

Annual Report

Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils

Presented at:
Thirteenth Annual General Meeting
February 26, 2014

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Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils

Mission:

The Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils is the voice of parents committed to advocate for and respond to educational issues, which will ensure an excellent public education for Calgary children.

Vision:

To promote excellence in publicly funded education through the support and participation and advocacy of parents, communities and schools in Calgary.

Objectives:

- To promote excellence in education for all children attending Calgary schools.
- To provide a forum which allows school councils, parents and other organizations to network and to develop a united voice.
- To empower school councils and parents to participate in, and influence decisions about education.
- To gather and disseminate information that is related to the delivery of education to students in Calgary.

Calgary Association of Parents and School Councils

Advocacy, Communications/Participation and Networking Activities

Highlights from March 2013 to February 2014

Advocacy

- Made contact with the Calgary Herald, Calgary Sun, Primetime Alberta, CBC Radio, QR77, CTV, Citytv, Metro, and the Calgary Journal to advocate for public education. President Jeff Bowes has been regularly interviewed by the media to provide the parent and school council perspective on educational issues both on a local and provincial basis.
- The President, Jeff Bowes, by invitation, published an opinion/editorial piece in the Globe and Mail on proposed changes to reporting and assessment in the CBE system.
- Helped arrange media coverage for the Alberta safe streets initiative.

Communication/Participation

- Provided membership with a monthly e-newsletter to update members on the work of CAPSC executive, provided highlights of CAPSC regular meeting content and shared information on current education issues.
- Maintained a website, blog and email address in order to communicate with members and disseminate information on a timely basis.
- Met with Trustees and Administration on a regular basis to discuss parent and school council issues.
- Participated on CBE committees and focus groups
- Members of the CAPSC executive attended several trustee board meetings throughout the year
- Operated an information booth and made a presentation at the Council of School Councils in both April and November of 2013.
- Several executive members were involved, along with Civic Camp, in facilitating and mediating several trustee debates for the 2013 municipal election. CAPSC President Jeff Bowes moderated all the Civic Camp trustee debates.

Networking

- Discussed the following issues to further collaboration, networking and information sharing at monthly public meetings:
 - Presentation by Dr. Sharon Friesen on student engagement.
 - Presentation by CBE administration on the budget.
 - Presentation by CBE on the personalization of learning and IRIS
- Meetings, website and newsletter continue to be available to the public.
- Karen Lloyd attended the Nose Creek School Council meeting and Forum
- Initiated a series of facilitated discussions for members covering topics such as fundraising and changes to assessment.

Annual General Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

Wednesday February 20th, 2012

Meeting called to order at 8:24 pm.

Motion to accept minutes from Wednesday February 22nd 2012 AGM. Motioned by Chris L'Amarca, seconded by Karen Vink. Motion carried.

President's Report read by Jeff Bowes.

Financial Report presented by Tara Stoffregen. The preliminary budget was presented.

Two corrections:

1 – Mailbox expenses incorrect

2 – Expenses total incorrect, though it did not result in an error on the final total

Motion to accept preliminary budget – Marsha Fehr. Seconded Karen Vink. Motion approved.

First call for nominations:

President – nomination – Jeff Bowes. Motion to accept by Tara Stoffregen, seconded by Robert Hurdman. Motion carried.

Treasurer – nomination – Tara Stoffregen. Motion to accept Brian Cuch, seconded by Robert Hurdman. Motion carried.

Member at Large – nomination – Janis Giroux. Motion to accept by Jeff Bowes, seconded by Karen Vink. Motion carried.

Member at Large – nomination – Robert Hurdman. Motion to accept by Tara Stoffregen, seconded by Karen Vink. Motion carried.

Second call for Nominations:

Vice President – nomination – Robert Hurdman. Motion to accept by Chris L'Amarca, seconded by Karen Vink. Motion carried.

Third call for nominations:

Nil

Secretary – open

Vote to name Jeff Bowes president. Unanimous.

Vote to name Robert Hurdman Vice President. Unanimous.

