

Esquimalt High School Alumni Association

Minutes of Directors Meeting

7:00 pm Monday Aug. 17, 2020

Esquimalt High School Staff Room

Attendance: Dave Allen, Marilyn McCrimmon, Tina Pierik, Ryan Richard, Barry Scott, Gary Moser, Robert Laidler.

Regrets: Trish Best, Lorna Reid, Brenda O'Connor, George Copley.

1. Call to order – Barry Scott

Barry called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Dave Allen added a few items to the agenda:

- a. Money for Grad 2020 under the Treasurer's Report.
- b. Donations for 2020 under Other Business
- c. Art Auction under Other Business.

2. Minutes of April 20, 2020 meeting – Marilyn McCrimmon

Gary Moser moved acceptance of the minutes as circulated, and Ryan Richard seconded. Carried.

3. School Update – Tina Pierik

1. Tina started by thanking the alumni association for the donation to support the revamped grad ceremony in June. Grad fees were refunded to the students as the money was not needed to rent UVic Centre. Donations were used to create "goodie bags" for the grads, which included coffee cards from Spiral Café and gift cards for Panago Pizza, two Esquimalt businesses. The grad ceremony proved to be very special due to the grads being with their own families as they travelled in a car parade through Esquimalt. Special guests included the base commander and the mayor. It was a very successful event and Tina noted that the school may have to do something similar in June 2021.
2. The overall plan and the timetable for 2020/21 are evolving as the school responds to changing directives from the school district and the province. It appears that a quarter system timetable will be put in place, with students alternating between full time and half-time attendance in various classes. Plans are ongoing for keeping a cohort of students together to minimize contact with a larger number, and masks will be required in hallways and common areas. Students who prefer to stay home full time will be registered with a distributed learning program such as Link or SIDES.
3. PAC has been meeting via Zoom meetings. Tina reported the largest turnout ever. Barry Scott volunteered to be the alumni rep to liaise with the PAC. Tina thanked Barry, and said she will connect Barry with the PAC chair.
4. Tina reported that one of the biggest challenges of teaching through COVID – for students and teachers – is the limited social time with one another. EHS has a very positive school culture, but it will be difficult if teachers and students cannot socialize with their colleagues and fellow students. She said that a better life/work balance has been a positive outcome of the COVID, as her work days have been shorter, due to meetings and all other extra-curricular and district meetings and activities being cancelled.
5. Team sports will not be scheduled this year, but team members will meet for ongoing training sessions.

4. Treasurer's Report – Ryan Richard

Ryan reported a May balance of \$1579.74. One new member joined in June, which brought the total up \$10. Ryan mentioned that Coast Capital, since COVID, is no longer paying out any interest on accounts. He looked into the costs of moving our accounts to VanCity, but the cost would outweigh any advantages. No changes will be made, but it is something for the directors to think about.

- a. Money for Grad 2020

We formalized the agreement to donate the EHS Grad 2020 that the directors unanimously supported by email back in June.

Dave moved (retroactively) that the alumni association donate \$500 to the school for Grad 2020. Barry seconded it. Motion passed.

5. Membership, Registry & Website – Ryan Richard

Ryan reported that two 2020 grads have become new members. Before COVID shut things down, Ryan and Geoff did some updates on the Alumni Association website.

ACTION

1. Directors are asked to look at the updated website and to provide feedback to Ryan at the next meeting.

6. Scholarship Report – (Lorna Reid)

In Lorna's absence, Dave Allen reminded the members that we alternate the number of scholarships we award each year – two are given one year, and then three the next. This fall we would be expected to award two scholarships.

Dave Allen moved that we offer two scholarships this year, unless Lorna Reid and Dana decide they need three scholarships due to the need of the students. Gary Moser seconded. Motion passed.

7. Reunions – (Trish Best)

In Trish's absence, Dave Allen noted that due to COVID, there were no requests for help with reunions. Barry Scott noted that Esquimalt grads, Bill Knowles and Angus Mitchell, both recently passed away.

