

Hay Lakes ECS Annual General Meeting
June 14, 2022

Call to Order and Welcome

Pam Ritchie calls meeting to Order 7:06pm

Attendance

Marie Stratuliak (ECS Coordinator), Pam Ritchie (President), Mike DeJong (Treasurer), Sheila Zetsen (Secretary), Addie Hobbins (Teacher), Hannah Carlson (EA), Elise Schultz (Book Keeper), Carley Matson, Sherry Krozser, Allison Klassen, Jody Melin, Robin Johnson, Levi and Shantelle Blanchard, Kimberlee Hunter, Cassandra Holte, Connor Stratuliak

Adopt Agenda – Additions or deletions

Sherry Krozser motions to accept the agenda as presented. Kimberlee Hunter seconds. All in favour. MC.

Introduction of Staff

Teacher – Addie Hobbins
Educational Assistant – Hannah Carlson
Coordinator – Marie Stratuliak
Book Keeper – Elise Schultz

Introduction of 2021-2022 Board members

President – Pam Ritchie
Vice President – Jenny DeJong
Treasurer – Mike DeJong
Secretary – Sheila Zetsen

Coordinator's Report

Independent school-I want to share a little bit about what an independent school is and why we choose to be one when the rest of Hay Lakes School is public. We are not in competition with the public school. We offer something that they would not be able to. We add value to this community by continuing to have an independent ECS. The goal of an independent school is to provide services for the need in a community- whether that be religious, indigenous, values-based, things like that- beyond academics. In our case, we provide Early Childhood Services. Public schools are also able to provide kindergarten, but they cannot provide ECS- which encompasses 3-6 year olds. We offer programming for 3 and 4 year olds who have special needs. This has been a huge area of need in our community and we are so excited to be able to offer this and allow families to continue having their child come to a rural school. On a personal note, I am a mom to children with high needs. I have children in the public school and I have children in independent schools. There is no comparison. How this works: any 3 and 4 year old students

with special needs attend the Playschool. Our ECS program provides EA support, monthly check ins with Miss Hobbins, speech support, occupational or physio therapy. Psychologist. Extra equipment. Educational materials.

For our kindergarten students, we are able to provide special need support beyond what a public school is able to (extra EA support, more speech assessments, more psych ed assessments, OT, SLP, PT, mental health support). For example, this past year, Hay Lakes School was only able to provide 2 Psych ed assessments for the whole school, Grade 1 to 12. Students spend their entire educational career on the waitlist to get a psych ed and never receive the supports they should be getting. In our group of 18 students this past year, we were able to offer 4 psych ed assessments, and over a dozen speech assessments.

More benefits:

1. We have small classes, with more teacher time with each individual student.
2. We have monthly field trips, giving students positive experiences and different learning environments.
3. If your child is Indigenous and they qualify for Jordan's Principle, we do all of the work for you. Once they get to Grade 1 in the public school, you will have to do that yourself.
4. We also give more opportunity for parent involvement- whether through volunteering at the School, going along as parent helpers on field trips, or being a board member and having a say in our policies.

We are governed by AISCA- our provincial independent school organization, as well as Alberta Education. I had a meeting with the director of AISCA a couple of weeks ago and he did all the math, based on student funding, Hay Lakes School would have lost well over \$40,000 this past year if this kindergarten was public. By being independent we save that money so it can be used for your children as they go into Hay Lakes School later. 100% of our funding goes towards our students. In a public school, such as Hay Lakes School who is part of Battle River School Division, all of the money gets pooled together and gets divided up between the schools based on where they feel the need is. This often leaves smaller schools with very little to get by on.

I want to repeat that we are not competing with Hay Lakes School, but instead are trying to give families in our community the very best option for Early Childhood Services.

Number of students registered - 22 total on my list (who have told me their child will be attending Hay Lakes ECS), I've received 16 registration forms.

Fees and Fee Policy- fees are \$175 total. \$25 registration fee and \$150 school supplies/ tuition. No school supplies required, except maybe a paint shirt. Pay by September 30th.

Fee policy- phone call or note sent home, your child cannot participate in special days and field trips, a letter is sent to you from the executive, if no response is given, then your child may be removed from the program.