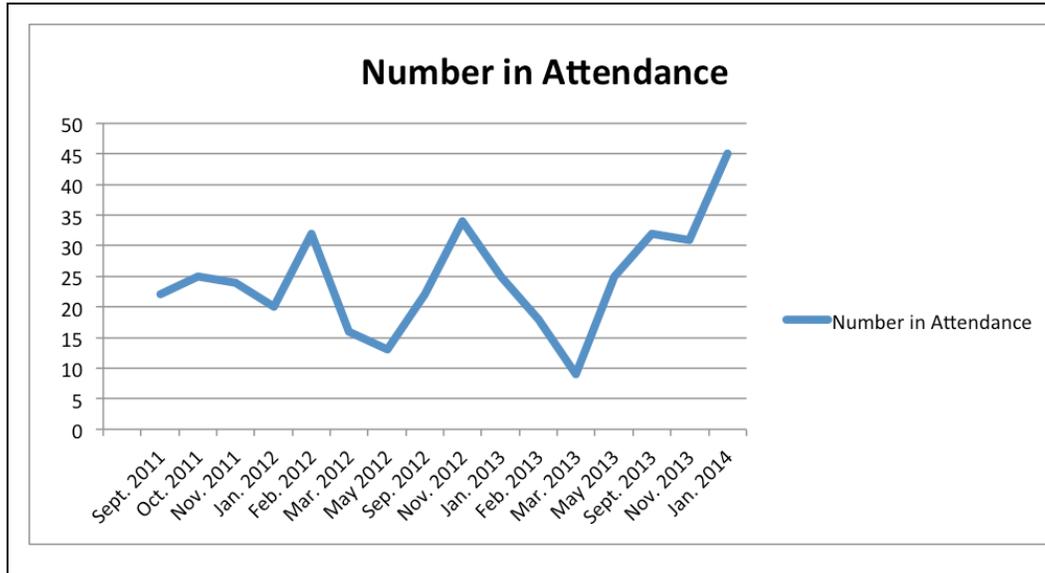
Vote to name Tara Stoffregen Treasurer. Unanimous.

Vote to name Janis Giroux Member at Large. Unanimous.

Motion to adjourn. Motioned by Marsha Fehr, seconded by Tara Stoffregen. Meeting adjourned 8:55pm

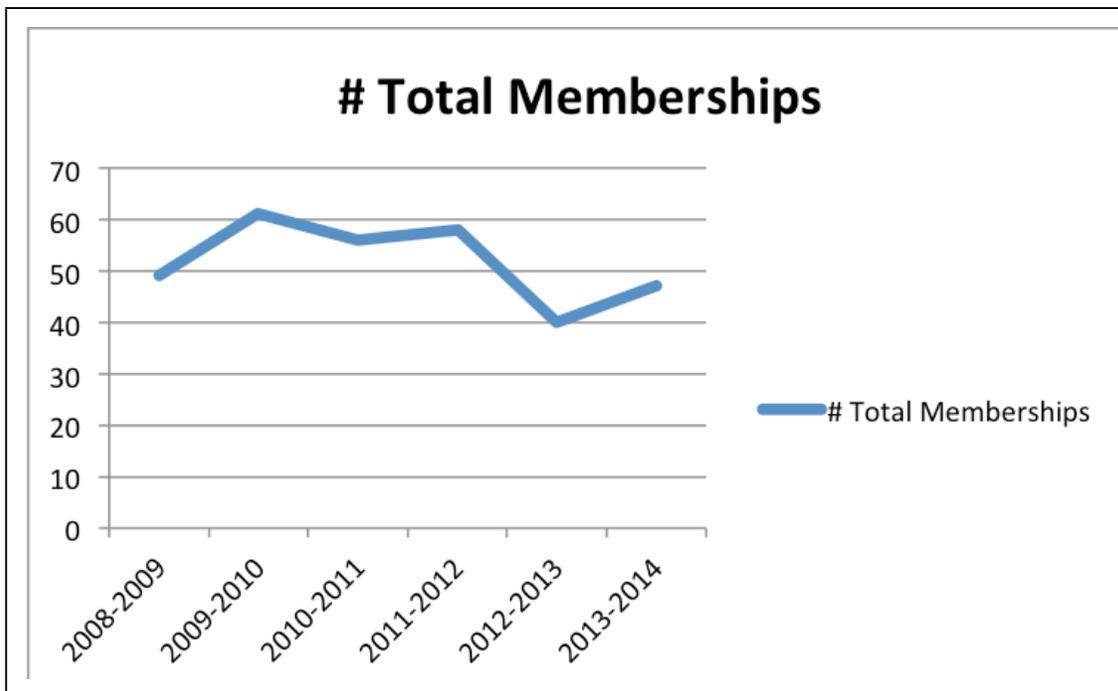
Meeting Attendance

Meeting attendance has been tracked since Sept 2011. Meeting attendance has been following a relatively similar pattern to past years, with our highest attended meeting being on January of 2014, where assessment was discussed.



Membership Report

Memberships were up compared to the 2012-2013 school year, which is a good sign. The CAPSC executive will continue to focus on increasing memberships for the upcoming year.



President's Report

Dear Members,

2013 – 2014 was a busy year for CAPSC. CAPSC continued to bring in speakers and encourage networking between school councils in the Calgary area.

In 2013, CAPSC worked with the Calgary Traffic Safety Committee, originally formed out of Sam Livingston School, advocating for better school/playground zone regulations. It was then decided that the Calgary Traffic Safety Committee would be merged into CAPSC operations. This meant CAPSC took on the primary role of promoting better school/playground zone regulations and hosting the traffic safety week in September. We also gained two new executive members, Karen Lloyd and Jillian Millar Drysdale.

