

Charter Board Highlights April 2013

Welcome back! With the Easter holiday ending, we are ready to go for the downhill run to the end of the year. The following are a few pieces of news which may be of interest to you.

You will recall that we were required to submit our application for charter renewal by Dec. 1 of this school year. We are very pleased that the Minister of Education has granted us our renewal with another 5 year term, from September, 2013 – August, 2018. Congratulations everyone! Northern Alberta's first rural charter school is continuing to make history! There were a few requirements attached to our renewal, some of which involve reviewing sections of our bylaws and charter document. As we begin to work on these items we will be seeking feedback, so please watch for opportunities to give us your thoughts.

As previously noted, after much discussion, a motion had been made, and tabled to the February 28 agenda, to amend our Bylaws Article 2 Section 2 a. iii) to read: "community members, *who do not have children eligible to attend VCS*, but who are supportive to the mission of the VCS". This motion was defeated.

Thank you to all who were able to attend the AGM on March 15. We covered several topics, including passing the calendar for the next school year, which you can access on the school website. We also acclaimed our new directors, so we would like to welcome Shellie Barclay and Jennifer White, who will be filling full three year terms, as well as Donna Steyer and Mike Gerow, who will be filling the remaining 2 years of the terms that were vacated early. We are looking forward to working with each one of these dedicated people and benefitting from their contributions to the board. We would like to express our appreciation to our outgoing directors: Trone Arnet, Tara Fehr, Andre Harpe, and Diane Nordhagen. Each one has given of their time and talents in the past years and our school has profited from their input. In addition, I would like to extend my gratitude to the board as a whole for all of their work through the year. Board work is not always visible to everyone, however this oversight is essential to the functioning of the school and our directors strive to make sound decisions, aiming to keep the best interests of our students first.

On the administration front, there has been a recent change to note. After serving our charter school since its beginning, first as a volunteer and later as an employee, Transportation Director, Doug Kochendorfer has decided to leave this position, in order to make more time for other pursuits. We are very appreciative of his years of service and wish him the best. Finally, after a careful search, we would like to welcome our new Transportation Director, Ron Lundgard. He has recently moved to our area and brings with him a diverse background in knowledge and experience. We would like to welcome him to both our community and our school, and wish him all the best in this challenging position.

Another year of basketball has ended, so we would like to thank the coaches, Mrs. Fowler and Mrs. Steele, with the help of Spencer Maqueen and Jesse Gundersen. The sports program is a valuable enhancement to our school and working with our students in this way is truly appreciated.

Although it still looks like winter, spring is supposed to have sprung, and therefore the Spring Lake Ski Hill is finished for the season. Thank you to everyone who has taken part in this terrific project again this year. This is a huge fundraiser for the school and such a wonderful place to enjoy the great outdoors.

Happy spring!

Jolene Kochendorfer, Chair