**Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**Friday, January 14th, 2022**

**Saturday, January 15th, 2022**

**Friday**

**Call to Order & Roll Call (6:00 pm)**

Welcome/Attendance/Review Team Agreement/ Review Tonight's Agenda

Central – Marina Keeping & Patricia Cain

Eastern – Evelyn MacInnis & Sheila Hill

Northern – Carolann Zegray & Mary Ann Burke

Western – Rob Richardson & Lloyd Sweeney

African Nova Scotian Reps – Iona Smith & Anita MacMillan

Mi’kmaq Reps - Darlene Arseneau (Mainland) & Cindy Poulette (CB)

Federation Staff – Gary Landry & Denyse Hockley

Regrets - Wendell Fraser (Past President)

**Questions about Laptops**

Seems to be going good so far.

**Because you Care (Update on Account Interest)**

It was decided that the interest accruing in the FFFNS account for the Because You Care money would be partially donated to other non-profits and partially used for our bursaries. $500 was sent to Chisholm Services, $500 was sent to Akoma, and $500 was sent to HomeBridge. There is about $5000 left for our bursaries and we already had ~$2000 in the bursary account.

**FFFNS Bursary Program (50/50)**

Fergus Ford advised Gary to contact DCS before proceeding with the ongoing fundraiser. DCS had been okay with us doing this for a one-time thing. They said no to having an ongoing fundraiser as they fund our budget 100%.

**Telus (Cell Phone Program)**

Telus has a program to give out cell phones to young adults who are leaving care. They will have them free of charge for two years. We will share the link on our website and in the Federation’s Facebook group.

**Update on FFFNS new Office Space**

A new lease was signed to include the extra office space. The upcoming week staff will decide on paint and carpet colours. The space should be renovated and ready to be used within the next few months.

**Redesign Presentation by DCS Staff (6:30 pm)**

Wendy and Georgeina gave an overview of the upcoming changes for Foster Care Redesign.

**Meeting Adjourned (9:15 pm)**

**Saturday**

**Call to Order & Roll Call (9:00 am)**

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**Foster Care Redesign (Discuss last evening's presentation**)

There were some concerns about the block funding and what that will look like. There can be a large difference in mileage between urban and rural areas. Will geographic location be factored into the amount allotted for mileage? Will an average rate be used? Each child has own needs when it comes to appointments and travel related expenses, so a provincial average won’t work. The understanding is that the block funding will be the foundation, but more can be added on. The cost of living should be automatically included in the block funding. Also, it would be helpful if the plan of care was updated every six months instead of 12.

The next meeting with DCS is on Jan. 31st and some of these concerns can be addressed at that time.

**FFFNS AGM 2022**

The AGM will be virtual again this year. It was discussed and staff do not feel safe planning an in-person AGM with the uncertainty of where we will be with Covid-19. The AGM will be held via Zoom as in the past two years. It was decided that we would invite DCS but there will be no training component or other guest speakers. Gary will contact Georgeina and see if Saturday. May 28th in the morning works for her.

There was some discussion about sending out materials ahead of time, especially in regard to the Hub model of foster care and specifically the Mockingbird program. Anyone who attends the AGM and had never heard of this may be overwhelmed and/or confused when DCS is giving their update.

**Guest Speaker: Ellen Carter (Survey Update)**

Ellen spoke to the Board at the November meeting about Board Members taking part in a survey she would like to conduct regarding foster parents and how best to advocate for children-in-care. Ellen completed a draft survey, and a link was sent to the Board Members to review. She would like to start distributing the survey in March. Ellen will make amendments to the survey and send it back to Marina before sending it out. Ellen will also be looking at funding opportunities.

**Meeting Adjourned (12:30 pm)**