

CPF Vancouver East Chapter AGM
Meeting Notes
May 28, 2009

Attendance: as per sign in sheet

Stefanie welcomed everyone and introduced special guests Lord Selkirk Principal Richard Zerbe and VP Carmen Batista, Van Tech teacher Pierre Grenier, CPF Vancouver North Chapter President Kate Gregory and CPF BC Yukon Outreach Coordinator Glyn Lewis

Stefanie proceeded with her President's Report summarizing a good year with three grants received for the Vancouver East Chapter totalling \$2314 including:

Cirque Du Francais – \$759.95

Lord Selkirk School performance - \$315

Hastings Cultural Week \$1245

The Chapter was able to give back to the schools with a \$40 donation of books to the library of each primary school – this came from the proceeds of the Usbourne Book fair at the Cirque du Francais. Van Tech also received a \$500 scholarship from the Chapter.

This year the Chapter was able to launch a website, create a mailing list for members and established a newsletter. There are 68 names on the mailing list as of now with most being members and some being school reps and contacts at schools.

Stefanie reviewed what worked well vs what did not and the idea of the chapter putting on activities was time consuming, but fun. The idea to have schools host their own activities will be tried out next year with funds coming from the Chapter (\$200 per school) and also the Chapter will encourage each school to apply for a CPF Socio Cultural Grant for activities at the schools. Specific information on the grant requirements can be found on the CPF BC Yukon website. For the \$200 per school the CPF members at the school can work with the administrators and teachers to decide how best to spend the money.

The Chapter money comes mostly from the 80% of membership dues.

Review of Financials – Stefanie reviewed the financials prepared by Maria Dabiri, Treasurer

Review of priority list for 2009 - 2010 - This year Stefanie would like to utilize the school reps more to get information to and from the schools and to keep schools connected to the Chapter. Chapter reps can help with Membership drives held between September and end of October where the Chapter gets 90% of member rebates instead of 80%.

Chapter Reps for 2009/2010 for schools are doing great – we need one for Van Tech

Current Reps:

Hastings – Toni Pritchard

Selkirk – Lynne Mieland

Secord – Megan Zandstra

Strathcona – Erica McCuaig

Van Tech – open

Modern Language Advisory Committee – Stefanie and another CPF parent have been attending school board meetings regarding French Immersion issues. There is a CPF seat available for any CPF member who would like to take part. Other representatives who attend the meeting are union reps for the Teachers and Principals/VPs, School Board Trustees, among others. These meetings are important as items relating to French Immersion are discussed and parent opinion and CPF opinion are asked.

Stefanie explained her reason for running for DPAC Executive. She would like to make sure there is someone at the DPAC who has the interests of the French Second Language programs in mind as discussions take place. There are approximately 4300 French Immersion students in Vancouver so having a parent who understands French Immersion, Late French Immersion and Intensive French concerns would be good.

Socio Cultural Grants for school – Last year the Chapter received over \$1500 in CPF Socio Cultural Grants. Schools will be able to determine need and apply for grants directly through School Reps. The CPF BC Yukon branch awards the grants and notifies the Chapter of which grants were granted. Grants are to support French language and culture and can be bilingual.

Next Year Stefanie proposed that the Schools be encouraged to offer social activities at the schools for their students using grants as awarded and the Chapter will organize Parent Info Night series with Sallie Boschung. The talks would be grade specific grouped according to Sallie Boschung. Approximately 100 parents came to the first Parent Info Night.

Motion: To adopt priority list for 2009-2010 – Unanimously passed

Presentation of Budget 2009/2010 as attached

Note: Item - Activities at Schools - \$1000 would be broken down to the 5 schools and CPF members, teachers and administrators would decide where the \$200 would best be spent in the French program.

Note: Items to promote Chapter would be bought like banners, etc and come out of outreach materials or promotional materials.

Note: The CPF conference will be in Richmond this year so there should not be a large cost to attend.

Motion: To adopt the 2009/2010 budget – Unanimously passed

Conditional change to President's standing for 2009/2010 introduced:

Stefanie explained that her family has moved out of catchment for the Chapter and according to the bylaws she would not be entitled to fulfil her two year term as President. The CPF BC Yukon branch suggested that she ask members to support her finishing her term as it is still the start of the Chapter and the Bylaws could be amended to support this idea. Stefanie would like to find someone to shadow her for a year to learn role so when she steps down the chapter can maintain it's momentum

Motion: To accept conditional change to President standing for 2009/2010 unanimously accepted

Updates on standing of current executives – Treasurer Maria Dabiri has moved out of Catchment and VP Kathy Scull will be resigning. Stefanie proposes to delay the elections until more members are present and notices will go out to find nominees for open positions. Lynne Mieland is the Chapter Rep at Selkirk but if someone would like to assume the position she would be open to the idea, until then she will stay on in this role.

No signing officers will change until new officers are voted into positions.

Other business

Concours – Stefanie invited Richard Zerbe, Principal of Lord Selkirk, to talk about Concours and his idea to reintroduce it to schools. Richard would like to have a discussion in the summer on how to best unite in supporting the program. Attendance and participation is declining and everyone believes there are benefits to continuing the process. Pierre Grenier, Teacher from Van Tech, said he thinks younger children need prep at younger ages so that they have experience in Concours prior to grade 9.

At Mr. Zerbe's previous school they translated Concour to an oral celebration called Speak-up-alooosa where the theme was humour and children who would have been intimidated by a more formal process could participate. Concour is not part of the curriculum but schools see the value and can make it part of the class experience by using it as a tool of the curriculum.

Van Tech Scholarship – Pierre Grenier explained the criteria of the scholarship the CPF awards to the school. They sometimes split up the award to two or three kids depending on the year and they look at the overall picture of the student focusing on the understanding and best appreciation of the French language.

French funding – Mr. Grenier wanted to know if the CPF had any information on funding for the schools that he could read. He finds their program has to answer questions constantly about the extra funding they get and they find that they need to fight PAC for funding due to the myth that they get additional funds. They get \$7 per student for the whole year via the province. Richard Zerbe mentioned that the French support materials are very expensive vs the English program so it costs more to run these programs than English programs and there is always a struggle to get more resources that are appropriate and relevant. It was thought a good idea to be on the MLAC board to address these issues. Glyn Lewis from the CPF BC Yukon branch explained that the money from the provincial government is assigned per use but these uses can be interchanged as adjusted within their amounts as needed – reallocating funds from one category to another if needed. The DPAC will be a good place for parents to hear about budget information, financials and funding available.

Diana Pollock acknowledged Stefanie's hard work this year in getting the chapter started and noted her appreciation.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:41pm