There were a number of important advocacy issues in 2013. First, province-wide cuts to education budgets resulted in CAPSC maintaining a steady voice for sustainable funding for education. This year also saw the first move towards new reporting and assessment practices within the CBE. In relation to these changes, CAPSC has strongly advocated for the maintenance of comments on report cards and that any new form of assessment provide at least as much information to parents as in the past and provide that information in at least as timely a manner. We expect reporting and assessment to be a hot button issue into the next year. Due to the CBE being over-capacity we also expect many accommodation issues to come to the fore.

2013 was also an election year. CAPSC worked closely with Civic Camp to ensure there were electoral forums for all trustee districts. CAPSC worked with Civic Camp in the organization of these forums and I personally moderated all of the trustee forums.

2013 was a strong year for CAPSC. CAPSC worked closely with partners such as the CBE and Civic Camp. We provided a strong voice for parents on a number of important educational issues. Memberships are rising and attendance at meetings in 2013 has been very strong. We have also expanded our scope by absorbing the Calgary Traffic Safety Committee. Likewise, Karen Lloyd, 1st vice president hosted a meeting for high school school councils.

We look forward to continued success and growth in 2014. Again we hope some of you will be interested in joining the CAPSC executive board for the coming year.

Kind Regards,

Jeff Bowes

School Traffic Safety Committee Report

In August Jillian Millar Drysdale and Karen Lloyd joined CAPSC as the school traffic safety committee. The change in traffic patterns around our schools is not unique to Calgary. This trend has been noticed all over North America in the past 15 years.

The Calgary School Traffic Safety Week

As CAPSC traffic safety committee we planned a full program to address this issue. We coordinated with Calgary Board of Education, Calgary Catholic School District, private, and charter school boards to bring a School Traffic Safety Week to all Calgary schools in September. The Calgary Police Services was very helpful in ensuring that the planned materials and events were considered safe. Other organizations such as Calgary Motor Dealer's Association, Calgary Stampeders, Calgary Hitmen, Alberta Ballet, City of Calgary, and CBE worked with us in a variety of ways to create materials for this event. An aspiring and talented Young Canadian performer recorded an original piece of music that would encourage the right way to cross the street. Materials were organized for schools to use and we personally visited more than 60 schools to speak with principals. Hundreds of students participated.

The School Traffic Safety Award's Night

In November, we organized and coordinated an Award's Night to bring all of the school participation back to the community of Calgary. It was a great success. Political leaders from both the province and the city participated. Many stakeholders were there to support the event. YMCA donated the facility and Young Canadians and Quantello Strings donated the entertainment. Many local vendors donated prizes for student contest winners, and grocery stores donated the food. It was a very collaborative event that brought a large focus back to the school traffic safety issue. CBC TV covered the event in their evening broadcast.

Results from what we have done

The work that CAPSC's traffic safety committee has done has inspired many stakeholders to look more closely at this problem. Minister Ric McIver (Alberta Transportation) introduced legislation to address one of the key school traffic safety problems (Bill 32) and recognized CAPSC's work when the bill was introduced. The city of Calgary also implemented work on several projects regarding school traffic safety since CAPSC started focusing on this issue. Our work has been instrumental in convincing many groups to improve this situation. It generated strong support and recognition for CAPSC in the city and in the province. CAPSC's traffic safety committee is becoming well recognized as a moving force for good.

Next year's plans

We will be organizing another School Traffic Safety Week and Award's Night for 2014. Many more groups are interested in joining with us and supporting this initiative. Thank you so much for your support in this important safety issue.

Jillian Millar Drysdale and Karen Lloyd
Traffic Safety Committee

Financial Report

The audited financial statements presented in this report reflect the fiscal year from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. These statements indicate a surplus of \$1290.20, which will be added to our reserve fund and will help to balance lower income in 2013-14, due to it being the second year in a two-year cycle for the majority of our memberships.

At the AGM, members are asked to review our financial forecast for the current year (i.e. July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014). We are currently in a solid position with respect to our budget. The following points are relevant to this position:

- We have met our membership target for the year and continue to look at ways for increasing membership value.
- Our Communications Contract expenses are on track with what was planned.
- We secured a group insurance policy that includes directors' insurance and similar coverage, but is less than half of what was paid for separate policies in 2012-13. We are currently looking into changing our insurance year to align with our fiscal year. This will add cost in 2013-14, but we will remain within budget.
- We were able to keep website costs low.
- Our mailbox expenses reflect it being the second year in a two-year billing cycle.
- Office and meeting expenses have increased this year due to a more interactive format with members.
- We designated some of our cost savings toward supporting our Traffic Safety Committee with their highly successful initiatives.

A need for facilitation of membership communication was previously identified. We have pursued securing resources through channels including grant application. To date, we have been unsuccessful in obtaining the funds needed to make this communication a reality.

Members are asked to approve a budget for the next year (i.e. July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015). This assists CAPSC in preparing our CBE grant application for presentation during the budget debates. This budget will be presented at the AGM.

As always, we will continue to manage our resources in a careful and considered manner in order to maintain the high quality of advocacy, networking and communication for our members.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tara Stoffregen