

MEETING MINUTES

Canadian Parents for French

Location: Google Meet & In-Person Hybrid at Broxton Park School

Date: June 6, 2023

Time: 18:35

Attendees: Elizabeth Grier, Teri Lin Irvine, Cheri Day, Ashley Harms, Laura Barber, Caroline Somersault, Randy Somersault, Maggie Lamingo, Kathryn Hutchison, Marc Dickner, Linnaea Anderson, Angela Cousineau, Trish, Marie Marsh, Allison Dakin, Corrina (Rocky Mountain House)

Call to Order: Marie Marsh at 6:35

Approval of the Agenda: Elizabeth Grier, seconded by Allison Dakin

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Elizabeth motions to approve minutes from last meeting, Allison seconds. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Elizabeth Grier

Latest expenses: \$937.03 spent on Linnaea's Vive La Francais event; Issued a stop order on a check due to miscommunication. \$93.09 for movie night and \$25 for prize membership
Bank Balance:?

President's Report: Marie Marsh

Chapter Events - Reel Canada Movie night Reel Canada offers free Canadian films once a year and is an easy partner to work with, they give tips on how to run the event, with promo packages and more.. Approximately 60 attendees, a mix of Meridian and Broxton families. Free popcorn and iced tea. Well attended event and worth doing again. Great feedback. Consider having students to sit with parents next time.

Many summer upcoming Summer Camps in Rocky Mountain House, Edmonton thru Alliance for French, all links were included in agenda.

New Business:

Trish Guest Speaker from- CPF Alberta

Many chapters are looking at how to move forward post-covid. Maintaining a chapter three executive positions.

Suggestions: Gather and discuss options / connect with new families. Be present at school open house, host parent information night. Bring awareness to families about CPF and in that, find new volunteers and engage in succession planning. Recommend having the AGM in September.

Some areas (usually rural/remote locations) are not holding events or fundraising, but still want to do occasional French activities at a community level. In the team model you remove the bank account, you remove the executive. It only requires two people to apply to CPF Alberta, to create a team model, once they are approved the team can apply for funding to execute an event, this needs to be done for each idea. It is effective when they want to do something like host a speaker.

What is a Team model? A team can exist with only two people, those two people contact CPF Alberta and create a contract with CPF Alberta, you can not fundraise, you have no bank account. You apply to CPF Alberta for all funds. If the Parkland Chapter wants to adopt the team model, they must fold first, and then apply to be a team model.

What happens to our current funds in a Team model? The funds are held for up to two years by CPF Alberta, if the chapter folds by the end of two years, the money goes to CPF Alberta, but if the chapter is restored within the two years, the chapter keeps its funds.

*If the chapter votes at the AGM to become a team model the funds immediately go to CPF Alberta and cannot be spent.

Benefits of Team Model: less government, no meetings, no AGM requirement, no fundraising, no bank account. Teams are only required to report on an activity (to the provincial chapter).

Question from Linnaea: What is the likelihood of funding applications being approved by the team model? Answer: You would apply, for example "a performer" and the provincial chapter would pay the performer directly.

Question from Marie: Can we vote to spend the balance in the final meeting, so that funds are not held and they can be distributed to the schools for francofete or however the chapter decides? Trish: Yes. Elizabeth brings up lack of access and fundraising.

Question from Ashley about what happens to families who have purchased chapter memberships? Trish: It's going to be important to make these decisions for the AGM. Membership is under review at the national level and that decision will have a large impact moving forward.

Trish left the meeting at 7:30 so the group could have a discussion.

Discussion:

Members asked about what kind of events our chapter does.

Marie- Kahoots, Bingos, Movie nights, French for Parents (on line), and many online opportunities not just with CPF Alberta, but all Canadian provinces. Your membership gives you access to those. The chapter sponsors awards to grade nines in Broxton and Meridian, grade twelve awards at SGCHS and Memorial. On a provincial level, Alberta offers camping and two conferences for families in Canmore and Jasper, it is very good value for the low cost. Parkland Chapter worked with Linnaea on Vive Le Francais and funded the entire event. Elizabeth said that CPF Alberta refused to fund this event. Marie said it was because CPF Alberta had allocated their funds elsewhere and was aware that our chapter had a healthy bank account balance at that time with approximately ten thousand dollars. Covid was a challenge. Many of the same 3-4 people have been volunteering to run the events, Ashley resigned last October as VP, burn out happens. Our current membership is approximately 20 people.

Ashley- at one time the chapter was at 60 people.

Marie and Ashley- Parkland Chapter used to offer in person French for Parents. CPF Alberta revamped the course and offers it regularly online. The chapter has not looked at hiring a teacher to bring it back in person. Concerns about Teacher agreements with ATA. Corrine said there is a work around, licensed teachers can teach adults. The chapter at the time felt that online was sufficient.

Ashley - Get engaged face-to-face. Public blurbs and speaking at school events, etc. Think outside the box because emails and Facebook can be overwhelming/be zoned out. Many people do not know what CPF is. Parent council has the same issue. (Maggie) CPF has amazing scholarships and bursaries for junior high and high school. Host a BBQ at Fresons, get a table at the Tri Leisure Center in August, put a face to the organization.

Marie - We have been sending newsletters for schools to forward at Broxton, Meridian and SGCHS and attending open houses consistently at both schools.

Corrina - Rocky Mountain House had the same issue with newsletters. Dropped off letters for student's agendas and went from 10-50 members just from having printouts.

Agreement around - paper feels important. Printed brochure/newsletter. Share to the public what money is raised for. Consensus of those in attendance that the Team Model was not favorable.

Linnaea shared the importance of events like Vive La Francais - French Carnival for the French community, parents with children in French Immersion/Francophone schools. Submitted a formal paper request for funds next year of \$2400.

Corrina - French Resources (CPF accepted wish lists for French Books) in Rocky Mountain House. Ran a summer day camp last summer and are launching registration for this summer. \$5 per day and fundraising paid for that. Gr k-5 attended and gr 6,7,8 were junior leaders. Set a goal - people know why (a cause). Their community center has a joint-user-agreement for non-profits where they can get usage for free. Made \$1600 doing a highway clean up / fundraiser. Bursaries - ex) hourly for students that help (point system), DELF exam.

Ashley - Suggests a freezies handout afterschool to parents with a flyer to give info on what CPF is, requests the executive to hold a meeting and vote on a budget. There are six individuals that are willing to help raise awareness.

Marie- Look for communications on freezie hand out, Apple fundraiser, AGM. Will do both an email and phone call.

Next meeting: October 3rd @ Meridian Heights School 6:30 PM

Adjournment: 8:01