8. Heritage Report – Dave Allen

Dave said there was no update on the distinguished alumni process due to the COVID restrictions. He will try to start the process this fall, perhaps through Zoom meetings.

9. Other Business:

A. Update on Turf Field – Dave Allen

Dave reported that the Esquimalt RibFest Society did not get the government grant for the Turf Field that we have been waiting to hear about. There is currently \$262,000 in the Turf Field account. The committee will search for future grant possibilities.

B. Fall Newsletter – Ryan Richard

Directors discussed when the fall newsletter should go out, and what should be included in it. This led to a discussion of the format of the AGM, given the need to socially distance. Directors agreed that we would have a hybrid meeting, permitting (properly spaced) live attendance at the school, as usual, in addition to a Zoom meeting option. Tina Pierik offered to facilitate and moderate the Zoom meeting format.

Content for the fall newsletter will include the following:

1. Obituaries of deceased alumni members – Ryan Richard and Barry Scott

Tina suggested that this be an ongoing part of our newsletters. It was pointed out that this may prove to be a source of names for distinguished alumni members down the road. Meanwhile, Barry and Ryan will work with Wes to come up with some alumni to include. They will start with Bill Knowles and Angus Mitchell.

2. The June 2020 Grad ceremony – Tina Pierik

Tina will provide a write-up and photos of this year's unique and successful EHS Grad ceremony.

3. AGM Notification – Ryan Richard/Tina Pierik

Alumni members will be notified of the date of the AGM, and will be given information on how to access the meeting via Zoom if they choose.

4. EHS Staff experiences during COVID – Ryan Richard

Ryan will interview both Gail McGraw and Ted Grant for their perceptions on the challenges of teaching during the time of COVID.

5. Formal donation request – Dave Allen

A formal donation request will be included in the newsletter. Members can receive a tax receipt if they donate \$20 or more, and they can indicate whether their donation should go towards scholarships or school activities or both. It will be pointed out that the need is great due to the cancellation of two major fund-raising activities - Buccaneer Days and RibFest.

6. Notice of the cancellation of RibFest – Ryan Richard

7. Distinguished alumni – Dave Allen

A brief mention that the plan to recognize distinguished alumni will be launched next fall.

8. 8. Principal's corner – Tina Pierik

Tina will summarize the planned 2020/21 EHS timetable format.

Deadline:

Please submit your items to Ryan Richard no later than: Friday October 9th, 2020.

The newsletter needs to be in members' hands one month before the AGM.

C. RibFest Update – Dave Allen

RibFest is cancelled for 2020. Stay tuned for information about 2021.

D. Privacy Policy – George Copley

George forwarded a Privacy Policy Report for the consideration of Directors prior to the April 20th "virtual meeting." The complete document was included at the end of the April 20, 2020 minutes as Addendum #2. George moved the following motion: That the EHS Alumni Association Privacy Policy (and the EHS Alumni Foundation) Privacy Policy be amended as follows: the definition of "Personal information" in the third paragraph is repealed and replaced by the following definition: "Personal Information is information about an identifiable individual including, but not limited to, name, age, sex, financial information, contact information etc., but does not include contact information for an employee, if any, of the EHS Alumni Foundation or EHS Alumni Association".

Directors were asked to respond by email either in favour or not in favour of this amendment. All were in favour of this amendment. The amendment was to be formally moved and voted on at this meeting.

Dave Allen moved and Gary Moser seconded. Motion passed.

E. Donations for 2020 – Dave Allen

Dave suggested that a formal request for donations be included in the next newsletter. This is especially important as two of our fund-raising events – Buccaneer Days and RibFest – are both cancelled for 2020. Directors agreed that this was very important.

F. Art Auction – Dave Allen

The Art Auction is on hold until after COVID.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday October 19, 2020.

The AGM is scheduled for Monday November 16, 2020.

Note: The Foundation Executive Meeting was held following this meeting.

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<https://esquimalt.sd61.bc.ca/our-school/alumni/>