Having said that, we are more than happy to discuss a payment plan if that is something you require.

Fees can be paid by cash, cheque, or e-transfer.

Bylaw changes

- Article 3 C. Notification of meetings by letter-remove part about letter

Carley Matson motions to remove by letter and change to email. Connor Stratuliak seconds. All in favour. MC.

-Article 3B. Parent meeting every 2 months- revise- John Jagersma, AISCA director, suggested that bimonthly parent meetings is a lot and is unusual. He suggested two per year.

Sherry Krozser motions to meet two per year. Carley Matson seconds. All in favour. MC.

Policy change- pg. 12 Policy, Guidelines, and Procedures Committee (PGP)- if we need any changes to policies, we need to form this committee and have them review the policies, revise them, and present at a parent meeting. Proposing (at the recommendation of John Jagersma AISCA as well) that we remove the need for this committee and allow the board to review and revise the policies and procedures, this is common among school boards. Less need for parent volunteer work, when we already have the board who can do it.

Jody Melin motions to remove the need for a committee and allow the board to review and revise the policies and procedures. Carley Matson seconds. All in favour. MC.

Treasurer job description- pg. 5 details the treasurer position. Want to change it to treasurer is responsible for accepting payments, tracking fees owing, and doing bank deposits. The bookkeeper would then process pay roll, pay bills, data entry, and accounting.

Connor Stratuliak motions the treasurer job description be changed to what is presented. Sherry Krozser seconds. All in favour. MC.

Oath of confidentiality and code of ethics- all members of the staff and board have to sign this.

Bussing- if you require bussing, you need to register for it by going on the BRSD webpage under transportation.

Contacting teacher and staff- Addie- will set up a remind group and will send out a welcome email- those are the best ways to contact her. you've got an email from me already- my phone number is at the bottom. And then Pam.

Bookkeeper/Treasurer's Report

1. Financial report: Chequing account \$30,400.00 Savings account \$4,000.00
Deposited \$20,000.00 into a cashable GIC account.
2. Budget – motion to split the class.
Kimberlee Hunter motions to split the class till Jan. Connor Stratuliak seconds. All in favour. MC.
3. Motion to pay bills and buy gifts throughout the year.

Connor Stratuliak motions for the Bookkeeper/ Treasurer to pay bills and buy gifts throughout the year. Kimberlee Hunter seconds. All in favour. MC.

4. Signing authority – Pam (President), Treasurer, Bookkeeper

At the end of the meeting the signing authority will be updated.

Connor Stratuliak motions to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Addie Hobbins seconds. All in favour. MC.

Teacher's Report

1. Student drop off and pick up – Addie is familiar with the families but moving forward please send a picture of the person picking up your child if it is someone other than a parent.
2. Allergies – let us know of any allergies
3. First day of ECS – get to know each other, learn routine
4. Potential first day of school is Sept 6th and/or 7th
5. What to expect in kindergarten – Student of the day
 - Student of the day – a rotation of students throughout the year. Students will get to be line leader, do show and share, help with calendar.
 - Fun days – will be sent out in monthly calendar
 - Website www.haylakesecs.ca
 - Remind app – will be sent in a welcome email late august
 - What to bring first day – shoes, paint shirt, extra set of clothes, snack and lunch
 - Support while at school – let us know of any extra support things sooner the better

Election of Executives for 2022-2023 school year

Current board members share about their positions and duties.

President – Pam Ritchie will stay on as president by acclimation.

Vice President – Connor Stratuliak

Treasurer – Kimberlee Hunter

Secretary – Robin Johnson

The executives will take an oath of confidentiality and will follow a code of ethics.

Signing Authority

Bank account #00123051424

Mike Dejong and Jenny DeJong to be taken OFF of signing authority list.

Kimberlee Hunter and Elise Schultz be ADDED as new signing authority.

Pam Ritchie stays on signing authority.

Bank account #00123051425

Mike Dejong and Jenny Dejong to be taken OFF of signing authority list.

Kimberlee Hunter and Elise Schultz be ADDED as new signing authority.

Pam Ritchie stays on signing authority.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 30th at 7pm in school library.

Adjournment: Pam adjourned meeting at 8:03pm