

Federation of Foster Families of Nova Scotia

Virtual Meeting September 15, 2023

Call to Order: 6:08

Attendance

- Western: Rob Richardson, Lloyd Sweeney
- Central: Patricia Cain, Ann Jennex-Roberts
- Northern: MaryAnn Burke, Carolann Zegray
- African NS: Iona Smith
- Eastern: Evelyn MacInnis
- MiKmaq: Darlene Arseneau-Kennedy, Cindy Poulette
- Executive Director: Gary Landry

Regrets -Sheila Hill

Welcome /Review teamwork agreement

Approval of Agenda Motioned AJ(Central) 2nd DK(Mikmaq)

Approval of Minutes Motioned IS(African NS) 2nd AJ(Central)

Approval of Financials Executive Director to follow up with
Comptroller regarding reimbursement from DSC for Resign Meetings
and what portion will be transferred back to board expense account.
Motioned MB(Northern) 2nd AJ(Central)

Approval of ED Report Motioned PC(Central) 2nd AJ(Central)

Chair Report Attached

Old Business

-Executive and Board Chair spoke with the Coordinator of Foster Care regarding the Ambassador Program. DCS is requesting that the Federation of Foster Families look after reimbursing honourariums, childcare, milage and other expenses that may occur in running the program.

**Motion : FFFNS will distribute reimbursements for the Ambassador program with funding being provided by DCS
Voted—Motion Carried**

Board has requested that the ED get clarification on the logistics of the program for information for the Board.

-Bursary Committee

AJ(Central) reported five applicants applied for the bursaries.
AJ(Central) asked for clarification on criteria for birth and adopted children regarding if the parents had to be still actively fostering.

-Coordinator of Training

DCS has approved the revised job description, removing a BSW as a requirement and adding the Adult Educator, or Education Background (BEd) in its place.

ED has let the board know that the someone internally has expressed interest in this position, and as hiring is the domain of the ED, it is still required that he follow the HR Policy in doing so. In accordance with Governance Training, there are questions if this internal applicant meets the requirements of the job description.

ED and Board Chair will reach out to our current Governance Trainer and consult with DCS for clarification.

New Business

-Redesign - No update Provided

-Childcare - Coordinator of Foster Care confirmed that there will no longer be a limit on childcare hours being claimed for Foster Parents. Also confirmed that DCS is looking at an increase for the childcare rate.

-Launch - The Foster Care Appreciation Launch will take place October 14th. Board Members will be present. Friday evening will start our board meeting, followed by the Launch on Saturday and Sunday will conclude the Board meeting and an update with DCS

-Date Change - The December board meeting has been rescheduled for November 24th, with Governance Training taking place on Saturday.

-Follow up with Ellen Carter Survey (Fostering School Success)- Due to redesign the survey results have sat dormant for a period of time, however discussions have restarted with the Coordinator of Foster Care. Executive Director has also reached out to the Ombudsman to inquire what services could be provided to our youth in care as well.

-Budget Meeting - Ed reported that the budget meeting went well with DCS being very cooperative, Areas that needed more funding were proposed and ED will follow up with the Board Chair and Treasurer with the response from DCS

-Service Agreement - The current service agreement is being updated by our programmer to look more reflective of the services that the FFFNS provides.

-Because We Care Funding - At the budget meeting it was requested that some of the interest funds be allocated to the bursary fund. Executive Director drafted a letter for the request and will follow up when he receives a response. DCS is also to follow up on if the Because You Care program is still active.

-Board Documents for Signature - All documents (Confidentiality Agreements) for Board Members will be brought to the October Meeting for Signatures.

-AGM Revision of By-Laws - Lawyer is rewriting to make the revision clearer, will be updated upon completion.

-Survey for Association Presidents - Survey was sent to all 7 Association Presidents regarding what they feel works and doesn't work. When all surveys are returned the Executive Director will update the Board.

-Regional Surveys - Board Chair (RR) asked for stats on our current foster homes regarding number of foster caregivers, age, years fostering etc. Executive Director will have staff draft a survey to send to foster caregivers, will update when survey is complete for board review.

Motion For Adjournment 8:40pm

Charlann Fitzgerold - Zesray