

Esquimalt High School Alumni Association

Minutes of Directors Meeting

7:00 pm Monday Jan. 18, 2021

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

Attendance: Dave Allen, Marilyn McCrimmon, Tina Pierik, Ryan Richard, Gary Moser, Robert Laidler, Lorna Reid, George Copley, Barry Scott, Brenda O'Connor.

Regrets: None.

1. Call to order – Barry Scott

Barry called the meeting to order at 7:00 and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

2. Minutes of Oct. 19, 2020 meeting – Marilyn McCrimmon

As there were no corrections, the minutes were accepted as circulated.

3. School Update – Tina Pierik

Tina gave a positive report about how EHS is continuing to cope with having 800 staff and students attending safely each day, and emphasized that it is important to have the students in school. She referred to things as “different, but good.” The Copernican (quarter system) timetable means there are fewer transition times each day, and the students are connecting well with their teachers.

She described a recent virtual music concert that allowed family members across Canada to participate.

Before Christmas break, the school had Santa's breakfasts in each classroom, and also had a virtual talent show that was live-streamed to each classroom.

The new quarter begins on February 1st. Sixty students are still doing distance learning. The counsellors each have a classroom to use in order to distance themselves from their clients. All students are greeted in the mornings, and reminded about sanitizing hands and wearing masks.

The cafeteria is open now with one-way traffic in and out. Tina said that the school needed to make some money to keep the cafeteria program going.

Tina said that they are just beginning to talk about Grad 2021. They will form a committee (last year it was just Tina and Ali) and begin planning in February, but at this point, they are sure they won't be at UVic for a ceremony, and they will likely plan a repeat of last year's successful drive-by grad. A family barbecue is a possibility on the field.

Tina will have the details by the April meeting. She said that students paid grad fees this year and won't have them refunded like they did last year, so there will be less need for donations from the Alumni Association. As well, Brenda O'Connor will work with Tina to explore some possible business sponsorships for grad gift cards. We will discuss this at the April meeting and will put out a request for donations in the April newsletter if necessary.

ACTION

- i. Brenda O'Connor will email Tina to work out the details of a possible business sponsorship for grad gift cards.

4. President's Report – Barry Scott

PAC update - Barry has “attended” three virtual PAC meetings so far. He said the main issue appears to be the wearing of masks. Tina said that the PAC group is small, so it doesn't offer a wide representation of the student body. Parents are bringing in a speaker to talk about anxiety and resiliency in kids, using funds from a Parent Education fund. Tina hopes the PAC can hold one meeting on the Songhees reserve next year, as they did a year ago, to encourage more involvement from the parent community of the First Nations students at EHS.

Remembrance Day – Barry attended this year's ceremony on a cold and windy day, representing both the high school and the Alumni Association, and he placed a wreath on behalf of both. One person attended from each organization, but there were no military members or public in attendance. Dave Allen pointed out that this was the 11th year that the Alumni Association has taken part in the ceremony at Memorial Park. The directors thanked Barry for attending on our behalf.

T-shirts – Barry reports that we have 62 new screened shirts to add to the current stock of 24. The majority say “I Love EHS.” He said all we needed was an activity to sell them. The availability of t-shirts and scarves will be included in the spring newsletter.

History of Macaulay Point – Jack Bates - Barry brought Jack Bates to our attention as a great resource on the military-related history of Esquimalt. He said he thought students from all Esquimalt schools should have exposure to the pre-WWII history of Esquimalt, and this could start with a write-up in our spring newsletter about the history of Macaulay Point. Jack can also conduct tours of Macaulay Point once it is safe to do so. Jack has a website (www.workpoint.opcmh.ca) on the history of Work Point Barracks. Dave suggested that Jack might provide some information to be displayed in the display cases at the school. Barry also mentioned the Navy Museum as a wonderful resource and suggested that down the road, Jack would be available to arrange a tour of the museum, something he normally does each spring.

ACTION

- i. Barry will talk to Jack Bates about doing a write-up for the spring newsletter and also providing information for a display case at EHS. He will coordinate with the EHS librarian, Geoff Orme.

5. Treasurer's Report – Ryan Richard

Ryan reported a balance of \$979.95 with one outstanding cheque for \$40. He said there is currently no interest being paid on the account while Coast Capital revamps its interest schedule.

Ryan reported that we currently have around \$1800 in donations.

Ryan asked Tina to have any Alumni mail forwarded to him.

6. Membership, Registry & Website – Ryan Richard

Ryan has received two new memberships online.

Ryan received a request from the school's Leadership class for information on the history of school mascots at EHS. The class wants to introduce a school mascot and is seeking ideas, as well as conducting a survey of students. Directors discussed the short-lived “sailor” mascot, which often resembled the Popeye cartoon sailor. It was decided not to recommend the revival of that particular mascot.

Ryan reported that Geoff Orme has created a Google Drive access for the Alumni website, allowing Ryan to send documents to Geoff for uploading to the Alumni website. Dave asked that the bios and photos of the fall's scholarship winners be posted on the website, and that this website feature be refreshed each year. Lorna has the information in a PDF format.

ACTION

- i. Tina will check the list of students whose photos may not be posted for public viewing, and will then let Ryan know if this year's winners are safe to post.

7. Scholarship Report – Lorna Reid

Lorna has been in contact with Chastity at the school, and she reports that as of last Friday, two of the Alumni scholarships from 2018-19 were just claimed, and two of the scholarships from 2019-20 were also claimed.

There are still some scholarship that are outstanding, but due to COVID, recipients have been given more time to claim them.

ACTION

- i. Lorna will check in with Chastity later in the spring for an update, so that we will know whether we can offer two or three scholarships in the fall.

8. Reunions – Robert Laidler

There is no news to report at this point as reunions are on hold for now.

9. Other Business:

a. RibFest 2021 - Dave Allen

Dave reported that the RibFest committee will begin meeting in two weeks. There is a lot of appetite to do something, given the success of their drive-through event last fall. The committee hopes to do a two day event, but the size of the event will depend on COVID restrictions.

The Turf Field account has \$265,000 in it, and the committee is looking again at potential grants.

b. Spring Newsletter – Ryan Richard

The deadline for the spring newsletter will be Friday April 30th. We will finalize the content at the next meeting.

c. 2021 Society Projects/Activities –Barry Scott

Barry suggested we look at activities to improve our finances, especially given the cancellation of last year's Buccaneer Days and RibFest. He suggested that we charge a renewal membership fee of \$10. Dave pointed out that our constitution says that the membership fee is a one-time only fee. We could ask everyone to contribute \$10 as a fund-raiser.

Tina suggested that the school could livestream a music concert and ask viewers to send in donations. We discussed how the money could be collected – through Eventbrite or etransfer. Eventbrite has a fee so we won't use it.

We will flesh out this idea and talk further about fund-raising at the April meeting.

d. Acknowledging Trish Best – Lorna Reid

Lorna took flowers and the signed card to Trish. She said that Trish was very thankful for them and that she is doing well. The Directors thanked Lorna for taking care of that on behalf of all of us.

e. Art Auction – Dave Allen

The Art Auction is on hold until it is safe to have the public come into the school for a Fine Arts activity. Dave has been in touch with the donor.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday April 19, 2021.

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

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