

Esquimalt High School Alumni Association
Minutes of Directors Meeting
7:00 pm Monday April 25, 2022 EHS Staff Room

Attendance: Dave Allen, Marilyn McCrimmon, Tina Pierik, Ryan Richard, Robert Laidler, Barry Scott, Cathy Wong, Lorna Reid.

Regrets: George Copley, Brenda O'Connor.

1. Call to order – Barry Scott

Barry called the meeting to order at 7:00.

2. Minutes of Jan. 17, 2022 meeting – Marilyn McCrimmon

Marilyn moved acceptance of the minutes as circulated and Dave seconded. Carried.

3. Official nomination of Cathy Wong

Barry moved that Cathy Wong be nominated as a director for the EHS Alumni Association. Marilyn seconded. Carried.

4. School Update – Tina Pierik

1. The school year is in its final quarter. Report cards just went out. There will be no district summer school this year (it loses money each year) so each school will come up with their own plans for dealing with students facing failure in a core subject. Tina said that EHS has a fast track plan where students will be pulled out of electives to use that time to catch-up in core subject areas. She has managed to staff five blocks for this purpose.

2. The school held a Spring Fling which attracted 400 kids and featured a popular bouncy castle, a sign of a return to normalcy.

3. This year's school musical, Mamma Mia, opens in May and will feature 7 performances. Some of the performances will purposefully be held to 50% capacity for those who are concerned about attending a live performance with a full house.

4. The school will host a rugby tournament next week.

5. A district wide Indigenous Film Festival will take place during the May Pro D Day. Several schools and community venues will host the films.

6. A Visual Arts exhibit will be held at the school at the end of May.

7. Grad will be on Saturday June 11th at UVic, and the dinner/dance will be the following Saturday at the Wardroom. The grad parades of the last two years were so popular, that students have asked for it again this year. The parade will occur just before the dance on the 18th, as students make their way to the Wardroom, dressed in their grad dinner/dance finery.

8. The last day of classes will feature the usual BBQ and yearbook distribution. Report cards will be mailed home due to the lateness of the end of the school year.

9. Tina informed us that she would be transferred to Gordon Head next year. We all expressed our dismay at this news, and agreed that Tina is such an asset to EHS. Her seemingly endless energy and her positive advocacy for the EHS students will be very much missed.

Current vice-principal Sarah Garr will be the new principal. Ally Hoffmann will continue as vice-principal and Jared Adams will join the admin team as a new vice-principal.

10. Tina announced the exciting news that EHS will soon have two on-campus daycares – one for newborns up to 3 years old, and one for ages 3 to 5 – thanks to new ministry funding. There is a possibility of pairing up with Camosun College to host an ECE program. Priority for child care spaces will be for students, staff and community, in that order.

11. Tina has some "bucket list" items she wants to take care of over the next few months, such as new benches and tables. The school has no financial requests at this time for the Alumni Association.

5. President's Report – Barry Scott

a. PAC update – Barry did not attend the last meeting due to illness. Tina said the PAC turnout is low, partly due to COVID and partly because secondary parents tend to be less involved in PAC than primary parents. The PAC AGM will be in May and Tina hopes that parents of grade 9's will get involved.

b. T-shirts update – Barry has 20 new t-shirts.

ACTION

1. Dave asked Barry to check with Chastity about an invoice for the shirts.

6. Treasurer's Report – Ryan Richard

Ryan reported a ledger balance of \$638.95 and a bank balance of \$678.95. The difference is an uncashed cheque for the \$40 Society Filing Fee.

7. Membership, Registry & Website – Ryan Richard

a. Membership forms and an accompanying letter will be sent out to people on the email list (gathered at reunions) who have not yet joined, separate from the newsletter mailing.

Membership forms will also be sent out as part of the spring newsletter.

ACTION

1. Dave will draft up two letters – one for members and one for non-members to go out with the newsletter.
- b. Spam – Ryan reports foreign people frequently trying to join the Facebook group, apparently a widespread issue. Ryan will ask his Facebook co-host, Wendy Campbell Kennett, to help. He suggested that he could create some security questions.

8. Scholarship Report

Lorna left a message for Chastity asking for any updates. She didn't hear back so assumes that there is nothing new to report.

9. Reunions – Robert Laidler

There are three reunions planned for this year: Class of 1971, Class of 1972 and Class of 1962.

The Class of 1962 has contacted Dave to ask for a tour of the school when they have their reunion in early September (school opening). He will ask them to move their reunion or tour request a little later as early September is very busy at the school.

10. Other Business:

a. Spring Newsletter (Ryan Richard/Marilyn McCrimmon)

We discussed the content and the following articles will be included:

1. New membership forms - Dave
2. Wes Umphrey article on George Williamson – completed
3. Report on the turf field - Dave
4. Fund-raising promotion – include info re: etransfer option. - Ryan
5. An EHS leadership student write-up on the new school mascot – Tina
6. Write-up and photos from the winter formal - Tina
7. School info – Capstone Project and Indigenous activities update – Tina
8. Promotion of the school musical - Mamma Mia – Tina
9. Robotics team write-up – Dave

Barry suggested we include an article about the history of Indigenous education and activities at EHS, including the success stories of Indigenous grads. After some discussion and brainstorming of ideas, we agreed that we would include an article in the fall newsletter. It is a big topic and will likely generate articles for many future newsletters.

b. Turf field update (Dave Allen)

Dave outlined a technical issue around easements that is currently challenging the Turf Field committee. The committee continues to pursue government funding.

c. Buccaneer Day - May 13th to 15th (Dave Allen)

The EHS Robotics Team, with their sponsor, Tina O'Keefe, will host the EHS Langos/pop/water booth on Saturday May 14th and Sunday May 15th. Alumni directors are invited to drop by and lend a helping hand.

d. Date to meet to clean up the store room at EHS. (Dave Allen)

On Tuesday May 17th, Alumni directors will meet at the school from 10 am to 2 pm for a work party to begin to sort and organize the archives items stored in the book room.

Tina offered to provide lunch for the work party.

We discussed how we could encourage Alumni members to get involved with the archives, and potentially find someone willing to take it over. Names such as Jim Wallace and Bob Beattie were raised, given their history with the school. We agreed that once an initial sort has been done, that the job of Archives Director might not seem so daunting. Tina pointed out that students could help digitize the material once it is organized. Sherry Robinson and Geoff Orme will also be valuable resource people.

e. Other business

Barry contacted the Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum to inquire about tours. At this point, they are just offering access to groups of five. The Alumni Association would like to help promote the museum, and publicize it to future reunion groups. Barry will contact them again about when they might expect to be open for tours.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

12. Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday August 15, 2022.

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

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