie is returning half time and will job share with Maureen. Kaeli is returning. Sara is taking two months off. Shannon McDougal will fill in for Sara.</p>	
	<p>Should we consider teacher training for subs. Can we provide PD dollars to train them? We need to build capacity.</p>	
	<p>Question related to K class learning the alphabet.</p> <p>Chris – teachers take direction from the administration in terms of what is covered in the K class.</p> <p>Erin described what is done in the K class in terms of introducing the alphabet. It is completely play-based. The alphabet is introduced through stories, movement and drawing.</p>	
	<p>s Update - Nicole</p>	
<p>g 1</p>	<p>Neil has officially submitted his resignation from Fundraiser Coordinator on the ACES board. No imminent need to fill this position. It will be filled at the AGM.</p>	<p>Fill position at AGM.</p>

t	MA process will address some of the concerns that have been identified by parents/ACES (e.g. literacy supports). Next meeting is Wed March 28 th . This will not be the last meeting. First meeting identified parameters for change. It was clearly communicated that Alpenglow has the support of administration. Second meeting with focus more on the specifics. 1. Checks and balances and sustainability. 2. Reciprocity – what can be done at a school level to encourage good will and support across the board (e.g. ways we can be hands across the water)? 3. We have confirmation that we will get one full time EA. 4. MA is focused on operational aspects; the Strategic Plan will focus on other items. 5. The lack of annual plans for Alpenglow has been acknowledged and this will be addressed going forward.	Meeting with administration 28 th of March.
nd part	Working together and working apart – Need to think through how we can work together while sometimes working apart. Two suggestions: a) Lindsay has created an editable version of the MA that all board members can edit/insert comments. B) Nicole has created a document with headers, for each of the key content areas for providing feedback. Others can weigh in on the content for the various headings.	Review and add comments to version of MA. Send other comments to Lindsey and Nicole.
	Question – Are we working backwards from AGM, to budget, to revised MA? This will require delegating tasks and working together, while working apart. Trusting those that we assign to do tasks to complete them. Or are we wanting to take more time to be more inclusive. MOTION - Amy motioned to pursue the aggressive schedule to achieve outcomes for AGM. Seconded by Lindsey. All in favour. None against. MOTION - Amy motioned to have Nicole and Lindsey lead the process and include other council members as is appropriate in order to do the best job possible and achieve the desired timeline. Seconded by Lorna. All in favour. None against. Can we request that someone from the division attend meetings to take minutes during meetings? Amy can be back-up plan.	Nicole to follow up re. notes meetings.
	Some kind of appreciation is appropriate to acknowledge the amazing contribution of key volunteers.	Maureen to follow up with Council find out what the timing is.
Outgoing Items from Last Meeting		
	Advertisement for K registration. This is a go based on current registration numbers. Also pursue the tour option. Word advertisement to invite potential registrants to tour the school.	Denyne and Nicole will come up with plan.
Future Reports		
g	We made over \$400 at Flatbread Co fundraiser. Socchi has the paintball fundraiser underway. May 28 th is the date. There will be a Halloween party for the kids on October 28 th , 2017 at the Opera House (at a cost of \$200). Kaeli has offered to do a square dance event next year – afternoon event for kids, evening for adults. She would like to book in conjunction with Alpenglow. Profit from the kids event would go to Alpenglow. Kaeli will lead the organizing.	Maureen to follow up with Council we are supportive of the square dance.
y ent	Teacher appreciation week during May. Focus on teachers for first three days. Latter days to include admin and support. We will be looking for volunteers to help support each day. Springfest is on fathers day. We will tie in the fathers day aspect (BBQ). Chandi has suggested dates for festivals for next year on the google drive.	ACES to look at dates – check for conflicts with known dates.
id	Denyne meeting with Hans and Chris. Friday the 24 th at 3:30 to move forward with process.	Denyne to follow up after the meeting.

ess		
	Conversation Café – Taking place on Thursday. 6:30 to 9:00. Childcare will be provided.	
	Alpenglow Book Club – March 29 th will be the first session with Debra. Open to anyone who is interested.	Nicole will look into a venue
	Calgary Waldorf literacy support teacher currently works 3 days per week. Is it an option for that teacher to work here 1-2 days per week?	
	What happens in terms of ACES liaising with teachers? ACES meets with Hans and Chris and during that meeting ACES checks in with them on what the teachers need. ACES wants to ensure that the teachers are getting what they need.	
	Recorders for Grade 1 class. MOTION – Denyne motions to buy wooden recorders (two sets), seconded by Lindsey, all in favour. None against.	Chandi and Maureen to follow up on purchasing the recorders.
	For next year - Need to establish parameters around what the teachers needs are for funding support from ACES on a grade by grade basis at the outset of the year.	
	WISE is putting on a Waldorf conference in Edmonton. May 5 th and 6 th . AMAZING speaker!! Early registration ends on April 15 th . PD opportunity for teachers. ACES may also want to send a representative. Might be worth having Michael D’Aleo to come to Canmore as well.	Ronna is looking into getting to come to Canmore. Others consider attending the conference
	Board development – we should look for opportunities to engage experts for training etc. Some are free. Example Kim Rowe, Community Development Officer, AB Gov.	
	Board succession planning – Would be good to have a Waldorf representative on the board. Also a nature immersion representative. Send board members for training. MOTION – Lindsey motioned to invest in board training, Lorna seconded, all in favour. None against.	
	May be able to get a Canada- Alberta Job Grant to help offset some costs associated with sending subs or teachers for training.	
	Board succession planning – Can’t have the entire executive turning over in the same year as per our by-laws. Current executive all came on in the same year, which means we would also turn over at the same time. This means that some need to step down after one year or some stay for three years.	
A @ 10:12		
	Motion to adjourn by Lindsey, seconded by Denyne.	
	Meeting Adjourned	